

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF March 12, 2015 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.

Ron Kestner presented the invocation, with Bill Flott leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

The clerk called roll with the following **present:** Kathy Arbogast, Jason Bunting, Justin Goembel, Robert F. Weller, Mark Runyon, William Mays, Daryl N. Holt, John “Jack” Vietti, David W. Heath, John L. Yoder, Kelly Cochran Cohlman, Joseph D. Steichen, Tim Shafer, G. Michael Ingles, Bob Young, Carolyn Gerwin, William G. Flott, Vicki Allen, Marty Fannin, Ronald L. Kestner and William H. Peterson **Absent:** James A. Carley, Stanley R. Weber and Paul A. Ritter

Also Present: County Clerk Kristy Masching, Administrative Resource Specialist-Alina Hartley, Enbridge Reps-Cheryl Harvey, Jennifer Smith, Taylor Smith & Mike Wortham, Department of Corrections-Warden Randy Pfiester, Joni Stahlman, Forrest Ashby and Kelly Berndt, Public Health Administrator MaLinda Hillman, Zoning Administrator Chuck Schopp, County Highway Engineer-David Winters, Linda Daniels-Human Resources, Attorney Tom Blakeman and Midwest Energy Rep-Gary Gauger

AGENDA

Chairman Fannin asked that the Resolution of Respect for George Knudsen be removed from the agenda and noted that it would be done in April. *Motion by Steichen, second by Holt to approve the revised agenda.*

MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Fannin called for approval of the February 19, 2015 minutes. *Motion by Yoder, second by Goembel to approve the February 19, 2015 minutes as presented.* **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS ON VOICE VOTE.**

PRESENTATION

Enbridge: Cheryl Harvey, Jennifer Smith, Taylor Smith & Mike Wortham – They presented an update on their expansion activities. Jennifer Smith explained that Enbridge transports crude oil to the refineries. Their system originates in Alberta, Canada as well as North Dakota. They transport 70% of the crude oil used in the Midwest. Enbridge’s central hub for the Midwest is the plant in Livingston County, north of Pontiac on Highway 23. The Line 78 Pipeline Project will begin this spring and will extend 79-miles from the Flanagan Terminal near Pontiac to their terminal near Griffith, Indiana. The southern access route will extend south from the Flanagan Terminal to the storage hub in Patoka. She commented that their pipeline projects are federally regulated by the US Department of Transportation and are also a regulated utility in Illinois and overseen by the Illinois Commerce Commission. They have held many open houses regarding their new projects with one scheduled for Monday, March 16th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Kankakee. Jennifer stated that by the end of the year, there will be seventeen tanks at the Flanagan Terminal operating at full capacity at 4.9 million barrels. Local benefits and programming include: use of local vendors and contractors; half of workers procured from local union halls; safe community grants; partnering with local emergency responders for equipment and training; providing tank fire training for Pontiac Fire Department members; teacher development science projects; and sponsoring local projects such as the Strevell House. Jennifer stated that their number one priority is to operate their systems safely and reliably and since 2012 have invested \$4.4 billion in new technologies, training and public relations. She also noted that the design and construction of their pipelines must meet the high standards of their pipeline integrity system which include: use of heavier wall pipe, epoxy coating, remote operated valve, and a cathodic protection system. In the past ten years, they have delivered nearly 13 billion barrels of crude oil and liquids with a safety record of 99.9993 percent. Discussion followed on the following: the proposed two additional power lines from the McDowell substation to Enbridge; and status of proposed expansion on east side of road with

regards to Whispering Oaks issues. Jennifer commented that before they build structures they must have customer commitment for the product.

Department of Corrections: Warden Randy Pfiester, Joni Stahlman, Forrest Ashby and Kelly Berndt – Warden Pfiester announced that they would be conducting a major recruitment drive. Informational settings and screenings will expedite the process which normally takes from nine to twelve months to complete. Forrest Ashby (Recruitment Team) noted that they were recruiting for the Pontiac Correctional Center and were looking to hire individuals who had gone through the central screening test. He encouraged everyone to apply and noted that they were an equal opportunity employer. Joni Stahlman (oversees screening process), stated that their goal was to build up their eligibility list for Livingston County so that officers can be recruited to come work at PCC. An informational session is scheduled from 6-8:00 p.m. on March 18th at the Pontiac Township High School. A special screening for people who want to work at the Pontiac Correctional Center will be held on April 1 & 2.

Public Health 2014 Annual Report – MaLinda Hillman-Administrator, Public Health Dept. highlighted the report. Her department is comprised of 31 full-time, 3 part-time and 7 PRN employees. The TB Clinic Fund ended with a November 30th balance of \$50,344., with local tax support being \$28,725. The last confirmed case of TB was in 2012. She explained that local tax support to the Public Health Department was \$380,781 or 17% of their total revenue source. Programs this funding helps to subsidize are: Maternal Child Health, Senior Services, Environmental Health, Animal Control, rent, Communicable Diseases, and School Vision and Hearing Clinics. She stated that the financial is figured on a cash basis. She reviewed the various revenue sources and stated that personnel and insurance comprised 73% of their expenditures. Grant funding is 38% of their budget, with the state behind in payments of \$140,000. The Livingston County Community Health Care Program was implemented to help keep residents out of the nursing homes and has been very well received in the county. She also provided information on the various services offered and the number of county participants. She also noted that since she is highly dependent upon grants she is monitoring the state budget closely and will make adjustments accordingly. If state cuts funding, she asks that our contract requirements be reduced the same amount. If the state changes the criteria for the Community Healthcare, she will tighten the criteria on the county program and will continue to serve the next layer of people. It is an excellent program for keeping individuals out of the nursing homes and saving dollars. *Motion to approve the Public Health 2014 Annual Report by Steichen, second by Weller.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Arbogast, Bunting, Goembel, Weller, Runyon, Mays, Holt, Vietti, Heath, Yoder, Cohlman, Steichen, Shafer, Ingles, Young, Gerwin, Flott, Allen, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson **Nays:** None **Absent:** Carley, Weber and Ritter

APPEARANCES

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Bills
- B. Appointments
 - a. **Michael Winterland** – Farmers’ Cooperative Drainage District, un-expired term commencing March 12, 2015 (replaces Lowell Winterland).
 - b. **Gary L. Marx** – (Resolution #2015-03-16) Dwight Fire Protection District, three year term commencing first Monday of May 4, 2015 and expiring first Monday of May 2018.

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

HIGHWAY

Chair Holt introduced David Winters-County Highway Engineer, who reviewed **Action Agenda** items as follows:

1. **March 3, 2015 Letting**
2. **1st Quarter 2015 Report**

Motion to approve Highway Action items #1-#2 with one roll call vote by Holt, second by Goembel. MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes: Arbogast, Bunting, Goembel, Weller, Runyon, Mays, Holt, Vietti, Heath, Yoder, Cohlman, Steichen, Shafer, Ingles, Young, Gerwin, Flott, Allen, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson
Nays: None *Absent:* Carley, Weber and Ritter

Other Items: Chair Holt reported that Russ Middleton had presented the committee with another design and pricing, for the proposed restroom/shelter expansion work. They will review the proposal and make their report at a future meeting.

AG & ZONING

Chuck Schopp reported that Pleasant Ridge Wind Farm hearings had been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on March 16th and 18th at the Walton Centre in Fairbury, with the last March meeting tentatively scheduled for the 25th. They are looking to close the meetings out and are asking that any concerned citizens wishing to speak, get their name on the list as soon as possible. Chair Flott stated that their committee is hoping to have extra meetings after the wind farm hearings are over, so that they can complete the review of the ordinance before the six month moratorium expires in July 2015.

Attorney Tom Blakeman made the following statement to the members of the Board regarding the wind farm process. “On August 20, 2014, an application was submitted to Livingston County for a wind energy conversion system (WECS) pursuant to the Livingston County’s Wind Ordinance. The Livingston County Zoning Board of Appeals is currently conducting a public hearing concerning this application, and will make a report to the County Board that will include findings of fact and a recommendation as to whether the County Board should grant or deny the application, or grant the application subject to special use conditions. Twenty-one (21) evenings of hearings have been held so far. All members of the public interested in the issue have been encouraged to attend the Zoning Board of Appeals hearings and present evidence concerning their position. There has been a very good turnout and there is a great deal of local interest. To date thirty-one (31) interested parties have testified before the ZBA and another twenty-nine (29) have indicated in writing their interest in making a presentation. County Board members will ultimately make a legislative decision concerning the WECS application after the Zoning Board of Appeals process concludes. I realize you have heard this before, but County Board members are again advised that they should not make any public comments which explicitly endorse or reject any WECS application pending before the Zoning Board of Appeals. Furthermore, in making their decision on the WECS application, County Board members should rely solely upon the evidence presented and admitted as a part of the record at the hearing held by the Zoning Board of Appeals. Board members should not consider any information submitted to them by letter, the internet or any other means of communication outside of the hearing process.”

