

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 7, 2014 MEETING

The committee chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm at the Livingston County Historic Courthouse, 112 W. Madison St., Pontiac, Illinois and roll call was taken.

Present: Bob Young, Bill Flott, Earl Rients and Bill Peterson

Absent: Mike Ingles, Ronald Kestner and Paul Ritter.

Others

Present: County Board Chair Marty Fannin, non-committee county board member Carl Borngasser, County Planning Commission Representative Chuck Schopp, Livingston County Administrative Resource Specialist Alina Hartley, Livingston County Finance Resource Specialist June Slagel, Liv Com 911 Manager of Communications Randy Wittenberg, ETSB Coordinator Candi Bradshaw, Livingston County Sheriff Al Lindsey and Teresa Grant-Quick representing the Livingston County Farm Bureau.

Committee Chair Young noted the agenda, with no comments being made the agenda was approved.

Minutes of the December 2, 2013 committee meeting were noted to the committee by the committee chair. Bill Flott moved, seconded by Earl Rients, that these meeting minutes be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Dispatch Agreement/ETSB Report:

Randy Wittenberg presented a revised draft of an "INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ADOPTING THE GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVIDING OF EMERGENCY ("911") AND NON-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICES AND CENTRALIZED DISPATCHING SERVICES FOR LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS." Mr. Wittenberg indicated that this draft reflects that Livingston County will pay ETSB \$225,000, the same amount that the county budgeted for ETSB this year. Then beginning in 2015 and for future years an increase of 5% or the CPI, whichever is less, would be added to the previous year's payment. Mr. Wittenberg then remarked that the county pays more per capita and at this time they are working to level the ETSB finances setting user payments at equitable rates. So ETSB will seek to have some of the municipalities, fire protection districts, and EMS operations pay increased fees. Mr. Wittenberg explained that they would like to have the total fees increase from \$478,000 to \$520,000. An informational sheet outlining the proposed fee increases, and how the fees are to be assessed was presented to the committee. Mr. Wittenberg then confirmed that the county's current budgeted amount for ETSB will not change. The current ETSB budgets were then explained, focusing on the budget receipts.

A discussion on alternative financing then took place, starting with Mr. Wittenberg restating that they are seeking a level financing system now, with proposals to pursue alternative long term financing in the future. Long term financing considerations of increasing land line fees and a sales tax increase were mentioned.

The option of proposing a ¼ % sales tax increase with funds from this increase being dedicated to 911 funding was then discussed. A comment was made that if such a sales tax increase was approved potentially \$750,000 in this tax funding could be provided to ETSB/ 911, addressing several ETSB/911 funding and budgeting issues. The timing of placing such a proposed tax increase on a ballot was discussed, along with how the need for such a proposed tax increase will need to be explained.

Mr. Wittenberg then related about this year's plans to purchase new equipment, which has been budgeted, and how it is hoped this new equipment cost will possibly come in under budget. Future capital needs were then talked over, with Mr. Wittenberg relating how it is hard to project costs for future capital expenses. Mr. Wittenberg then commented again how they are trying to set a level set financing system in place now, while planning for future long term financing. Comments were then made as to how the county cannot do without the ETSB/911 system, and that the current dispatch operations are much more efficient and economical compared to other dispatch operations.

Earl Riens then moved, seconded by Bill Flott that this committee recommend to the full county board that the draft of "INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ADOPTING THE GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVIDING OF EMERGENCY ("911") AND NON-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICES AND CENTRALIZED DISPATCHING SERVICES FOR LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS that the committee reviewed at this meeting be approved. This motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

#### Brownfield Grant Proposal:

The committee members were informed that Gary Deigan of Deigan and Associates has offered to assist the county in submitting an application for a Brownfields Assessment Grant. A handout was given to the committee members, with this handout being an overview of this grant program, in which a description of Community-Wide Assessment grants is included. Because of the continuing hazardous road conditions from the recent winter storm Mr. Deigan was not present at this meeting. A proposal was made to recess this meeting until 5 pm prior to the county board meeting next week, at which Mr. Deigan can explain this Brownfields Grant proposal to the committee, with a plan to have the county board review this proposal at their meeting later in the same evening. The committee members agreed to this proposal.

#### Solid Waste Report:

A monthly synopsis of landfill information and correspondence was presented to the committee members. This was a copy of a block form document provided by the county's environmental consultants, Diegan and Associates. This synopsis covered that last year of documents. A remark was made to the committee to concentrate on the two pages that reflect the most recent documents, which have not been previously mentioned to the committee. The committee was informed that Hoosier Energy has sent one of the Livingston Landfill gas to energy turbines out to be refurbished, with plans to send a second turbine out for refurbishing in the future, with the gas to energy system continuing to operate. The committee was also informed that in the IEPA's twenty sixth annual capacity report, in which this report notes that Livingston Landfill accepts 52.9 % of the East Central Illinois regions waste amounts, or 8.9 % of the State's waste receipts. 14.5 % of landfill capacity available in the state is found at Livingston Landfill. Host agreement information was also presented to the committee.

#### Wind Energy Report:

The committee was informed that a judge has dismissed the legal action in regard to the Deer Run wind energy project special use. For the Deer Run wind energy project to move forward in the future, a new special use application would need to be submitted, with new public hearings regarding the new application, and a new county board decision pertaining to any such special use application if one would even be filed. The committee was also informed that some indications are being made that there is still interest in developing the K4 wind energy project in other counties, which will only be confirmed with future actions.

Recognition Process:

A discussion took place as to how the committee or county board can recognize high achievements in their minutes, with a letter of recognition being sent to express the county's congratulation to high achieving individuals, teams or groups. The committee discussed how this process could be considered for state champions and individuals or organizations that receive national recognition, as being the best in the nation. (e.g. the county board's recent recognition of the Pontiac FFA) How school principal's involvement in providing this information to the county was then discussed.

The committee suggested that the planning commission/zoning administrator draft a formal recognition process along the lines discussed at this meeting.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee: None

Public Comment:

Livingston County Farm Bureau manager Teresa Grant-Quick commented to the committee about her planned retirement at the end of this month. The committee expressed their appreciation to her for her dedicated service that she provided to the citizens of Livingston County.

Review and Approval of Bills: None

Executive Session:

Bill Flott moved, seconded by Earl Rients, to close regular session to go into executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21) review of closed session minutes. This motion was approved by roll call vote – Young- Yes, Flott-Yes, Ingles-Absent, Kestner-Absent, Peterson-Yes, Rients-Yes, Ritter-Absent.

Executive Session began at 6:45 p.m.  
Regular Session resumed at 6:50 p.m.

Action Resulting from Executive Session:

Bill Flott moved, seconded by Bill Peterson, that the committee allow for the executive session minutes of the February 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 meeting to be opened. This motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment:

Then Earl Rients moved, seconded by Bill Peterson, that this meeting be recessed until 5 pm on January 16, 2014, with this recessed meeting to resume in the Regional Planning Commission/Zoning office in the Historic Courthouse at 112 W. Madison St., Pontiac, IL. This motion was approved unanimously.

This meeting was recessed at 6:55 p.m.

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Charles T. Schopp, Administrator  
Livingston County  
Regional Planning Commission