

Unapproved Minutes Emmet County Board of Supervisor Minutes

August 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Regular Meeting

Board Room, Courthouse

Present: Jeff Quastad, Chair
Tim Schumacher, Vice-Chair
John Pluth
Todd Glasnapp
Lisa K. Hansen, joined telephonically via Zoom and left the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Absent:

Meeting ID: 870 4034 7593

Passcode: 052160

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Quastad, Chair, called the meeting to order. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Glasnapp, second by Pluth to approve the minutes from last week's meeting, also approving them for publication. All ayes, motion carried.

During Public Forum, Emmet County Assessor, Barb Bohm joined the meeting to report that Emmet County has received an Equalization Order from the Iowa Department of Revenue. The Order would increase the 2021 Values in the Multi-Residential property class 24%. Bohm has appealed the Order and has a hearing with the Department of Revenue on Monday, August 23, 2021.

Mike Jensen shared concerns regarding Iowa Department of Natural Resources plans on draining Swan Lake, Ingham Lake and High Lake to get rid of rough fish. Jensen has spoken with Mike Hawkins from the DNR regarding the process and shared with the Board his conversation with Hawkins. Jensen expressed his concerns regarding silt going into Jack Creek and shared an easement for the DNR to put spoils on Rick Johnson's land. Jensen reported that 80% of Swan Lake fish are rough fish. It was the consensus of the Board to have Auditor Sathoff contact Hawkins and coordinate a time to have him join a Board meeting and be on the Agenda.

Emmet County Auditor, Amy M. Sathoff reported to the Board that of the \$188,004.83 that was received by Emmet County from the first round of COVID funding, only \$27,415.58 remains.

Auditor Sathoff also shared the Consolidated Levy sheet for Taxes payable FY 2022 and based upon Taxable Valuations as of January 1, 2020.

Quastad shared that he and Supervisor Pluth attended a Farm Bureau meeting last night and that Farm Bureau opposes the utilization of L.O.S.S.T. funds on Election Equipment.

Election Deputy, Roxanne Budach joined the meeting and the Emmet County Auditor, Amy M. Sathoff reviewed the information presented at last week's Board meeting regarding the purchase of updated Election equipment.

Motion by Schumacher, second by Hansen to purchase the election equipment, utilizing \$109,084.00 in L.O.S.S.T. funds.

Supervisor Schumacher stated that the L.O.S.S.T. funds should not be segregated between rural and urban, he feels that L.O.S.S.T. funds are to be utilized for the betterment of Emmet County. He shared that projects utilized in the past have been funded for that purpose. Schumacher stated that if you are voting no on the motion, you will be voting to increase property taxes.

Quastad shared that the State segregated the funds to rural and urban.

Auditor Sathoff shared that on the consolidated levy sheet shows a consolidated levy on urban property 8.09080 and 11.42286 on rural property.

Schumacher doesn't understand borrowing money when there is \$729,000 that can be utilized toward county betterment.

Quastad expressed that the dollars should come from the General Supplemental Fund which would than raise property taxes to purchase the equipment.

Auditor Sathoff shared that whether it is Emergency Management, Sheriff, Election or Public Health, we all serve the same base.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Glasnapp, Pluth, Hansen and Schumacher. Nays: Quastad. Motion carried.

Emmet County Zoning Director, Barb Bohm and Emmet County Engineer, Walter Davis-Oeth joined the meeting.

Evan Del Val from ISG Inc., joined the meeting to discuss two liquid carbon dioxide pipelines that will be running through Emmet County and the County's responsibility for site inspection of the pipelines. The two pipelines are the Heartland Greenway System Pipeline and the Midwest Carbon Express pipeline. The pipelines are being constructed to transport liquid carbon dioxide from ethanol plants in the upper Midwest to sequestration wells in Illinois or North Dakota.

IA Code 479B of the Iowa code will require county inspection to be performed for various construction activities (right of way staking, clearing, topsoil stripping, trenching, temporary and permanent tile repair, backfilling, restoration, etc.)

If the County signs the letter of intent with ISG, Inc., ISG would perform those inspections. The cost of the inspections are passed through to the pipelines by the County.

There is a landowner meeting in Emmet County on September 23, 2021. The project has been approved by the Iowa Utilities Board and has a window of 18 months.

Motion by Schumacher, second by Glasnapp to sign the letter of intent with ISG, Inc. All ayes, motion carried.

Cole Nichol with Trusted Energy joined the meeting to discuss solar power options for the County and that the County could utilize the American Rescue Plan funds to finance the initial costs. Nichol shared Utility/Municipal, Schools/Colleges and Commercial projects that Trusted Energy has done and the electric and bill offsets of those projects. Nichols also shared energy savings of the projects along with how long the payback on the projects.

