REGULAR MEETING
April 5, 2022
6:30 p.m. Rapelje Community Roundtable

PRESENT
Commissioners Tyrel Hamilton, Chair, Mark Crago, Steve Riveland, members.

Others Present: Chad Coles, Facilities; Tara DePuy; Ron Van Hoosear; Perry Helt

PLEDGE
Commissioner Hamilton opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES
March 15, 2022. Commissioner Riveland MOVED to approve the minutes from March 15, 2022. Commissioner Crago SECONDED. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS
109219 through 109307 in the amount of $85,717.86. Commissioner Crago MOVED to approve the claims as presented. Commissioner Riveland SECONDED. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

FILE ITEMS
Clerk & Recorder
A) Soil Conservation District Election Status

Commissioner Riveland MOVED to file the file items. Commissioner Crago SECONDED. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR BUSINESS
Economic Development
A) Stahly preliminary engineering term contract scope of work. Commissioner Crago MOVED to approve the Stahly preliminary engineering term contract scope of work. Commissioner Riveland SECONDED. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Environmental Health
A) Stillwater Community Service Plan. Commissioner Riveland MOVED to approve the Environmental Health Stillwater Community Service Plan. Commissioner Crago SECONDED. Discussion – Commissioner Hamilton explained that this is a community cleanup program started last year by Shannon Fisher. A grant was applied for and awarded. Volunteers from around the county and community service groups participated in a trash pickup day. This will expand the plan to two community cleanup days. Staff and local groups can volunteer. The hope is to also add Yellowstone Basin and Big Lake and to add other public sites throughout the County. Perry Helt asked how this will be funded once the grant runs out. Commissioner Riveland responded that she has received some donations, leftover grant money from the prior year and donations through organizations that are privately funded. Perry also asked if this will continue for the foreseeable future. Commissioner Hamilton responded yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Facilities
A) Computer maintenance program. Commissioner Crago MOVED to approve the facilities computer maintenance program. Commissioner Riveland SECONDED. Discussion – Commissioner Hamilton introduced the new facilities maintenance man, Chand Coles, and explained that this program will help him track all the maintenance records and everything that facilities is responsible for. Perry Helt asked if this person will
do repairs when IT work is needed. Commissioner Hamilton responded that this has nothing to do with IT, it is a software program. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Tire procurement program. Commissioner Riveland MOVED to approve the tire procurement program. Commissioner Crago SECONDED. Discussion – Ron Van Hoosear asked for an update explaining this program. Chad Coles explained that there is a government program to acquire tires through this government purchasing program. This offers the tires at a better price than local vendors for all county vehicles. Ron Van Hoosear asked if this applies to the tires for the equipment at Road & Bridge. Chad Coles said that there are two brands available and as long as the tires are available in those brands, they can be purchased through the program. Commissioner Hamilton added that this does not prohibit other county departments from purchasing tires with their current resources. This does not limit the county but it does give departments the opportunity to access this program to get tires at a better price. Motion passed unanimously.

Commission
A) Zoning Board Appointments. Commissioner Crago MOVED to approve Rob Harper, Bob Van Oosten and Gary Enstrom to the zoning board. Commissioner Riveland SECONDED. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Area II Agency on Aging appointments. Commissioner Riveland MOVED to approve the Area II Agency on Aging appointments. Commissioner Crago SECONDED. Discussion – Commissioner Hamilton explained that there will be co-representatives, approved by the agency. The two appointments will be Donna McFarland and Roann Nickel. Motion passed unanimously.

C) Area II Agency on Aging FY2022 program matching funds Area II Agency on Aging FY2022 program matching funds Perry Helt asked what the annual budget for the matching funds and is its county budget or is it volunteer and funded by other sources. Commissioner Crago replied that the Area II Agency on aging consists of seven counties that all work together. The county contributes approximately $13,000.00 annually toward the Area II Agency on Aging. The funds are used for Senior Centers in the various communities. Commissioner Hamilton added that as an example, the Rapelje community has access to $927.00 they could use for a space utilized as a Senior Center for the Rapelje area to help increase ADA accessibility throughout the building or other items a Senior Center would benefit from. Perry Helt asked if the total was for $13,000.00. Commissioner Crago stated that the $13,000 is the county portion of matching funds. Motion passed unanimously.

D) Resolution 2022-08 resolution granting tax abatements to Beaver Creek Wind II, LLC and Beaver Creek Wind III, LLC. Commissioner Riveland MOVED to approve Resolution 2022-08 resolution granting tax abatements to Beaver Creek Wind II, LLC and Beaver Creek Wind III, LLC. Commissioner Crago SECONDED. Discussion – Perry Helt asked what the total figure for the tax abatement is. Commissioner Hamilton responded that through the year 2023 through 2027, they will be taxed at 25% value. In the year 2028, it will be at 40% value, in 2029 they will be taxed at 55%, in 2030 they will be taxed at 75%, in 2031 they will be taxed at 85%, and in 2032 they will be taxed at 100% tax value. Perry Helt if there are any tax abatement programs in place for petroleum exploration in Stillwater County. Commissioner Crago stated that they are not aware of any petroleum-based programs at this time. Perry Helt stated that the thing a lot of people worry about is that the people who come here to do business should pull their own weight and he is concerned about the level of abatement for this project. Perry stated that he does not know about any viable ongoing petroleum production in Stillwater County but he would like to see a level playing field regarding the renewables and fossil fuels. If the county is giving tax abatement to energy producers, it should be across the board. Commissioner Riveland replied that it most likely be the case but that is up to the company coming in to do the exploration or production to request the tax abatement as the wind farms have done.
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON COUNTY BUSINESS – Ron Van Hoosear asked what the zoning board can do that the planning board cannot currently do. Commissioner Hamilton replied that the conditional use permit for developmental use system will be reviewed by the zoning board. Ron Van Hoosear asked if that is something that the planning board can’t do? Tara DePuy replied that by state statute planning boards review subdivisions but for zoning you have to have a different board or board of adjustments but the two cannot be combined yet, as of right now they are two separate boards.

With no further comments heard the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

APPROVED BY: /s/ Tyrel Hamilton, Commissioner Chairman

ATTEST: Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk and Recorder