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COUNTY OF BOND )
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Proceedings had before the Honorable Board at the regular meeting of said Board, begun and held in person and via Video Conference in the City of Greenville in said County and State, on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, held for the transaction of general County business.

At 7:00 p.m., Vice Chair, Jacob Rayl, opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call showing a quorum present as follows: Jacob Rayl, Wes Pourchot, Chris Timmermann, Jeff Rehkemper and Bernard Myers via Zoom.

The minutes of the December 19, 2023 regular meeting were approved as submitted with a motion made by Jeff Rehkemper second by Chris Timmermann. Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

The bills listed on Edit Report dated January 2, 2024 (see attached) were approved as submitted with a motion made by Chris Timmermann second by Wes Pourchot. Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

The Board reviewed Zoning Administrator Brad Criner's December 2023 report which included permits, inspections and revenues (see attached).

The Board approved Resolution 01-02-24-01 Rescinding Outdated and Obsolete Resolution Regarding County Highway Engineer Authority Entered March 10, 1964 with a motion made by Jeff Rehkemper second by Wes Pourchot. Roll Call Vote 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

The Board discussed a possible alternative for allocating the ARPA Funds that are currently allocated for the Broadband Initiative. Chris Timmermann said the Bond County Jail is falling apart and needs repaired badly. He said if people want Internet it is available. Jeff Rehkemper said he doesn't think any company will run fiber optic to individual homes in the rural area. Jeff said the City gave the Police Department the whole municipal building since the administrative offices will be moving. He thought we could talk to the City about possibly merging the City Police Department and the Sheriff's Department since the City uses the County's jail too. This could save money for both the City and the County by sharing remodel and utility expenses. Jeff Rehkemper wanted to know how having Broadband would give the County any leverage. Jacob Rayl said that they could talk to the City but if they don't have the funds allocated for Broadband they will not be able to apply for the grants they intend to apply for in the near future. They did just recently lock in a \$100,000.00 grant and intend to apply for much larger grants. He said there has been a lot of work already done on this project including a survey that was sent out to homeowners. The interest was very high. Jacob said he wants to see us move the County forward. We are losing people every year and need something to bring them here and to keep them here. Jacob said the grant opportunities are now and the committee will keep them updated monthly. Chris Timmermann asked what the timeframe was and said we

need to put a timeline on how long these funds are to be allocated for Broadband. Jacob Rayl said he could not put a timeline on applying for the grants. Chairman Bernard Myers said the deadline for the allocation of ARPA Funds is December of 2024. Noel Harnetiaux who was in attendance, is on the Broadband committee and is a local Real Estate agent. She said that the current cable lines for internet are in bad shape and are not being maintained. Once these lines fail we will have nothing available in Bond County. She can't sell "the dream" to live in Bond County if we cannot provide these amenities. She also said she did not feel the public would be happy with taking money from projects like this to do repairs that should have been budgeted for in the first place. Wes Pourchot said we should have the City come to the next meeting to see if this is even a possibility. County Clerk, Meg Sybert, said there are Municipal Bonds that can be issued for projects like a jail construction and we should check all avenues for funding. Jeff Rehkemper said he would talk to the City. The Board agreed to put on the Agenda for the next meeting January 16, 2024 for further discussion.

Tax Deed Resolutions 01-02-24-02 through 01-02-24-18 (see attached) were approved as submitted with a motion made by Jeff Rehkemper second by Wes Pourchot. Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

There was discussion regarding the Bond County Employee Handbook and Non-Union Bond County Employee Handbook. Jeff Rehkemper questioned the employees being able to roll over paid time off. He was concerned that if they are able to do this it will cost the County more money due to using the PTO at a later date after wage increases. Jacob Rayl also questioned the employee personal cell phone use. State's Attorney Dora Mann questioned if we really needed a 90-page handbook, this would only cause the County more liability. It was decided to table both until the next meeting January 16, 2024 with a motion made by Chris Timmermann second by Wes Pourchot. Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

The Board appointed Chief Stephan Neece to the 911 ETS Board with a term ending January 1, 2027 with a motion made by Jeff Rehkemper second by Wes Pourchot. Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Under New Business, Chris Timmermann asked about the Highway Department's ad in the Greenville Advocate for seeking assistance for engineering services with bridge and roadway projects. Bond County Clerk Meg Sybert said she thought this was routine and that they should ask Highway Engineer Jeremy Pestle for clarification.

Smithboro Mayor, Bill Archibald, was in attendance to inquire status of the culverts in Smithboro. He said that there were stakes placed at each culvert but J.U.L.I.E. has not been there to locate. The Board said they would check with Highway Engineer Jeremy Pestle.

At 7:54 p.m., the Board went into Executive Session with a motion made by Wes Pourchot second by Chris Timmermann. Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

The Board returned to regular session at 8:09 p.m. with a motion made by Wes Pourchot second by Chris Timmermann. Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

This meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. with a motion made by Jeff Rehkemper second by Wes Pourchot. Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.

January 3, 2024 (SEAL)

Meg A, Sybert, Bond County Clerk