

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2014 MEETING

The committee chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, Ron Kestner, Bill Peterson, Earl Rients and Paul Ritter.

Absent: None.

Committee Chair Young noted the agenda. Paul Ritter then moved, seconded by Ron Kestner, that the agenda for this meeting be approved as outlined by the committee chair. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Minutes of the October 7, 2014 committee meeting were referred to the committee. Paul Ritter moved, seconded by Bill Peterson, that these meeting minutes be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

ETSB Report:

Mike Ingles, Chair of the ETSB, reported that no significant action regarding the ETSB has taken place during the last month. The ETSB is moving forward with requests for funds from the county's capital budget to fund a proposed new CAD system and a new Starcom radio system to serve the law enforcement agencies in the county. Mr. Ingles remarked about how the existing systems making up the current CAD system are aging and need to be replaced. In regard to the radio systems Mr. Ingles commented about how some dead spots exist in the county and as to how a Starcom system will help eliminate some of those dead spots for law enforcement. Mr. Ingles explained that they are looking at a Starcom system in part because of it being unknown as to what federal communication requirements will be in the future, which could create a need for more towers etc. The tower infrastructure for the Starcom system is in place in that the Illinois State Police and several state agencies and some local agencies, such as McLean County are using the Starcom system. Mr. Ingles mentioned that since they have unique needs the Livingston County Fire and EMS services will continue to use their existing radio systems for the time being. A question from the public present was made; as Kelly Kinate asked as to if additional bids for a radio system, other than Starcom, had been sought. Bugs in other Starcom systems were mentioned. Mr. Ingles responded with an explanation as to why they are seeking to use Starcom, and some bugs in such a system have in part been because of politics. Mr. Ingles then complimented all that are part of LivCom in that they have a system that serves all of the first responder entities in Livingston County, and that the county should be proud of our 911 system. These capital requests are because of aging technology, aging equipment and a desire to improve the 911 system.

Continuing the Process of Reviewing of the County's Wind Energy Ordinance:

Committee Chair Young remarked that he is going to have this committee wait until December to begin the thorough review of the proposed text amendments. Mr. Young commented that Administrative Resource Specialist Alina Hartley had compiled the comments into one document, taking comments previously made pertaining to review the county's wind energy ordinance and inserting these comments into the existing ordinance language. Alina Hartley passed out copies of this compiled text amendment document to the committee members. Extra copies of this document were made available to anyone present at this meeting.

Alina Hartley then explained that the areas in red in this new document are the new comments, and in regards to a question on the formatting of the document Alina Hartley noted that the crossed out areas are part of the suggestions. Committee member Paul Ritter thanked Alina Hartley for her work on this document. Committee Chair Young then asked for the committee members to review this document, prior to their next meeting.

Review of Draft Moratorium Text Language:

A copy of a proposed text amendment pertaining to an application for a zoning text amendment to Chapter 56, Article VIII, Code of Ordinances, Livingston County, Illinois, Proposing a Six (6) Month Moratorium on Livingston County, Illinois delaying the processing or acting upon any special use applications for the construction and operation of a Wind Energy Conversion System (WECS) filed after the date an ordinance is adopted by the county board authorizing the moratorium was part of the packet of information presented to the committee members at the beginning of this meeting. Committee Chair Bob Young then read a draft motion for this committee to recommend that the Livingston County Board instruct the Livingston County Board to move forward with this proposed text amendment.

Then acting on this motion Mike Ingles moved, seconded by Paul Ritter, that the Agriculture, Zoning and Emergency Services Committee of the Livingston County Board recommends to the County Board that it provide instructions to the Livingston County Zoning Board of Appeals to send notice and conduct a public hearing on a proposed zoning text amendment to Chapter 56, Schedule VIII, Code of Ordinances Livingston County, Illinois, proposing a six (6) month moratorium on Livingston County, Illinois, delaying the processing or acting upon any special use application for the construction and operation of a wind energy conversion system filed after the date an ordinance is adopted by the County Board authorizing the moratorium as a text amendment.

The committee discussed this proposed text amendment and in part clarified the zoning board of appeals role in this text amendment process. This motion was then approved by roll call vote: Young –Yes, Flott-Yes, Ingles-Yes, Kestner-Yes, Peterson-Yes, Riens-Yes and Ritter-Yes.

