

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

March 9, 2023 – 7 p.m.

Bradley Knolhoff, Chairman

Nelson Heinzmann, Vice Chairman

1. OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER

Sheriff Dan Travous called the special meeting of the Clinton County District Board to order at 7 p.m. on March 9, 2023.

3. REMOTE ATTENDANCE

Motion to Approve – Heinzmann made a motion to allow board member Holly Clark to attend the meeting remotely via telephone conference call. Haselhorst seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

4. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present: Arentsen, Clark, Haselhorst, Heinzmann, Hilmes, Jansen, B. Knolhoff, K. Knolhoff, Kuhl, Rakers, Rapien, Riechman, Schroeder, Strieker, Veizer. Let the record reflect that we have a quorum.

5. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS

6. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

- a. Luke Baker of Beckemeyer stated that he was glad everyone was present to address the radio issues that have been ongoing for several years. He said his fire district has concern about the cost of the licensing for the new radio upgrade. Once Beckemeyer Fire Department knew that the upgrades were coming, they started upgrading their radios and have completed 9 of 24. His understanding is that the licensing portion is going to be over \$10,000 for Beckemeyer, which he called a “sticker shock.” The department was planning to spend money to buy more radios; however, it will likely only be able to afford the licensing this year.

7. RADIO

- a. Haselhorst thanked all the first responders in the audience. He said there were two motions on the agenda with one being contingent on the other. B. Knolhoff said the State’s Attorney has reviewed both contracts and some revisions have been made. Motion to Approve – Contract with Tait Communications for New Radio System Haselhorst made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of the Tait contract. Rapien seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Kuhl (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).
Motion Carried 15-0.

- b. Motion to Approve – Contract with Mazzitello Professionals, the Consultant for the New Radio System.

Haselhorst made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of the Mazzitello contract. Kuhl seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Kuhl (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).

Motion Carried 15-0.

B. Knolhoff commented that approval of these contracts is a big step for Clinton County, and the board members will continue to address concerns of the emergency personnel throughout the county as they move forward. Riechman acknowledged Haselhorst and the entire Radio Committee for the extreme time and effort that has gone into the radio project.

- c. B. Knolhoff said he forwarded information from Government Capital Finance as an option to finance up to \$5 million for the radio project. The money would be held in escrow through the duration of the project. The rate is somewhat variable but should be under 4 percent. As a reminder, Knolhoff said, this is only an option and there is no expectation that the board proceed with this. The information will be taken under review at this month's Finance Committee meeting. Knolhoff said the hope is that by borrowing the money at a low interest rate, the county can reserve some county funds, and invest the existing funds at a better interest rate than what the county would be paying.

8. ZONING

- a. Zoning Administrator Jami Staser gave out information about possible zoning fee increases. Exhibit A included the county's existing Schedule of Filing Fees with items A-F being the Zoning Certificate of Compliance (Building Permit) fees. The schedule also included fees for Special Use Permits, Zoning Map Amendments, Appeals, Variances, and a Late Filing Fee. The schedule states that the fee schedule is not intended to be included as part of the Zoning Code, and it is intended that said fees may be changed from time to time without an amendment to the Zoning Code. Staser said this means that by resolution, the County Board shall establish and may amend from time to time a schedule of filing fees for the various permits and procedures mentioned in the code. The fees are intended to defray the administrative costs connected with the processing and conducting of such procedures. Staser said she would like the board to look at the zoning fees and consider updating them to better cover meeting costs and expenses. Staser said it has been many years since the board has reviewed the fees. The Zoning Board recently compared fees from about 15 other counties. A second handout gave an example of what another county is charging for filing fees for special use permits and zoning map amendments where the fee is based on the amount of acreage with \$300 for the first 10 acres and \$100 for each additional acre (plus the costs of certified mail to adjoining property owners). Clinton County currently charges a flat fee of \$125 (plus the cost of certified mail to adjoining property owners), which is the lowest of the 15 counties in the comparison. She said special use and amendment cases are generally the larger cases handled by the Zoning Board with more administrative expenses. She suggested adjusting fees based on acreage as other counties are doing. She suggested the Finance Committee could review the fee structure and a new

resolution could be drafted by the State's Attorney. The other fees under review are for commercial solar projects. Staser said that when fees for solar projects were created in 2018, solar was first starting and there were only small solar farms of 2 megawatts consuming about 15 acres. She said the fees that are currently in place were never intended for large commercial solar projects, and these also need to be addressed.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. B. Knolhoff explained that the board would be entering Executive Session to discuss:

- 1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

- 11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

Riechman made a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. Hilmes seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

10. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

a. Rapien made a motion to return to open session at 8:09 p.m. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

11. ANIMAL CONTROL

a. Motion to Approve – Ordinance Amending the Structure of the Animal Control Warden Salary.

Kuhl made a motion for a roll call vote to amend the salary. Arentsen seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Kuhl (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).

Motion Carried 15-0

12. HEALTH BUILDING

a. Motion to Approve – Change Order Request from Johannes Construction for \$47,215 for Unsuitable Grades, Water Well Infill and an Additional Sump Pump at the Health Department Building. The change order has already been signed by the architect and the contractor.

Rakers made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of the change order. K. Knolhoff seconded the motion.

Arentsen (No), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Abstain), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Kuhl (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (No), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (No), Veizer (No).
Motion Carried 10-4 with 1 Abstaining Vote

13. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023

- a. Veizer made a motion to adjourn until Monday, March 20, 2023 at 7 p.m.
Rapien seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder