The Oglala Lakota Board of County Commissioners met in special session on May 1, 2020, by teleconference meeting as the Board of Equalization for 2020. Present by teleconference were Ramon Bear Runner and Wendell Yellow Bull, with Art Hopkins and Sue Ganje, Auditor, at the courthouse. Also present were Susie Hayes, Director of Equalization and Frances Denison, Deputy/Appraiser, Brian Ahrendt, State’s Attorney, and Thunder Valley representatives Kelly Keegan, attorney (by phone) and Kimberly Pelkofsky, Director of Design and Planning. Anna Takes the Shield and Eugenio White Hawk were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 1:56 p.m. by Yellow Bull. The agenda was reviewed for conflicts. ALL MOTIONS RECORDED IN THESE MINUTES WERE PASSED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

Motion made Bear Runner, seconded by Hopkins, to approve the agenda as written.

Thunder Valley Exempt applications were reviewed by the board. Pelkofsky gave a brief review of the development and the board also spoke with Keegan. Hayes explained that the request this year is for the remaining property in the complex, including those lots being currently developed. Ahrendt gave a brief review on the background of the development and noted that the question the board is wanting to confirm is their grant revenue, and if grants are to be repaid when properties are sold. Keegan responded that the charitable purpose of the program is to provide affordable housing to residents, and explained that once the properties are sold, they would no longer be exempt. There is no profit made on any of the developed properties as expenses exceed the selling prices. Hayes noted that the applications met all the requirements for her office. Discussion continued between Hayes, Ahrendt, Keegan, Pelkofsky and the board.

Motion made by Bear Runner, seconded by Hopkins, to approve the new applications for exemption on Thunder Valley Community, parcels 43700-00000-001-00 (vacant land), 43700-00000-003-00 (vacant land), 43700-00100-001-00 (apartments), 43700-00100-002-00 (community center), 43700-00400-00100 (vacant land), and Lot 1,5,6 and lots 8-21 (lots with homes).

Motion made by Hopkins, seconded by Bear Runner to adjourn as a Board of Equalization and reconvene as a Board of County Commissioners.

Motion made by Bear Runner, seconded by Hopkins, to approve the new fire department lines for fire insurance distribution.

Motion made by Bear Runner, seconded by Hopkins, to approve the fire insurance distribution as follows:

Batesland Volunteer Fire Dept, $15,394.53
Kyle Volunteer Fire Dept, $15,376.42
Discussion was held on the primary election and voting, including the lockdown on the reservation. Plans will continue for Election day voting on June 2, 2020.

Motion made by Bear Runner, seconded by Hopkins, to approve the quote from Golden West in the amount of $1,309.00, including remote configuration, for the county Veteran Service Officer.

No public comment was given. Motion made by Bear Runner, seconded by Hopkins, to adjourn at 3:15 p.m.

/s/ Wendell Yellow Bull  
Wendell Yellow Bull, Board Member  
Board of Oglala Lakota County Commissioners

ATTEST:  
/s/ Sue Ganje  
Sue Ganje, Oglala Lakota County Auditor