Other considerations pertaining to the review of the proposed Pleasant Ridge Wind Energy Project Special Use:

County Board Chairman Marty Fannin commented that they had been working with the high school and arrangements have been made to live stream the zoning board of appeals public hearings pertaining to the Pleasant Ridge Wind Energy Project special use application. In response from a question from an interested citizen it was confirmed that these will not be interactive broadcasts, just a streaming of the meeting taking place. Alina Hartley then remarked that she will have a link for this streaming production on the Livingston County web site. (livingstoncountyil.gov)

Tentative Schedule - for these hearings are November 17, 18 and 19th at Pontiac Township High School, with tentative continuing dates being November 24 and 25 at the Walton Centre in Fairbury. Potential additional dates in December will be noted in the future. A comment was also made that the Pleasant Ridge Energy Project special use application supplement and an IDNR report about this project can be found on the county web site.

Committee Chair Bob Young then opened up the meeting for public comments pertaining to wind energy issues. Judy Campbell questioned a list of standards for special uses, that have been used to evaluate special use requests. The zoning administrator to some extent clarified that applicants can incorporate these standards into their applications or presentations as applicant deems it appropriate to address these standards. These standards have been incorporated to past zoning applications and presentations. These standards are frequently used as part of the zoning board of appeals findings of fact and decision. These standards are in part an extension of a portion of the special use regulations procedures section. These standards also in part reflect factors made in a court decision on zoning.

Amber Severson, 200 W. Maple St., in Fairbury then addressed the committee commenting on how she hoped the Pleasant Ridge Wind Energy Project special use applicant would address property value issues. Amber Severson then commented on filing requirements that were apparently in reference to the siting of waste disposal facilities in the Livingston County Code of Ordinances. It was then clarified that wind energy projects are reviewed per the regulations in the zoning chapter 56 of the Livingston County Code of Ordinances. Amber Severson then referred to peddling and solicitation regulations in the Livingston County Code of Ordinances, expressing her opinion that wind energy companies should not be able to solicit land owners to become part of wind energy projects. Alina Hartley then spoke about the links to the County Code of Ordinances, and how they are updated, and she spoke about the links to this document.

Jeff Reinkemeyer then inquired about when a December committee meeting may be scheduled. Committee Chair Young explained that after this November election the County Board will reorganize on the first couple days of December, and that after this reorganization is complete a committee meeting date can be established. It was clarified that December 2nd would not be a committee date since this is one of the County Board reorganization dates.

Solid Waste Report:

A copy of a planning commission monthly synopsis of landfill information and correspondence was presented to the committee members. The monthly information synopsis relating to Livingston Landfill focused on report copies pertaining to groundwater testing, CAAPP and NPDES monitoring, leachate sampling results and an acceptance report pertaining to the first phase of the development of a new cell area. Odor issues at Livingston Landfill have been noticed and that the landfill operators are continuing to work on the gas collection system to reduce this odor. The committee was informed that Deigan and Associates and the zoning administrator had visited Livingston Landfill, including the new cell area under construction, prior to visiting the Streator Area Landfill site. This group continue to monitor the erosion situation at the closed Streator Area Landfill. It was confirmed that the grass at the Streator Area Landfill, while not ideal, is taking root and growing. Host agreement information was also presented to the committee.

Briefing on Zoning Issues: The committee noted limited progress, on the cleanup of the Sun Trucking property and committee members noted they continue to receive complaints on this property.

Deigan and Associates Agreement for 2015:

A copy of Deigan and Associates Proposal and Work Agreement for 2015 was provided in the committee packets. The zoning administrator made comments, as to how this agreement compares with the 2014 agreement with the hourly billing rates going up \$2 an hour in two personnel categories. Mike Ingles moved, seconded by Bill Flott, that this Agriculture, Zoning and Emergency Services Committee recommend to the Livingston County Board the approval of this Deigan and Associates Proposal and Work Agreement for 2015. This motion was approved by roll call vote. Young-Yes, Flott-Yes, Ingles-Yes, Kestner-Yes, Peterson-Yes, Rients-Yes and Ritter-Yes.

Payroll Reporting:

County Finance Resource Specialist June Slagel, informed the committee that she explained to the ETSB that she is planning on having county bookkeeping accountant Ginger Harris become the primary administrator of the ETSB payroll, and that the ETSB is in agreement with this planned shift of responsibilities. Bill Flott moved, seconded by Paul Ritter, that this Agriculture, Zoning and Emergency Services committee concur with the ETSB in agreeing with this planned shift in bookkeeping responsibilities in relation to the ETSB payroll. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee: None

Public Comment: No additional public comments were made.

Adjournment:

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

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

Charles T. Schopp, Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission