

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 5, 2016 MEETING

Then 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: Bill Flott, Bob Young, James Carley, Justin Goembel, Paul Ritter and Bill Peterson.

Absent: Daryl Holt.

Additional County Reps: County Administrative Resource Specialist Alina Hartley and State's Attorney Seth Uphoff. Non-committee county board members Carolyn Gerwin and Mark Runyon, along with several citizens of the county were also present at this committee meeting.

Committee Chair Flott noted the agenda noting that he would like a 1d. added to allow for State's Attorney Seth Uphoff to comment, before Mr. Uphoff leaves to fulfill other obligations. Justin Goembel then moved, seconded by James Carley, that the agenda for this meeting be approved as amended. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Minutes of the December 8, 2015 committee meetings were referred to the committee. Bill Peterson moved, seconded by James Carley, that these meeting minutes be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

State's Attorney Seth Uphoff commented about the Pleasant Ridge Energy legal complaint against the County Board and about how a court hearing is scheduled during the week of January 22nd, about the status of this case. Mr. Uphoff related that the county will file their response to this complaint later this week. Mr. Uphoff also noted that attorney Phillip Luetkehans has filed a motion to intervene in this case. Mr. Uphoff remarked that the process of the review of this case may take a long time. He continues to plan a zealous defense of this complaint. Pertaining to the review to updates of zoning regulations pertaining to wind energy, at this point he is still waiting on the attorney general's opinion. Mr. Uphoff recently contacted the attorney general's office about the possible timing of that office's opinion, and the attorney general's office is still in the process of reviewing this request and they are not providing a definitive time line for when this opinion will be made.

Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) Report:

Committee Chair Bill Flott reviewed ETSB Chair Jim Woolford's January 5, 2016 Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) report to the Agriculture, Zoning and Emergency Services Committee. The committee members were presented with printed copies of this report. In regards to personnel they are conducting interviews to fill 2 full time and 1 part-time positions. Pertaining to finances they are no changes. In regard to the phone system it is still fine with no changes. Regarding the radio system a meeting with Motorola is to take place in the near future, believed to be in regard to the Dwight issues, to discuss implementation of some recommendations to the current system without changing hardware, as well as the feasibility to install new hardware and at what cost. In regard to the Spillman CAD system user training is continuing and all is going smoothly. In regard to the consolidation of dispatch centers all filings have been approved for Streator to join LivCom, with Streator now preparing to make the switch, possibly at the end of the first quarter of the year. It was also noted that the generators worked well during the recent power outage.

Review of a Draft of an Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System Agreement:

The committee members had been provided a draft mutual aid agreement with Illinois Emergency Services Management Association (IESMA). Mr. Schopp provided comments as to how this agreement would work, using the current flooding situation in the southern part of the state as scenario as to how this agreement could work. Justin Goembel moved, seconded by Bill Peterson, that this Agriculture, Zoning and Emergency Services Committee make a recommendation to the Livingston County Board that this mutual aid agreement be approved. This motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Update on Litigation pertaining to the Pleasant Ridge Wind Energy project:

Refer to Mr. Uphoff's earlier comments.

Update on Wind Energy Issues:

Committee Chair Flott reviewed a note from committee member Daryl Holt, whom was unable to attend this evening's meeting. Mr. Holt's comments made reference to not moving forward with a wind energy opinion referendum, granting for the Indian Grove Township request, and then allow for other townships to follow Indian Grove's process if they did not want wind energy in their townships. With an attorney general opinion being sought on the township issue Mr. Holt's comments were debated as to if they could be implemented. Dialogue took place on how the committee awaits on the attorney general's opinion on wind energy regulation issues, and how that opinion could affect the county's actions on wind energy issues. A need to discuss the moratorium and the possible extension of the moratorium at the next committee meeting was discussed. A dialogue took place about potential of wind energy developers still looking at Livingston County, and a consideration to complete any amendments to the wind energy regulation in a reasonably timely manner so that these developers are aware of proposed regulations. Potential referendum's that may reflect wind energy support or opposition was discussed again. Carolyn Gerwin remarked that possibly a judge could make a declaratory judgement in regard to the Indian Grove Township issue, that could allow for an opinion prior to the attorney general providing an opinion. This Agriculture, Zoning and Emergency Services Committee will now discuss how they plan to precede and make progress with these wind energy regulation issues at their February 2016 meeting. This February 2016 discussion will include the possible recommendation to continue the moratorium on the filing of special use requests for new wind energy projects.

Solid Waste Report:

A copy of the planning commission monthly synopsis of landfill information and correspondence was presented to the committee members. This synopsis focused on the landfill gas system and water monitoring issues. Host fee information from the last month was also presented to the committee.

Discuss Draft Regulations for Solar Farms:

Mr. Schopp included draft solar farm regulations in his committee hand out material. This is an informal draft at this point. A conversation about these draft regulations then took place. Two main follow up needs resulted from this conversation. One is a need to edit the draft solar farm definition to best encompass several potential solar farm development concepts.

Second, the screening section in the draft material should be reconsidered. These draft solar farm regulations will be edited and more formalized, for the committee to review again at a future meeting.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee:

The status of drone regulations was talked about. The FAA has begun a registry for drones, which is an addition their existing regulations. Federal and state regulations for drones will continue to be monitored.

Public Comment: None

Review and Approval of Bills: None

Adjournment:

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

This meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Charles T. Schopp, Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission