

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THEIR APRIL 8, 2014 MEETING

The committee chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Livingston County Historic Courthouse, 112 W. Madison St., Pontiac, Illinois and roll call was taken.

Present: Bob Young, Bill Flott, Mike Ingles, Ron Kestner, Bill Peterson and Earl Rients.

Absent: Paul Ritter.

Committee chair Young noted the agenda, Mr. Schopp noted additions to item 2 c 2 include bike paths, cannabis regulations, and cell tower regulations, then under 3 add zoning case briefings on Enbridge Energy and Valley View Industries, Cayuga accumulated materials complaints, and a exercise of the emergency response team. Mike Ingles then moved, seconded by Ron Kestner, that the agenda for this meeting be approved as amended. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Minutes of the March 4, 2014 committee meeting were referred to the committee. Mike Ingles clarified that he is the Chair of the ETSB. Bill Flott moved, seconded by Ron Kestner, that these minutes be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

ETSB:

Mr. Ingles remarked that the ETSB had met earlier in the day, at their new 4 pm meeting time. At this meeting they discussed issues similar to issues discussed in the past, including budget and fee issues including increases in dispatch fees. They are also looking at creating a 5 year budget to have a better understanding of how to address future budgets. Issues in regard to fees paid into 911 from ambulance services were mentioned. The potential of using the Starcom radio system in the future was also mentioned.

Landfill/Solid Waste Issues Briefing:

A copy of Deigan and Associates Livingston Landfill submittal reviews was given to the committee members. A highlighted area noted that they will continue to watch the landfill gas migration monitoring results, for trends in comparison to gas monitoring probe trends. The regular monthly synopsis of landfill information and correspondence was presented to the committee members. The monthly information relating to Livingston Landfill focused on NPDES Reports, groundwater monitoring reports, and landfill gas system reports, including landfill gas migration reports. In regards to the Streator Landfill, a visit to look at this landfill's condition is planned for later in April, a drainage down chute at the northeast portion of this facility is planned to be replaced. Host agreement information was presented to the committee.

Review of Zoning Regulation Issues and other Pending Legislation:

Wind Energy Regulations:

The committee was informed that Illinois Senate Bill SB3263 was stalled in the legislative process and that the sponsor of this bill does not plan on moving this bill. This is the bill discussed by the committee last month.

This is the bill in which it was proposed that the Illinois Department of Agriculture would become the department responsible for approving wind energy projects in Illinois. The committee agreed that since this bill is not to be moving forward they did not feel a need to formally express their opposition to this bill was needed.

Jason Bunting, of the Livingston County Farm Bureau addressed the committee with some information about this bill. Mr. Bunting explained that Illinois Farm Bureau is in part a policy organization in which delegates at their annual meeting do address legislation. Mr. Bunting then read the Farm Bureau policy relating to wind energy. Three viewpoints about wind energy were part of this policy development. One viewpoint pertains to counties with restrictive wind policies, while another viewpoint pertains to counties with little or no wind energy policies. The third viewpoint is that it would make it easier for farm bureau to address wind energy if only one set of regulations existed, as opposed to separate regulations by all 102 counties. A discussion took place as to how the differing agencies can communicate their opinions on similar issues so everyone has a better concept of all opinions on issues, like wind energy.

The committee was informed that a court ruling is restricting the use of old rail road right of ways as bike paths, in relation to ownership issues, this comment is to avoid land ownership issues with any bike paths that may be proposed on rail paths in Livingston County. The zoning administrator confirmed with the committee that they are satisfied as to how any cannabis production operation or distribution operation would be addressed in unincorporated Livingston County, as discussed at last month's meeting. Pending legislation that may give counties more control in the siting of cellular towers was then mentioned.

Other issues were presented to the committee members:

Zoning Case briefings on Enbridge Energy and Valley View Industries were made to the committee. In regard to the Enbridge proposal to add pumping stations and storage tanks on the east side of 23 across from their current development, the committee was briefed on the planning commission meeting the night before this committee meeting and some residents in the area have property value concerns, as part of their overall concerns about the project. This proposal will be addressed by the zoning board of appeals at their meeting this coming Thursday. In regard to the Valley View proposal to expand their stone quarry near Humiston Woods it was related that the road may be moved, and that an area neighbor has concerns about quarry operations in the area. When this quarry is completed and reclaimed the Humiston Trust would be the owner of all of the property with the lake being available for recreational purposes.

The committee was informed that the owners of the property in Cayuga that has generated complaints about material accumulating on the property have been contacted and that they plan on doing some initial clean up of the property this coming weekend. Follow up communication on this matter is planned. Burn piles for used materials in the Cayuga area were also discussed, with the locations of these piles being clarified. The committee was informed about a planned table top exercise pertaining to a tornado scenario on May 7th, and the committee members are welcome to attend.

Public comments:

Alyson Sand and Andrew Downey from Invenergy introduced themselves and related that they are considering moving forward with a proposed wind energy project in the Forrest / Fairbury area. Alyson Sand related that this would be project of 200 to 250 megawatts with 110 to 140 turbines, depending on the turbine size. A discussion on a potential need for regulations pertaining to drones then took placed.

No bills were presented for the committee to review.

Then Bill Flott moved, seconded by Ron Kestner, that this meeting be adjourned. This motion was approved unanimously.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Charles T. Schopp, Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission