

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF October 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.

Robert Young led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The clerk called roll with the following **present:** John “Jack” Vietti, Joan Bullard, Tim Shafer, Kathy Arbogast, Robert F. Weller, Paul A. Ritter, Kelly Cochran Cohlman, Joseph D. Steichen, Carl Borngasser, G. Michael Ingles, Daryl N. Holt, Stanley R. Weber, Earl A. Rients, Judy Campbell, Vicki Allen, William Mays, Bob Young, John L. Yoder, Carolyn Gerwin, William G. Flott, Marty Fannin, Ronald L. Kestner and William H. Peterson
Absent: Mark Runyon

Also Present: County Clerk Kristy Masching, Administrative Resource Specialist-Alina Hartley, Zoning Administrator Chuck Schopp, County Highway Engineer-David Winters and Treasurer Barbara Sear

AGENDA

Chairman Fannin asked for approval of the agenda as presented. *Motion by Ingles, second by Steichen to approve the agenda.* Weber asked that item #2-Resolution cancelling remaining contract with Conrad Trucking and awarding remaining work to Grosso Trucking, Inc., under the Highway Committee report be removed.

MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Fannin called for approval of the September 11, 2014 minutes. *Motion by Holt, second by Borngasser to approve the September 11, 2014 minutes.* Gerwin asked that the following comment, “there was significant concern expressed about Mr. Griffin’s alliances or affiliations with the American Wind Association and the Illinois Wind Working Group among other issues”, be added to the Ag & Zoning discussion section regarding the agreement with Schain, Banks, Kenny & Schwartz. Hartley stated that the minutes included a comment noting that issue was taken with him being a member on an executive committee for a group promoting wind energy. Chair Fannin also commented that the nay votes opposing the agreement were recorded in the minutes.

MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE. Nays: Gerwin

PRESENTATION

None

APPEARANCES

None

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Bills

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

FINANCE

Resolutions (#2014-10-25 through #2014-10-29): Authorizing Conveyance of Deeds - Treasurer Sear requested approval of resolutions conveying the deeds or ownership of four pieces of real estate and one mobile home, sold at the sealed bid auction in August, to the new owners. This process would reimburse the county for delinquent taxes. *Motion by Shafer, second by Vietti to approve the resolutions authorizing conveyance of deeds*

for the following parcels: 05-05-10-151-008 (Dwight Twp), #12-12-19-328-013(Broughton Twp), 21-21-05-100-011 (Eppards Point Twp), 26-26-03-160-006 (Forrest Twp) and 01-01-200-415 (1913 S Barr Lot 415, Carriage Lane Estates). **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Bullard, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Borngasser, Ingles, Holt, Weber, Rients, Campbell, Allen, Mays, Young, Yoder, Gerwin, Flott, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson **Nays:** None **Absent:** Runyon

Resolution (#2014-10-30): Cancellation of Tax Sale Certificate for Redemption of Taxes – Treasurer Sear explained that this resolution would cancel the tax sale certificate. The county trustee had started the process to take deed to the property in order to sell it at the auction. The owner contacted the trustee and redeemed all the back taxes and costs. Therefore, the treasurer was asking the board’s approval to authorize cancellation of the tax lien and accepting the redemption of the costs and taxes. *Motion by Young, second by Holt to approve the resolution authorizing cancellation of tax sale certificate for redemption of Taxes for parcels: 10-10-31-161-005 (Lots 12 &13 BLK 22 Village of Cayuga).* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Bullard, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Borngasser, Ingles, Holt, Weber, Rients, Campbell, Allen, Mays, Young, Yoder, Gerwin, Flott, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson **Nays:** None **Absent:** Runyon

Presentation of FY2015 Budget & Levies – Chair Shafer explained that the budget, which includes the levies and a capital budget, reflected a lot of hours of work on the part of the elected and appointed department heads, as well as Finance Resource Specialist, June Slagel. He explained that the costs for many items in the capital budget did not represent final bids and were not to be considered as automatically spent funds. Each item would need to be resubmitted to the Board for final approval before the money could be spent. *Motion to approve the proposed FY 2015 Budget and Levies by Shafer, second by Cohlman.* Discussion highlights follow. It was noted that a yes vote would be to present the budget as is, for public display, with a final vote to approve the budget occurring at the November meeting. Budget amendments can still be made at the November meeting. There were concerns about the \$2.1 million earmarked for the Star Com project and the practicality of moving forward. It was pointed out that what has been proposed, is a starting point; there will be on-going talks, with a lot of details needing to be worked out to come up with a solution that addresses everybody’s needs. The final proposal will go before ETSB, with final approval coming from the Board on proposals for both the communications and CAD systems. A concern was voiced regarding the lack of information provided to EMS, fire districts and municipalities so that they could project what their costs would be with the proposed system conversion. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Bullard, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Ingles, Holt, Rients, Allen, Mays, Young, Flott, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson **Nays:** Borngasser, Weber, Campbell, Yoder and Gerwin **Absent:** Runyon

AG & ZONING

Chair Young addressed the group and explained the process for review of Invenergy’s proposed Pleasant Ridge Wind Farm. Hearings are scheduled to begin November 17th, 18th and 19th, at the Pontiac Township High School Auditorium. Additional hearings will be conducted at either the Upper Elementary School in Forrest or the Walton Center in Fairbury. He also noted that the A&Z Committee, as well as four at large members have been charged with reviewing the county’s wind turbine ordinance. Wind energy ordinances from thirty entities have been received since the October committee meeting and will be categorized and distributed to the members at their November meeting. He believes no further meetings will be held to discuss the ordinances until the new committees are set, after the December 1 re-organizational meeting of the Board. The ZBA also chose to start the review of guaranteed property values through their hearing process, in November. Once the ZBA makes their findings, it will be come to the County Board for approval or rejection. The A&Z Committee approved working on a draft moratorium and have instructed Attorney Blakeman and Zoning Administrator Schopp to start the process, so that it can be reviewed at the November committee meeting. It would then be referred on to the Ag & Zoning Board of Appeals as a text amendment.

Professional Services Agreement Amendment: Patrick Engineering – Zoning Administrator Chuck Schopp explained that this was a follow-up to the agreement approved last month. The amendment is for the inclusion of a third noise study, due to the large area the Pleasant Ridge Wind Energy Project encompasses. The additional charge for this study is \$1,500. The A& Zoning Committee had approved this change. Discussion followed with

it being noted that additional noise studies could be added and brought back as amendments at a later date, so that the process isn't delayed. *Motion by Flott, second by Campbell to approve the amendment authorizing the additional sound study by Patrick Engineering.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bullard, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Borngasser, Ingles, Holt, Weber, Rients, Campbell, Allen, Mays, Young, Yoder, Gerwin, Flott, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson **Nays:** None **Absent:** Runyon

Chuck also mentioned that Invenergy had filed a supplement to the special use application for the Pleasant Ridge Wind Energy Project. This supplement was posted on the county website, with hard copies available from Chuck. A consultation report from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources regarding a bird and wildlife study was posted as well. Some amendment highlights follow: information on whether the towers would interfere with the microwave paths of the 911 tower in the Chatsworth area; additional information on the turbine model to be used; and a new decommissioning study. It was suggested by board members that someone should check into whether live or audio streaming of the hearings could be available so that more citizens could view or hear what was said.

HIGHWAY

Chair Weber introduced David Winters-County Highway Engineer, who reviewed **Action Agenda** items as follows: (He explained that they are deferring item #2 until the November meeting.)

1. **Letting Results:** October 7, 2014
2. **Resolution:** ~~Cancelling remaining contract with Conrad Trucking and awarding remaining work to Grosse Trucking, Inc.~~ (Removed from agenda.)
3. **Resolution (#2014-10-31):** Supplemental Resolution appropriating an additional sum of \$20,000 from County Aid to Bridge Fund for replacement of S.N. 053-3063 carrying 3300N Road over the West Fork Mazon River, Section 13-00223-00-Br, 2235E, 3300N (Livingston/Grundy County Line) 2 Mi. West of Dwight.
4. **Bridge Petition:** Pleasant Ridge Road District- Replace existing timber bridge carrying 1300N road over a drainage ditch on the west side of Wing, Section 14-21108-00-DR. Estimated cost = \$200,000.
5. **Engineering Agreement:** Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick, Springfield, IL – Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement for design of a culvert replacement in Esmen Road District, Section 14-09115-00-BR, Livingston County coordinates 2265N, 1400E. Cost not to exceed \$13,200 for basic services.
6. **Engineering Agreement:** Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick, Springfield, IL – Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement for design of a box culvert replacement in Pleasant Ridge Road District, Section 14-21108-00-DR, Livingston County coordinates 2740E, 1300N. Cost not to exceed \$16,000 for basic services.

Motion by Weber, second by Weller to approve the Highway Action items #1, #3-#6 (item #2 was removed from agenda), with one roll call vote. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bullard, Shafer, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Cohlman, Steichen, Borngasser, Ingles, Holt, Weber, Rients, Campbell, Allen, Mays, Young, Yoder, Gerwin, Flott, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson **Nays:** None **Absent:** Runyon

Winters reported that they have started preliminary negotiations with Invenergy concerning a potential county road use agreement. In the event the application is approved, the road use agreement would be substantially in place. The nine townships will be negotiating for their township road agreement as a group. Chairman Fannin asked that the graphic display of the road system, viewed at the highway meetings, be presented at one of the future board meetings, for a visual display of the process.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

Vice-Chair Gerwin (in the absence of Chair Runyon) reported that the acoustic study of the L&J Center has been completed and is under review by the State's Attorney's Office. They also were introduced to the new Facilities Maintenance Department Head-Chad Carnahan.

PERSONNEL

Chair Holt reported that our Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance representative Jeff Gilmore explained that our health insurance plan would see a 17% increase due to a higher claims experience the past twelve months.

Jeff was able to renegotiate the BCBS quote down to a 14% increase instead of 17%, after receiving another bid from Health Alliance (14% increase). He also stated that several department heads had responded back that their departments were working on procedure manuals, for new employees and cross training purposes.

ELECTION, RULES & LEGISLATION

No report

SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE

Chair Borngasser reported that the Jail had taken in \$707,050.00 from Cook County for cell rent. Holt commended the department for the informative report they received regarding Animal Control activities. Sheriff Lindsey reported that all the Cook County inmates' records are screened prior to their arrival in Livingston County.

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

No report

VETERANS

Chair Steichen asked Paul Ritter to elaborate on the work his students have done to identify the unreadable grave markers of seven Civil War veterans in an Odell cemetery. Through a long and lengthy process, the students were able to identify all seven of the veterans buried there. New tombstones are being processed and a full military memorial service is being planned for sometime early next spring. Steichen commented that the VAC is going to honor these students at 7:00 p.m., October 27th at their office, in the basement of the Regions Bank building.

ADMINISTRATIVE

No report

RECREATION AD-HOC

Judy Campbell stated that the major item on the agenda was to nominate stakeholders for a work session with Farnsworth for input for a network of trails throughout the county for Phase II.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Some comments heard from many attendees on various issues follow: feel that Rinkenmeyer not aiding Livingston County, pushing his employer's agenda; purpose of closed meeting held with Invenergy and some board members; crux of closed meeting is included in supplement filed by Invenergy; blanket thank you to members for the time they spend being on the County Board; Farm Bureau is neutral on wind farm issue and has a list of lawyers who work on wind farm contracts; Invenergy is here because of our weak ordinances; communication issues with GAMESA Minonk Wind Farm; county hears citizen's concerns, but not listening; why proposed property value guarantee ordinance only pertains to wind farms and not other entities such as Whispering Oaks Subdivision (Enbridge pipeline); perceived threats are not outweighed by benefits of wind farms; the need for constant and reliable contact other than cell phones for emergency systems; reminded the public of the importance of coming and presenting their remarks at the hearings in front of the ZBA and attending County Board members; the hearing times will be posted; the standing rules are being reviewed at this time too; recognized the St. Mary's Girls Softball team in winning the IESA Class A State Championship; and a wind farm seminar will be held Saturday, October 25, from 1-4 p.m. at the Pontiac City Hall Chambers.

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting recessed at 8:00p.m., on motion by Kestner, second by Arbogast. **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES ON VOICE VOTE.**

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

Marty Fannin, Chairman

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching
County Clerk

Approved

Minutes Bd 10-16-14