

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2014 MEETING

The committee chair called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm at the Livingston County Historic Courthouse, 112 W. Madison St., Pontiac, Illinois and roll call was taken.

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

Absent: None

Committee Chair Young noted the agenda. Mike Ingles then moved, seconded by Paul Ritter, that the agenda for this meeting be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Minutes of the June 3, 2014 committee meeting were referred to the committee. Earl Rients moved, seconded by Bill Flott, that these meeting minutes be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

ETSB Dispatch and Communications Capital Request/ETSB Report:

This portion of the meeting was also presented to the Sheriff, Jail and License Committee members that had just concluded their meeting prior to this presentation. This allowed for this presentation to be made to both committees at the same time. ETSB Chair Mike Ingles made a power point presentation regarding the LivCom Proposed Capital Budget. This power point began with a presentation on the as is status of communications. This information addressed equipment, infrastructure and issues. These issues include a lack of coverage, a need to improve communications with outside agencies, such as the Illinois State Police, IDOT, corrections and METCOM. A potential need for additional towers now (2) and in the future (?) was also mentioned. Mr. Ingles then remarked about the aging software, specifically the software that supports the mapping and CAD (computer aided dispatching) programs. Since these programs are old and unique they have issues with support of these programs and problems with the systems fail. Mr. Ingles then commented that the current system does not support texting or reverse 911.

Mr. Ingles then addressed as is police reporting. The issues related to police reporting is that the county police agencies do not use a common reporting system, and in some cases the compiling of the reports takes excess time (sometimes requiring overtime) and mileage and travel issues for deputies. Mr. Ingles commented on the potential use of a common reporting system, which would allow shared data that could make all the organizations more efficient including jail administration.

Mr. Ingles then addressed immediate needs, of new towers, replacing existing tower equipment and upgrading the CAD and mapping systems. Longer range plans would include additional towers, tower maintenance, and further upgrades to the 911 system; reverse 911 and a special needs information component.

Mr. Ingles then addressed proposed investments. In regards to communications they are considering going to the Starcom radio system, which will require new equipment including radios and monthly leases. At this point in time this system does not have a paging capability (a key communications factor especially for fire and EMS). So the upgrade to communication will need to be further studied to address all communication factors. In regard to dispatch they are looking at some integrated solutions that would incorporate CAD, mapping, police reporting and jail administration. Pertaining to the total costs of these improvements they are still defining their requirements, as they are proposing a capital budget request not to exceed 3 million dollars. Options of spreading the costs out over a couple of years were discussed.

Carolyn Gerwin questioned about the time frame for spending the 3 million dollars. Mr. Ingles responded that the 3 million could be spent in one fiscal year, noting they had time this year to work on planning for the needs. Sticker shock was then discussed. Mention and comparison was then made to the high maintenance cost of the existing system. Judy Campbell inquired as to what would happen to the old towers if they longer were needed. With the exception of the Odell tower, all the existing towers are rented, so those leases could be terminated. The Odell tower may still be needed as part of the communications system, or other parties that may have an interest may be contacted. Jeremy Stoller of SELCAS clarified the fire and EMS use of radios, and indicated that if a Starcom system is to be used every rig should have a new radio. This issue is to be discussed with existing systems such as METCOM. Mr. Stoller mentioned options for beefing up the existing system. The solutions to the communication system issues will be discussed as they move forward with the upgrade plans.

#### Solid Waste Report:

A monthly information synopsis relating to Livingston Landfill focused on report copies pertaining to landfill gas monitoring results and clean air act reports. The reasoning for the methane gas exceedences is being investigated. Also mentioned were reports from the IEPA that they had not found any violations on their last two quarterly visits.

In regard to the Streator Area Landfill, the report focused on methane exceedence levels at well X09.

Host agreement information was also presented to the committee. Host fee amounts have increased over the last two months. However, it is anticipated that the host fee revenues will decline for at least the first three quarters of 2015, until the construction of a new cell area is completed during the 2015 construction season. Mention was made that the current host agreement is to expire at the end of 2015. The committee agreed to start initial steps in extending this agreement.

#### Briefing on Zoning Issues:

The July time frame for improving the former Sun Trucking site is coming to an end with limited progress seen in improving the property. No new applications pertaining to potential Enbridge or Invenenergy developments have been filed.

#### Quarry Reclamation:

The committee members were informed that the zoning administrator will meet with representatives of Prairie Materials later this month to discuss their quarry reclamation plans. Mention was made that approximately 15 homes have been constructed around former quarry areas located within Livingston County.

#### Draft FY2015 Budget(s) Review:

Mr. Schopp presented his solid waste, regional planning and zoning, zoning board of appeals and ESDA budgets reflecting the same amounts as currently budgeted. The planning document upgrade capital budget line item was discussed, with the committee agreeing to keep planning document upgrades as a capital budget request at this time. It was the consensus of the committee to recommend to the finance committee these budget requests.

#### Other Issues to Come Before the Committee:

The committee was informed that reappointments for Luke Bartlett to the Livingston County Regional Planning Commission and for Richard Kiefer to the Zoning Board of Appeals are pending approval of the county board.

#### Public Comment:

Ted Hartke of Vermillion County remarked that he would like to comment on his experience in living in an Invenenergy wind energy project area. Committee chair Young questioned if it would be more appropriate for Mr. Hartke to present his comments to the zoning board of appeals hearing if Invenenergy filed a special use request in Livingston County as anticipated. Mr. Young encouraged Mr. Hartke to testify at any zoning board of appeals hearing pertaining to Invenenergy. Mr. Young deferred this request of Mr. Hartke to provide public comment to Livingston County Board Chair Marty Fannin, who was present at this committee meeting. Since no special use request has been filed pertaining to Invenenergy, County Board Chair Fannin agreed to allow Mr. Hartke to provide public comment at this meeting, though the public comments could be limited to a certain amount of minutes. No time frame was imposed and Mr. Hartke proceeded with public comment.

Mr. Hartke provided handout documents to the committee members; these documents consisted of photos of his property with written text, his business card, a drawing from his daughter, with written text, and a copy of correspondence from Stephen Ambrose an acoustics, environmental sound & industrial noise consultant.

Mr. Hartke indicated that he did not oppose the wind energy project when it was proposed to be located near his home. Mr. Hartke being an engineer and surveyor by trade, worked on the boundary survey of the planned development and he understood how the project could help improved the local roads and finance the local schools. However, when the wind turbines were turned on his family had problems sleeping. Initially Invenenergy would shut down the wind turbines closest to his home when he requested them to shut them down. But, when the turbines did run all night they had sleeping issues leading to children's school issues, arguing and health issues. Mr. Hartke then reviewed the picture he had handed out to the committee members. As the noise and sleep issues continued they retained an attorney to assist them in this matter. His family members have taking medication to assist with their sleeping. Mr. Hartke then discussed options of sound proofing his house with insulation, which they have not done. The value of his house was then mentioned.

Mr. Hartke then related that they abandoned their house last December moving into a double wide. In trying to sell his house he has found no takers. Setbacks and noise emissions were then mentioned. Mr. Hartke further discussed the stress on his family and the difficulty in finding a solution to the situation. Mr. Hartke then commented about how he had contacted Stephen Ambrose an acoustical consultant in the state of Maine. Mr. Ambrose had sent Mr. Hartke some correspondence dated December 8, 2013, of which a copy was a part of the handout Mr. Hartke provided to the committee members. Mr. Hartke noted a chart part of Mr. Ambrose's correspondence. Mr. Hartke noted that his only issue is noise. Mr. Hartke then commented on trying to sell his competitively priced house. Mr. Hartke related that the sound is barely below the state sound standards, but he believes different sound lengths are causing his problems. Mr. Hartke commented that it is hard to change your mindset or accept their situation.

Earl Riens related that he had contacted his relative in the Minonk Wind Farm area, who did not have issues with the sound of the turbines in her area. The difference in turbine height and blade length was discussed. Turbine type, height, blades distances etc., should all be taken into consideration in reviewing noise issues. Mr. Hartke mentioned acoustic sound issues again. Bob Young inquired about other area residents that may have the same issues, and then discussed a potential visit to Mr. Hartke's property. Mr. Hartke then commented that if you visit one may need to spend a long time on the property in that they do not have a noise issue all the time. Mr. Hartke believes that the noise issue is worse in the winter than in the summer, and it is worse with a low cloud ceiling. Mr. Hartke believes one would need to spend a night or nights in his house to be able to listen to the noise that he is talking about under the correct conditions that he is mentioning.

Carolyn Gerwin handed out a copy of a Paxton Record article regarding the Iroquois County Board approving numerous changes to that county's ordinance regulating wind farms. These changes pertained to setback distances, shadow flicker and new limits for the noise allowed. Mrs. Gerwin was inquiring into Livingston County's possibility of amending our wind ordinance regulations. Mr. Flott mentioned that the Iroquois County's new regulations curtail interest in developing further wind energy development in Iroquois County. Earl Riens then passed out copies of a letter from Nelson Zehr, which reflects Mr. Zehr's viewpoint on wind energy. Mr. Hartke's family sleep deprivation concerns were then mentioned, along with costs to insulate his residence. Acoustical testing was then mentioned. Comments were then made as to how long some of the wind farms in Livingston County have been discussed.

Review and Approval of Bills:

An invoice in the amount of \$2,135.50 from Deigan and Associates, LLC for Professional Services for June 2014 relating to landfill monitoring and technical reviews of Republic/Allied Waste's Livingston and Streator area Landfills, for environmental/solid waste landfill consulting service to Livingston County was reviewed by the committee. Bill Flott moved, seconded by Mike Ingles, that this statement be approved. This motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Issues Update:

Mr. Ingles informed the committee that State Senator Jason Barickman will meet with citizens interested in livestock facility siting regulations, on July 30<sup>th</sup> beginning 11:15 in the county board room located in the Livingston County Historic Courthouse at 112 W. Madison St. in Pontiac.

Adjournment:

Then Paul Ritter moved, seconded by Earl Rients, that this meeting be adjourned. This motion was approved unanimously.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:05p.m.

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Charles T. Schopp, Administrator  
Livingston County Regional  
Planning Commission