

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF January 16, 2014 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.

Earl Rients led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The clerk called roll with the following **present:** John “Jack” Vietti, Tim Shafer, Kathy Arbogast, Robert F. Weller, Paul Ritter, Kelly Cochran Cohlman, Joseph D. Steichen, Carl Borngasser, 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 and William H. Peterson **Absent:** Joan Bullard, G. Michael Ingles and Daryl N. Holt

Also Present: County Clerk Kristy Masching, Alina Hartley-Administrative Resource Specialist, Zoning Administrator Chuck Schopp, Gary Deigan-Deigan & Assoc.), Randy Wittenberg-911 Manager, County Highway Engineer-David Winters and Jail Superintendent Bill Cox

AGENDA

Chair Fannin requested that the Recreation Committee Report be added to the agenda after the Closing Ceremony items and before adjournment. *Motion by Arbogast second by Runyon to approve the agenda as revised.*

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY ON VOICE VOTE.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Fannin called for approval of the December 12, 2013 minutes. Cohlman asked that the IT Committee Report be amended to say “that the website had been switched from Verio to Go-Daddy because the website was down.” *Motion by Cohlman, second by Yoder to approve the amended December 12, 2013 minutes.* **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY ON VOICE VOTE.**

PRESENTATION

None

APPEARANCES

None

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Bills

B. New Position

- a) Part Time IT Support Specialist

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Vietti, second by Weller. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Borngasser, Weber, Rients, Campbell, Allen, Mays, Young, Yoder, Gerwin, Flott, Runyon, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson **Nays:** None
Absent: Bullard, Ingles and Holt

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ACTION ITEMS

None

AG & ZONING

Intergovernmental Agreement: – Chair Young explained that a meeting had taken place since the “911 IGA” was distributed to the board. Questions were raised as to whether they should take action at this time because of item #5, which states that beginning 2015, and for each year thereafter, the County agrees to pay the previous

year's payment amount with an added increase of 5% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the previous fiscal year, whichever is less. The concern was that it was an automatic increase, rather than based on need. It was felt that if they had a surplus in the bank, then they wouldn't need the automatic increase. Randy Wittenberg explained that the escalator clause was included since they had gone ten years without an increase, and revenue from land lines had been steadily declining as well. Chair Fannin stated that they would like to see the agreement amended to say "increase as needed or if needed" rather than an "automatic" annual increase. He stated that if this language had been included in the previous agreement, when the payments were frozen, 911 would have been able to receive an increase during the years it would have been needed. Randy recommended that if the Board wouldn't pass the agreement tonight, then it should be tabled and he would take it back to the 911/ETSB Board for their consideration of the language revision request. He also commented that land line funding to the ETSB is about \$170,000 annually, which is about \$100,000. less than it was six years ago. Wireless fees are \$1.50 per land line, with wireless fees set at \$.73 per cell phone per billing address. The ETSB is looking for long term fixes. *Motion by Young, second by Steichen to table the 911 Intergovernmental Agreement until February, so that the language issue can be worked out.* Discussion followed. ETSB receives \$.57 of the \$.73 collected per cell phone per billing address for the wireless fees, with the rest going to the cell phone companies to improve infrastructure. The agreement does include a 180 day cancellation out or renegotiation clause. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Weber, Allen, Mays, Young, Flott, Runyon, Fannin and Peterson **Nays:** Shafer, Borngasser, Rients, Campbell, Yoder, Gerwin and Kestner **Absent:** Bullard, Ingles and Holt

Proposal: Deigan & Assoc.: Brownfield Grant – Gary Deigan (Environmental Consultant) presented information on the U.S. EPA brownfield grant program. He explained that the county could use this grant as an economic development tool. It could be used as a funding source for potential developers or municipalities who want to take abandoned pieces of property that have been impacted by environmental conditions and redevelop them, in order to get them back on the tax rolls. The money would be available to the county to prioritize sites and in conjunction with municipal officials, identify the sites, have the environmental testing completed and provide a process for obtaining redevelopment construction loans. This competitive grant is for assessment work only, with the application submission due date being January 22. The grant application is for \$400,000 and must be spent down over a three year period. Clean up grants will be available at a later date once sites have been identified and warrant clean-up. Discussion followed on the following items: Deigan has worked with the City of Waukegan on brownfield assessment grants; potential county liability could be staff time, for management of project; there's a grant funding option for outside consultant contracting for program management work; no matching funds or in-kind services required by county; assessment grant would go towards Phase I and II environmental testing to include soil borings, lab analysis and for write-up of cleanup planning; asbestos does not qualify for this grant; and cost of \$2- \$3,000 for Deigan's services for compiling and submitting grant. *Motion by Young, second by Steichen for Livingston County to allow for Deigan & Associates on behalf of Livingston County to submit an application to the federal EPA for the Brownfield Assessment Grant.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Borngasser, Weber, Rients, Campbell, Allen, Mays, Young, Yoder, Gerwin, Flott, Runyon, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson **Nays:** None **Absent:** Bullard, Ingles and Holt

HIGHWAY

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

I. **Resolutions:**

- **Resolution (#2014-01-01):** County Maintenance Resolution appropriating \$944,500.00 from the county's MFT Fund for estimated 2014 materials, labor and equipment, Section 14-00000-00-GM.
- **Resolution (#2014-01-02):** Resolution appropriating \$10,000.00 from County Motor Fuel Tax and \$300,000.00 from County Matching Tax for the county's share of resurfacing CH16 from the McLean County Line to IL Rte. 116, Section 10-00149-02-RS.

Motion by Weber, second by Rients to approve County Board Action items #1 & #2, with one roll call vote.

MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes: Vietti, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Borngasser, Weber, Rients, Campbell, Allen, Mays, Young, Yoder, Gerwin, Flott, Runyon, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson **Nays:** None **Absent:** Bullard, Ingles and Holt

Steichen commented that he had received several complaints from constituents in Broughton and Union Townships with regard to the County's snow removal from the recent storm. Winters explained that with the adverse blizzard conditions experienced this week, their current plans of action didn't work. They hired three end loaders from private contractors to dig out areas where the snow was too deep for their truck snow plows to get through. They also received help from some township commissioners in other rural areas as well. He stated that based on where the end loaders started, the Emington area ended up being the last area cleared out. He stated that once they started clearing roads on Tuesday, they were able to clear all the county roads in one day. Young commented that there needs to be a plan in place for each community, since the only access in or out is usually a county road. Winters said that his staff has met for reassessment of what transpired during the blizzard conditions, to see what improvements can be implemented to ensure better service in future storms. They are also considering contracting with local residents who have snow blowers, as they are more efficient than end loaders when dealing with seven to eight foot snowdrifts. It was suggested that they post their written plan on the website.

FINANCE

Resolution (#2014-01-03) Appellate Prosecutor – Chair Shafer reported that we contribute \$13,000 to a fund for attorney services provided by the Office of the State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor in the event there is a conflict of interest with our State's Attorney or in other matters that may arise in the course of their business. The state foots the bill for funding the rest of the operation. The County has participated in this service for a number of years. *Motion by Shafer, second by Vietti to recommend approval of the Resolution for approval of the State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor services proposal for FY2014.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Borngasser, Weber, Rients, Campbell, Allen, Mays, Young, Yoder, Gerwin, Runyon, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson **Nays:** Flott **Absent:** Bullard, Ingles and Holt

County Clerk Semi-Annual Report – Clerk Masching stated that the comparison report shows all the fees collected and to whom they are paid for the time period May 31, 2013 through November 30, 2013. She noted that the \$9. fee collected on behalf of the state, for the RHSPS (Rental Housing Support Program Surcharge) has not been submitted to the Department of Revenue since September, due to a lawsuit filed in Lake County. She is holding the fees in a separate account until the suit is settled. *Motion by Shafer, second by Campbell to approve the County Clerk's Semi-Annual Report.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Borngasser, Weber, Rients, Campbell, Allen, Mays, Young, Yoder, Gerwin, Flott, Runyon, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson **Nays:** None **Absent:** Bullard, Ingles and Holt

Allocation of Funds for Security Cameras – Chair Shafer reported that the Sheriff's Department had observed that security measures, including cameras, had been installed within the Historic Courthouse during renovation, but nothing was in place for monitoring the outside of the building. They felt that exterior cameras would be beneficial in maintaining the security of the building and safety of the employees, since there was no longer an on-going security presence in the building. It was also recommended that an additional panic button be installed in the County Clerk's Office. Jail Superintendent Bill Cox was present to comment on the recommended security measures as well as field questions from the group. The monitor would be located at the Law & Justice Center and would allow security to view the Historic Courthouse premises without having to flip from one system to another. He noted that the estimated cost to install the recommended security enhancements would be about \$19,700. *Motion by Weller, second by Arbogast to approve the allocation of funds for the security cameras.* Discussion followed. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Borngasser, Weber, Rients, Campbell, Allen, Mays, Runyon, Fannin and Peterson **Nays:** Steichen, Young, Yoder, Gerwin, Flott, and Kestner **Absent:** Bullard, Ingles and Holt

SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE

Resolution (#2014-01-04): Northern Illinois Crime Lab – Chair Borngasser reported that the committee had discussed the use of the Northern Illinois Crime Lab and had voted to rescind the contract with them. *Motion by Yoder, second by Cohlman to rescind the contract with the Northern Illinois Crime Lab.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Weber, Rients, Campbell, Allen, Mays, Young, Yoder, Gerwin, Flott, Runyon, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson **Nays:** Borngasser **Absent:** Bullard, Ingles and Holt

ADMINISTRATIVE

Chairman Fannin reported the discussion had centered on ideas for 2014 work sessions. Last year they were schooled on the budget. Earl Rients suggested looking at the appropriations, what is statutorily required and what services are provided above and beyond. They will ask the department heads and elected officials to fill out a questionnaire regarding their statutory duties versus optional services provided. The members will review the questionnaires and possibly invite the department heads in to review with them. Members will learn what the departments do and why it is done.

ELECTION, RULES & LEGISLATION

No Report

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

Chair Arbogast reported that the equipment for the master control room at the PSC had been installed and is working properly.

PERSONNEL

No Report

PUBLIC PROPERTY

Chair Runyon reported that in conjunction with the sub-zero temperature day, a water pipe above the Court Security Station in the Law & Justice Center vestibule, froze and leaked. There was no damage to the monitors as the water was turned off before it thawed out. He also stated that the RFP for the new maintenance building had been released. The pre-bid meeting is set for the end of the month with bids due back the middle of February. They received a response back from the Attorney General’s office from their inspection of the Historic Courthouse, but nothing on the Law & Justice Center. They reported four minor findings with easy fixes.

VETERANS

No report

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Judy Campbell reported the activities of the Recreation Committee. They met with the IDOT District Three Chief Engineer who provided them with a lot of good planning information for Rte 66 improvements for a bike trail. He told them that the maintenance agreement would be between the local governing body and the State for the service lanes, with the State retaining ownership. He also informed them that this area of road is part of the state historical preservation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:01p.m. on motion by Steichen, second by Vietti. **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES ON VOICE VOTE.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., at the Historic Courthouse Board Room.

Marty Fannin, Chairman

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching
County Clerk

February 13, 2014
Approved

Minutes Bd 01-16-14.A