PERSONNEL

Resolution (#2015-03-17): Adopting reclassification & Elected Official Policy - Linda Daniels-Human Resources Specialist, explained that the need for this policy came about due to personnel reclassifying from union to non-union management or elected positions or vice-versa. This has led to confusion on how to handle the payout of vacation, comp and sick time; how to set their salary; or eligibility for union medical and uniform allowance benefits. This policy will help define exactly what will transpire if someone decides to accept a management position or run for an elected office. This policy has been reviewed by State’s Attorney Uphoff, Attorney Blakeman, Keith Turney (FOP Field Rep) and various department heads. Upon adoption of this policy, all prior resolutions, past practices, etc. will become null and void. *Motion to recommend adoption of the Resolution Adopting Reclassification & Elected Official Policy by Arbogast, second by Cohlman. MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:* Arbogast, Bunting, Goembel, Weller, Runyon, Mays, Holt, Vietti, Heath, Yoder, Cohlman, Steichen, Shafer, Ingles, Young, Gerwin, Flott, Allen, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson
Nays: None *Absent:* Carley, Weber and Ritter

PUBLIC PROPERTY

Resolution (#2015-03-18): Midwest Energy Utility Broker – Chair Ingles explained that this resolution is being recommended by the Public Property Committee. It provides for the county to enter into an agreement

with Midwest Energy to serve as the exclusive broker for Livingston County, in the acquisition of electrical and natural gas utilities. This one-year agreement will give Midwest Energy the authority to monitor the gas and electric rates and if they deem appropriate, to lock us in at the lowest rate. Midwest Energy (Gary Gauger-Rep) would select the rates in concert with Chad Carnahan. *Motion by Ingles, second by Flott to recommend adoption of the Resolution authorizing Midwest Energy as our utility broker.* Some items discussed with Gary Gauger follow: current natural gas prices at historical low rate; electric rate trend follows natural gas rates; Midwest's broker fees are reimbursed indirectly by suppliers; the resolution gives the Board Chairman authority to lock in the rates, upon recommendation of Midwest Energy (Gary) and Chad Carnahan; and the plan and cost savings will be evaluated at the end of the one year term. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Arbogast, Bunting, Goembel, Weller, Runyon, Mays, Holt, Vietti, Heath, Yoder, Cohlman, Shafer, Ingles, Young, Gerwin, Flott, Allen, Fannin and Peterson **Nays:** Steichen, Kestner **Absent:** Carley, Weber and Ritter

ELECTION, RULES & LEGISLATION

Ordinance (#2015-03-19): Amending Animal Control Fines - *Motion by Vietti, second by Arbogast to approve the ordinance amending the animal control fines.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Arbogast, Bunting, Goembel, Weller, Runyon, Mays, Holt, Vietti, Heath, Yoder, Cohlman, Steichen, Shafer, Ingles, Young, Gerwin, Flott, Allen, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson **Nays:** None **Absent:** Carley, Weber and Ritter

Resolution (#2015-03-20): Calling for Protection of County Government Funding -

Chair Vietti explained that this was explained and discussed at the meeting held prior to the Board meeting. It was noted that this proposal didn't have any Republican support in the Illinois Senate and is in response to the Governor's proposed state-wide initiatives. *Motion by Vietti, second by Gerwin to approve the resolution calling for the Governor and General Assembly to protect necessary funding for county government.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Arbogast, Runyon, Mays, Vietti, Heath, Yoder, Shafer, Young, Gerwin, Flott, Allen, Fannin, Kestner and Peterson **Nays:** Bunting, Goembel, Weller, Holt, Cohlman, Steichen and Ingles **Absent:** Carley, Weber and Ritter

SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE

Chair Yoder reported that Jail Administrator Cox provided the committee with a tour of the jail.

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

Chair Allen reported that the committee would hold a special meeting the week of March 23rd to discuss going with a contract IT service over an in-house staff. There are three in-house servers which need to be replaced before July. The committee will move forward with the network consolidation project as soon as possible.

FINANCE

Chair Shafer noted that we are about 25% through our fiscal year and have spent about 25% of our budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Chairman Fannin noted that discussion had been held on training for the full county board and setting up full board meetings to discuss long and short term goals. More information will be forth coming once dates have been finalized.

VETERANS

Chair Steichen noted that they had a short meeting. Paul Augsburg asked that it be announced that the Chatsworth American Legion would be holding a steak fry on March 18th, from 5:00-7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Fannin reminded everyone that speakers would be held to five minutes, with the total session time being thirty minutes. Pat Heenan commended the Pro-Active Unit on their apprehension of the top heroin distributor in Livingston County. Clerk Masching commented on the economic interest forms and the payroll per diem forms.

Brad Schmidgall invited everyone to attend the Livingston County Farm Bureau Legislative Breakfast on Friday, March 13 at 7:30 a.m. at the Elks Country Club in Pontiac.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Removed from agenda.

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Removed from agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m., on motion by Vietti, second by Holt. **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL EYES ON VOICE VOTE.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., at the Historic Courthouse Board Room.

Marty Fannin, Chairman

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching
County Clerk

April 23, 2015
Approved

Minutes Bd 03-12-15.A