

January 26, 2022, Special Board Meeting

U-93

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., Chairperson Mark Stauber called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in the Board of Commissioners Room and was a joint meeting with the Iron County Road Commission. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Chairperson Mark Stauber, Commissioners Jacob Conery, Patti Peretto and Mike Stafford. Absent: Commissioner Jeff Ofsdahl.

Also present: Administrative Assistant Mary Dalpra, Civil Counsel Steve Tinti and Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle.

Also present from the Iron County Road Commission: Ronald Frailing, Dan Germic, Ernie Schmidt and Doug Tomasoski.

Moved by Peretto, supported by Conery, to approve the agenda. Voice vote, motion carried.

Public Comment:

Stauber called for Public Comment.

Diane Kut spoke with regard to many issues that could affect tourism and lake values, such as invasive species, milfoil problems and beavers that need to be addressed.

Mark Bromley also spoke with regard to the dams.

Harold Kallies, who owns Crystal Waters Resort on Fortune Lake, questioned the possibility of residents having to pay for any repairs to the dams. He stated that everyone uses the lake.

Cindy and Joe Raho also stated their opposition to the possibility of residents paying for the dams and that it's public lands.

Stauber called for public comment two more times, with no further comments voiced.

New Business:

The only item on the agenda was to discuss the Drain Commissioner duties. Tinti explained how the Drain Commissioner position is funded and how it became the responsibility of the Road Commission. In February 2020, the Iron County Board moved unanimously to eliminate the Drain Commissioner as an elected position and turn it over to the Road Commission effective 2021. The four lakes that the county is responsible to maintain lake levels on are Fortune, Sunset, Stager and Indian.

Germic had questions regarding easements for these lakes? Tinti said because we have had no limitations in the past, we have a historic footprint and acquired easements over time. However, if there is extensive work that needs to be done on Sunset Lake, Tinti could draft an easement if they so choose to have him do that.

Germic asked why the Drain Commissioner position was eliminated as an elected position and Schmidt asked the County Board if they would be interested in taking the Drain Commissioner back as an elected position. Stauber and Peretto said the Road Commission was a better fit because they have the equipment.

Frailing also had questions regarding the salary and expenses for the drain commission duties and cited various laws.

Schmidt again asked if the Drain Commissioner position would go back on the ballot? Tinti said it can't until November 2024, if the county board decided to reinstate the Drain Commissioner as an elected position.

Bill Casagranda was also in attendance at the meeting. Casagranda was appointed Drain Commissioner in March 2020, to fill Thomas Clark's (who passed away) term, which ended in December 2020. Casagranda reported to the board the condition of the dams when he took over. He also said he's had conversations with Tomasoski regarding being "contracted" by the Road Commission to fulfill the duties that the Drain Commissioner would do.

Tomasoski said Casagranda would have to be bonded, and there were questions on if Casagranda would use a county vehicle, and if Casagranda (in his capacity of his other job) could bid on jobs for the Road Commission if he was an "employee" or "contracted employee" of the Road Commission.

Tinti said that the Road Commission is stuck with it for the next three years and the responsibilities and powers are vested with the Road Commission. The County only "funds" the position.

Peretto said we have to do something and need to get Sunset Lake dam functioning and the County and Road Commission need to work together.

After more discussion, it was moved by Stafford, supported by Conery, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Chairperson Mark Stauber

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle