

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF October 17, 2013 MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD**

**OPENING**

Chairman Fannin called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m., in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse, 112 W. Madison, Pontiac, Illinois.

Ronald Kestner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The clerk called roll with the following **present:** John “Jack” Vietti, Joan Bullard, Tim Shafer, Kathy Arbogast, Robert F. Weller, Paul Ritter, Kelly Cochran Cohlman, Joseph D. Steichen, Carl Borngasser, G. Michael Ingles, Daryl N. Holt, Stanley R. Weber, Earl A. Rients, Judy Campbell, Vicki Allen, William Mays, Bob Young, John L. Yoder, Carolyn Gerwin, William G. Flott, Mark Runyon, Marty Fannin, Ronald L. Kestner, William H. Peterson   **Absent:** None

**Also Present:** County Clerk Kristy Masching, Alina Hartley-Administrative Resource Specialist, MaLinda Hillman-Public Health Administrator, Barbara Sear-Treasurer, June Slagel-Finance Resource Specialist, David Winters-County Highway Engineer, Zoning Administrator Chuck Schopp and Donovan Gardner-Recreation Committee

**AGENDA**

Chair Fannin requested approval of the agenda as presented. *Motion by Weller, second by Borngasser to approve the agenda.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Fannin called for approval of the September 12, 2013 minutes. *Motion by Yoder, second by Holt to approve the September 12, 2013 minutes.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

**PRESENTATION**

None

**APPOINTMENT**

**Livingston County Sheriff** – Chairman Fannin explained that this was not an easy decision. He did his best to confer with each board member for advice and received an array of responses. His decision was based on what was in the best interest of the county and commented that from the onset, he did not want to appoint anyone who was running as a candidate in the race, for this position. As a result, he was appointing Al Lindsey to fill the vacancy as Livingston County Sheriff. *Motion by Mays, second by Runyon to appoint Alvin (Al) G. Lindsey, to fill the vacancy of Livingston County Sheriff.* Discussion followed with some members elaborating on why they would be voting in support of or against this appointment. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.**

**Ayes:** Bullard, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Borngasser, Ingles, Holt, Weber, Allen, Mays, Young, Yoder, Flott, Runyon and Fannin   **Nays:** Vietti, Steichen, Rients, Campbell, Gerwin, Kestner and Peterson

**Absent:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Bills**

**B. Appointments**

- **Al Metzke** – Emergency Telephone System Board, (replacing Tim Henson) unexpired three year term commencing June, 2012 – May 31, 2015.
- **Kip Harms** – Northeast Sullivan Mona Drainage District Commissioner appointment, three year term expiring first Tuesday of September 2016.

*Motion to approve the consent agenda by Young, second by Steichen.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bullard, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Borngasser, Ingles, Holt,

Weber, Rients, Campbell, Allen, Mays, Young, Yoder, Gerwin, Flott, Runyon, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson  
**Nays:** None      **Absent:** None

### **PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ACTION ITEMS**

**Tony Childress** expressed his feelings on the action taken earlier regarding the Sheriff appointment. While he did not agree with the decision, he respected this Board and their authority and would work continuously and harder to make things as good as they could be for the citizens of the county.

**Dave Mishur** also commented on the action taken by the board regarding the Sheriff appointment. He alluded that the decision was based on color and urged them to reconsider. Board member Joan Bullard was offended by the remarks and defended the board's action. She responded by saying that this was a very hard decision for the members, as well as for the Chairman, with the board backing him due to this factor.

### **SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE**

No report

### **FINANCE**

**Presentation of FY2014 Budget & Levies** – Chair Shafer reported that everyone should have received an e-mailed copy of the proposed budgets and levies for FY2014. The committee recommended the board's approval for putting it on display, with final action taking place at the November meeting. *Motion by Shafer, second by Ingles to approve putting the proposed FY2014 Budget & Levies on display.* Rients clarified that a "yes" vote by board members meant that they were approving the public display of the FY2014 Budget and Levies statutory requirement. It didn't mean that they were in favor of approving the budget. Discussion followed. Gerwin requested that the budget procedures be done earlier in the statutory time frame, so that the full board would have more opportunity to discuss it and not be under the gun. Chairman Fannin and member Runyon responded that budget work had been on-going the last six months, with the time frame having been moved up one month earlier. It was also noted that all meetings were open to anyone, allowing ample opportunity for non-Finance committee members to attend and gather more detailed information. The public was encouraged to review the document, with copies available in the County Board and County Clerk's offices. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Bullard, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Borngasser, Ingles, Holt, Weber, Rients, Campbell, Allen, Mays, Young, Yoder, Gerwin, Flott, Runyon, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson  
**Nays:** None      **Absent:** None

**Resolution (#2013-10-48) Livingston County Community Health Care Program** – Public Health Administrator MaLinda Hillman was present to request annual approval for continuation of the Livingston County Community Health Care Program. This program provides home nursing and home services to eligible Livingston County residents who cannot access services through any other program. In order to qualify, individuals must meet set criteria, with payment determined by a sliding scale fee. Income eligibility is set at 185% of poverty for one, with a majority of the users falling into the free full county subsidy category. She has budgeted costs for next year at \$325,000., but estimates the cost of the program to be around \$300,000., with receipts expected from co-pays around \$13,000. *Motion by Shafer, second by Steichen to approve the resolution to fund the Livingston County Community Health Care Program.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Bullard, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Borngasser, Ingles, Holt, Weber, Rients, Campbell, Allen, Mays, Young, Yoder, Flott, Runyon, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson      **Nays:** Gerwin      **Absent:** None

**Resolution (#2013-10-49 through #2013-10-56) Authorizing Transfer of Deed** – Treasurer Sear explained that once a year, on behalf of the county, the County Trustee-Joseph Meyer & Associates organizes a sealed bid auction. This sale is comprised of the property the county holds title on and is an effort to transfer ownership from the county to new owners. This program is designed to get the property back on the county's tax rolls. This year's sale was held on August 7, with seven real estate parcels and one mobile home being sold. County Board approval of the resolutions is needed in order for the transactions to be finalized. *Motion by Shafer, second by Weller to approve the resolutions authorizing the deeds of conveyance for the real estate parcels and the Tax Sale*

*Certificate of Purchase for the mobile home, with one roll call vote.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bullard, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Borngasser, Ingles, Holt, Weber, Riens, Campbell, Allen, Mays, Young, Yoder, Gerwin, Flott, Runyon, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson  
**Nays:** None      **Absent:** None

### HIGHWAY

Chair Weber introduced David Winters- County Highway Engineer, who reviewed **County Board Action Items** as follows:

**I. Resolutions:**

- **Resolution (#2013-10-57) Appropriating Funds (\$42,295) from County Aid to Bridge Fund** for construction of a bridge on the McLean-Livingston County Line between Sec. 1 Lawndale Twp and Section 31 Indian Grove Twp.
- **Resolution (#2013-10-58) Appropriating Funds (\$160,000) from County Aid to Bridge Fund** for rehabilitation of S.N. 053-3045 carrying CH24 over the Vermilion River, Section 13-00166-01-BR, 0.5 Mi. East of McDowell.

**II. Engineering Agreements:**

- **Hutchison Engineering, Inc., Shorewood, IL** – Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement for design of a bridge replacing Structure Number 053-4007 in Chatsworth Road District, Section 13-06107-04-BR, Livingston County coordinates 3125E, 500N. Fee not to exceed \$35,000.00
- **Farnsworth Group, Inc., Pontiac, IL** – Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement for rehabilitation of S N. 053-3045 carrying CH 24 over the Vermilion River, Section 13-00166-01-BR, 0.5 Mi. East of McDowell. Fee not to exceed \$14,700.00

*Motion by Weber, second by Campbell to approve Highway action agenda items #1 - #4, with one roll call vote.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bullard, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Borngasser, Ingles, Holt, Weber, Riens, Campbell, Allen, Mays, Young, Yoder, Gerwin, Flott, Runyon, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson    **Nays:** None    **Absent:** None

Winters reported that there were 55 applications for the pending November 1 vacancy, with six candidates scheduled for interviews October 30<sup>th</sup>. They hope to have a candidate for the November 7<sup>th</sup> committee meeting.

Weber stated that the committee discussed potential expenses to the Highway Department as a result of the proposed Route 66 Bike Trail Concept Plan. Winters provided some highlights of the proposed plan since he represents the County Engineers on the Route 66 Executive Council. He explained that it would be hard to determine the impact on his department at this time, since there haven't been any costs established or construction plans drawn up. Most of these trails are usually built with some type of state or federal grant funding. There could be some costs to the county in building and maintaining, as many of these trails end up using county roads in areas where it is not feasible to follow state highways. The concept plan has been in the works for 5-6 years and would establish a continuous bike trail from Chicago stretching to just north of St. Louis. It was noted that in the current concept plan, no part of the bike trail winding through Livingston County, would utilize Route 66 as it is, but would parallel Route 66 via township and county roads.

### AG & ZONING

**Resolution (#2013-10-59) Route 66 Bike Trail Concept Plan** - Chair Young stated that one of the County Board's goals was to increase recreational venues within the county. As a result, the Recreation Ad-Hoc Committee was formed and has been active in developing a plan for the county. Donovan Gardner was present to share additional information on the Route 66 Trail Concept Plan. The ultimate goal of the plan is to use the old Route 66 highway, but in the interim alternate routes branching off to secondary roads have been proposed. This would allow families and less experienced riders a trail to follow, but not have to endanger themselves with high levels of traffic or poor road conditions. It was noted that the section of old Route 66 that has the highest traffic

population, statewide, is located between Chenoa and Pontiac. He was requesting upon recommendation of the Ag & Zoning Committee, that the Board adopt the concept plan as a part of the general county planning. It is a state-wide plan that enhances the ability to procure state grants, apply for federal funding and doesn't obligate the county in any other way other than what is already in the Greenway Plan. *Motion by Young, second by Ritter to adopt the Route 66 Trail Concept Plan.* Discussion followed with the following noted: no cost to the county to adopt the concept plan; the path is only for non-motorized vehicles; and alternate routes utilizing township roads are marked on the trail maps. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY ON VOICE VOTE.**

Zoning Administrator-Chuck Schopp, commented on the Deer Run Project. He received written withdrawal of their special use application about a year ago. If they want to move forward with the project, they would have to start the process all over. Chuck also reported that Hoosier Energy was hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of their gas energy system at Livingston Landfill on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

### **ELECTION, RULES & LEGISLATION**

No Report

### **INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY**

No Report

### **PERSONNEL**

Chair Holt reported the following items: dental insurance renewal experienced a 3.8% increase; informed by Daniels that the job description updates are moving right along; and learned from Seth Uphoff that the Advisory Committee had discussed some of their concerns and would be meeting again to move forward on proposals for the board. An insurance meeting explaining the county medical option plan benefits and rates for 2014 was attended by forty-six employees. The health insurance plan experienced a 12.3% reduction in premiums, with dental rates increasing 3.8% and vision remaining status quo. This health insurance plan offers two options, one with a \$3,500.00 deductible with reduced premiums for employees.

### **PUBLIC PROPERTY**

Chair Runyon reported that the Recreation Committee had presented information on the old state police headquarters and had requested permission to investigate available options for the building, such as grants. The committee did authorize the investigation. They also reviewed a request for an area on the square for a war memorial honoring Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The funding for the memorial would come from donations and fund raising events. The committee granted permission for placement of the memorial on the square, with the condition that the design and location be presented to the committee before final approval.

### **VETERANS**

No Report

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

No Report

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Earl Rients** shared information he learned from the Livingston County Children's Network Seminar he attended in September. One point they shared, that he thought the Board should be very concerned with was that the medium income for the county had gone down, meaning that many of our residents are struggling.

**Teresa Grant-Quick**, Farm Bureau Manager reminded everyone to be aware of the farmers on the road, as harvest was in full swing.

**Daryl Holt** took a moment to thank Tony Childress as Sheriff and commend him for the excellent job he did.

**Bob Weller** noted that he was offended by the remarks directed at the Board earlier in the evening, regarding the Sheriff appointment.

**Mike Ingles** stated that he appreciated Tony Childress's service as Sheriff and his continued dedicated service to the citizens of this county. Ingles was also offended by Dave Mishur's comments stating it was obvious from the beginning that he did not listen. He re-iterated that the Board Chairman considered people who were not announced candidates for the office. The Chairman did not want the appearance that he or the Board, by supporting him with a vote, was endorsing any candidate.

**Ron Kestner** thanked the Chairman and members for the opportunity to be considered for the Sheriff position.

**Chairman Fannin** expressed his appreciation to Kestner for stepping up and putting himself in that position. His decision was by no means a word against Tony or Ron and was strictly based on the fact that he didn't want any politics involved.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

#### **COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting recessed at 7:17 p.m. on motion by Young, second by Arbogast. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL EYES ON VOICE VOTE.*

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 6:00 p.m., at the Historic Courthouse Board Room.

**Marty Fannin, Chairman**

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching  
County Clerk

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Approved