

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MITCHELL COUNTY, IOWA

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

The Board of Supervisors convened at 8:30 a.m. with all members present. Also present were Chuck Pajer, Samantha Scharper, Dave Stauffer, Bruce Biederman, Tony Stonecypher and Mike Mayer. Present from the media were Steve Thompson and Savannah Howe. Due to the COVID 19 the meeting was made available to the public by video via “Go to Meeting” Motion by Smolik, second by Walk to delete Sheriff update and to approve the amended agenda. All voted aye.

Motion by Walk, second by Smolik to approve the minutes of the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and the claims. All voted aye.

Discussed with County Attorney Mark Walk a request from Dennis Conrad to abandon some right-of-way in Little Cedar. Mark stated that a “blanket” abandonment is not recommended. County Engineer will provide further information to Dennis Conrad.

County Engineer Rich Brumm introduced Jackson Knudson as a new hire in the Engineer’s office. Jackson gave the Board a brief update on his schooling and work history. Jackson said he has a Civil Engineering Degree. Rich said the Roads department is grading Indigo Avenue, line painting on the hard surface roads will start soon and the paving of 390<sup>th</sup> Street will be completed soon.

At 8:45 a.m. the Chair opened the public hearing on the proposed amendment to the Mitchell County Urban Renewal Area Barb read a letter from Al Winters voicing his opposition to the current proposal to update the Mitchell County Urban Renewal Plan to include 56 new wind turbines from the Turtle Creek Windfarm. Mr. Winters listed 4 reasons. Tony Stonecypher gave reasons why the wind turbines are being put into the Urban Renewal Area. This doesn’t commit the County to take on new debt. This could make funding available to reduce debt and pay off current loans faster and or do other projects. Supervisor Walk would like to decide this year and not lose 5% of the base value of the wind turbines. Supervisor Smolik would rather wait till next year when there will be 5 Supervisors. Mark Walk doesn’t agree with Steve’s comments on stealing funds from the future. Steve Thompson asked about NIACC’s tax asking. Mike Mayer asked about TIF funds going to all the taxing bodies. Dave Stauffer talked about backfill for the local public schools. The public hearing was closed at 9:24 a.m.

Motion by Walk, second by Francis to approve Resolution #1065-20 declaring a necessity and establishing an Urban Renewal Area, pursuant to Section 403.4 of the Code of Iowa and approve the Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the Mitchell County Urban Renewal Area. Roll call vote: Walk and Francis voted aye. Smolik voted nay. Motion carried.

Motion by Walk, second by Francis to approve waiving the first and second readings of Ordinance #52. Which will provide for the division of taxes levied on taxable property in the 2020 addition to the Mitchell County Urban Renewal Area, pursuant to Section 403.19 of the Code of Iowa. Roll call vote: Walk and Francis voted aye. Smolik voted nay. Motion carried. Motion by Walk, second by Francis to approve the final reading of Ordinance #52. Roll call vote: Walk and Francis voted aye. Smolik voted nay. Motion carried.

MCEDC Director Tony Stonecypher reviewed five applications for the Commercial Incentive Program. CCI Flooring – Kurt Bill \$80,000 grant request \$280,000 total project, Brian & Tori Steinberg \$30,000 grant request \$375,000 total project, Jim Lohuis \$30,000 grant request \$284,000 total project, Jim Lohuis \$30,000 grant request \$298,000 total project, Tim & Chaley Schulz \$30,000 grant request \$350,000 total project. Tony stated that the Economic Development Commission has recommended their approval. Motion by Francis, second by Walk to approve the applications. Francis and Walk voted aye. Smolik voted nay. Motion carried.

Items of note: Smolik reported on the FMC Landfill and North Iowa Juvenile Detention meetings. Francis reported on the County Conservation and County Social Services meetings. Received manure management plan updates from the Blong North Finisher Farm, Happy Pork Inc., Hogville Corporation, Pro-Net Farms Inc. and Tooker Finisher Farm.

Motion by Walk, second by Smolik to approve appointing Jim Oberfoell to fill in the unexpired term of Jon Koster on the Conservation Board, This term will expire on June 30, 2021. All voted aye.

Public comments were received from Mike Mayer. Mike asked if the applicants and the amounts for the Commercial Incentive Program could be printed in the BOS minutes. Steve Thompson asked about COVID testing at the Mitchell County Fair Grounds during the Fair. Auditor Tesch informed the BOS that there needed to be a unanimous vote by the Board to waive the first and second readings of the Ordinance. Since only 2/3's of the Board voted Aye the second reading will be placed on the July 28<sup>th</sup> agenda. Thus the Ordinance was not approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

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Lowell Tesch - Mitchell County Auditor

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Barb Francis – Chair Board of Supervisors