

DEWITT COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Feb 23, 2023
6PM
DEWITT COUNTY BUILDING

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairman Matthews.

Roll call was answered by: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris. Ferguson was absent.

James Prescott from Heartland Greenway gave a presentation on Carbon Capture. Discussion and questions followed between the Board and the presenters for clarification on some things that were discussed in the presentation. A paper copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Matthews mentioned the correspondence letter that the Board received from Cody Monkman, Director of the Neighborhood Care Center, thanking the Board for providing assistance to the Care Center using County ARPA funds.

Motion by Tilley second by Witte to approve the January 26, 2023, County Board meeting minutes. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris. Motion carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Tilley to appoint Dr Annilee Rohrscheib, MD, to serve as a member of the DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department Board of Health and fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Dr. Tricia Scerba. Upon appointment, Dr. Rohrscheib will serve the remaining three-year term which is set to expire on June 30, 2025. In assuming this role, Dr. Rohrscheib will additionally serve as a member of the DeWitt County Tuberculosis Sanitarium Board. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris. Motion carried.

Carter gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Land Use meeting. Minutes from the Land Use meeting are filed with these minutes.

Myers gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Public Safety meeting. She advised that the vacancy for the Animal Control Administrator has not been filled at this time but has been offered and is awaiting approval by the Board. She also said the weekend/holiday feeding/cleaning position at the shelter is still vacant as well. Minutes from the Public Safety meeting are filed with these minutes.

Motion by Myers second by Werts to appoint Holly Gehlbach as Animal Control Administrator with a starting wage of \$41,000 contingent upon passing the pre-employment requirements and increasing the wage to \$42,000 upon completion of 6 month probationary period, certification of NACA Level 1 & 2 training course. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Werts, Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris. Nay: Tilley. Tilley expressed that her reason for voting no was not because she didn't want to hire Miss Gehlbach, but because she did not agree with the salary. Motion Carried.

Ferguson was absent so no briefing of what was discussed at the current month's Property meeting was given to the board. Minutes from the Property meeting are filed with these minutes.

Motion by Carter second by Farris to contract with Chastain & Associates for assistance with the jail roof replacement project at a cost of \$13,500.00. Aye: Matthews, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris. Abstain: Myers. Motion carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Farris to approve the proposal of Cushing Commercial Carpet to replace the flooring in the laundry and storage areas of the jail at a cost of \$8,000.00. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris. Motion carried.

Prestegaard gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Road and Bridge meeting. He stated that out of the 2 open crew positions, one new hire started today, February 23, 2023, leaving one position still open for hiring. Minutes from the Road and Bridge meeting are filed with these minutes.

Motion by Prestegaard second by Riddle to approve the agreement with Cummins Engineering Corporation not to exceed \$114,375.00 for the Highway Safety Improvement Project. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris. Motion carried.

Motion by Prestegaard second by Myers to approve the quote from MD Solutions, Inc. for \$10,385.73 for signpost materials. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris. Motion carried.

Matthews gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Marina meeting. Minutes from the Marina meeting are filed with these minutes.

Tilley gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Finance meeting. She noted the change of date for the Finance meeting in March, moving it from March 20 to March 14. Minutes from the Finance meeting are filed with these minutes.

Motion by Tilley second by Prestegaard to pay all bills. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris. Motion carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Myers to approve the investment policy for FY2022-2023. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris. Motion carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Deerwester to make a change in committee assignments for the 911 Board and ETSB, replacing Megan Myers with Tom Farris. Matthews said that Myers would like to step down because she has been extremely busy. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Deerwester. Abstain: Farris. Motion carried.

Motion by Prestegaard second by Deerwester to approve Ordinance for "County Clerk and Recorder Document Recording Requirements". A copy of the Ordinance is filed with these minutes. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris. Motion carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Carter to approve Resolution to increase Election Judge compensation. County Clerk stated that the current pay is \$145 for the whole day, with \$45 per election being reimbursed by the State after each election, thus making the County's current contribution at \$100 per judge. Clerk also stated that the new pay of \$195 would greatly benefit her office in finding people to

take on the roll of Election Judge and to compensate the Judges for an extremely long day. A copy of the Resolution is filed with these minutes. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris. Motion carried.

Motion by Carter second by Myers to authorize the Land Use Committee to start the text amendment process for Chapters 153 (Commercial Wind Energy Conversion) and Chapter 157 (Solar Energy Systems). Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris. Motion carried.

Matthews tabled the motion on the agenda to approve the Treasurer's Annual Report. The report was not sent to the Board members, and he would like everyone to get a copy to review before approving.

Ryan spoke to the Board about the 2/3 majority vote to override a Special Use Permit recommendation from RPC and/or ZBA that was discussed at January's full Board meeting. As asked at January's meeting, State's attorney Markwell checked in to the legalities of the 2/3 majority vote and sent an email to all Board members stating that it is not legal.

Tilley spoke on the passing of Marilyn Strain and how great of an asset she was to the DeWitt County ESDA department. She spoke of the remarkable work she did for ESDA and wanted to publicly acknowledge her for her great work and dedication and thanked her for her service.

State's Attorney Markwell reminded all Board members that the Open Meetings Act Certification Class was due by the end of February. Once the class is completed online, Board members should send Dee a copy of their completion papers.

Motion by Tilley second by Deerwester to adjourn at 7:17pm with all in favor.