

MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING OF THE BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD ON APRIL 13, 2020.

With no public access to the courthouse due to COVID-19, this meeting was held telephonically with the public able to participate. This complies with Iowa Code section 21.8 that outlines the guidelines to hold an electronic meeting when there are valid concerns that an in-person meeting is "impossible or impractical".

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Tom Heidenwirth with members Greg Barnett and Rusty Eddy present. Also present were Auditor Lizbeth Williams, Engineer John Riherd, Treasurer Vicki Schoneman, Assessor Michele Shultz, Recorder Janice Jacobs, Jeff Reints, Shell Rock, Iowa, Roger Kregal, Dumont, Iowa, Ted Junker and Kim Junker, New Hartford, Iowa, Chris Luhring, Fern Feldman and Leslie Groen, Allison, Iowa, Duane DeGroote and John Luhring, Parkersburg, Iowa, Calvin Rottink and Dennis White, Clarksville, Iowa, John Zimmerman, Greene, Iowa, Shawn Dietz, KLMJ and Bethany Carson Mid-America Publishing.

Chairman Tom Heidenwirth opened the meeting apologizing for the website problems and continued with a statement about the importance of economic development for future growth in Butler County. Tom requests that each person have 2 minutes to speak so they can get through everyone that wants to comment.

Supervisor Eddy appreciates the concerns, but added that this is a needs based budget, not want based. Supervisor Barnett commented that department heads are very strict with their budgets and not trying to budget beyond their needs. Barnett pointed out that 17 cents of the 53 cent levy increase was Trinity and 17 cents were roads and bridge projects, stating that the cost of doing business increases and he wants the public to look forward to the additional revenue.

John Luhring still wanted to know why the March 30 meeting never happened and asked when the 2 minute rule began. He stated Trinity Rail was raising taxes on all other businesses. He later said that he wasn't bashing Trinity Rail, but taxes will go to people that move here to work. He thinks the Board can work harder to lower the levy.

Duane DeGroote questioned whether the tax base had expanded at all and commented that the county was taking in tax money for all the new houses. He stated that he was in John's arena.

Kim Junker commented that companies come here and get tax incentives but that we all pay for those businesses, and it is a burden for everyone.

Jeff Reints stated that the investments the county is making are worth it. Butler County is the number one county in the state for investment and return. He continued that what bothers him a lot more is the 81% rollback that the state government calculated. He thanked the board for keeping the county moving forward.

Ted Junker says the public doesn't understand because they don't see the budget detail.

Roger Kregel stated that it was good to have Trinity Rail in Butler County.

John Zimmerman thinks everything is thrown into Secondary Roads and he hopes there are no further website problems.

Chris Luhring joined late and said an agenda wasn't posted and challenged the ending fund balance of the FY20 Budget Amendment compared to the beginning fund balance of originally proposed FY21 County Budget.

Also present was Sara Trepp. Sara reported that there had been issues with the website had but was fixed as of this morning.

Also present was Tom Hoogestraat, Parkersburg, Iowa.

No further comments were offered.

Moved by Eddy, second by Heidenwirth to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 P.M. to Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. Motion carried.

The above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes and proceedings of a special budget adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Iowa on April 13, 2020.