

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2, 2016 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: Bill Flott, Bob Young, James Carley, Paul Ritter and Bill Peterson.

Absent: Justin Goembel and Daryl Holt.

Additional County Reps: County Board Chairman Marty Fannin, County Administrative Resource Specialist Alina Hartley. Non-committee county board member Carolyn Gerwin. Several citizens of the county were also present at this committee meeting.

Committee Chair Flott noted the agenda. Paul Ritter then moved, seconded by Bill Peterson, that the agenda for this meeting be approved as amended. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Minutes of the January 5, 2016 committee meetings were referred to the committee. James Carley moved, seconded by Bill Peterson, that these meeting minutes be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) Report:

Committee Chair Bill Flott reviewed ETSB Chair Jim Woolford's Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) report to the Agriculture, Zoning and Emergency Services Committee, which had been texted to the committee chair. In regard to the Dwight issues, discussions continue on how to address reception issues in this area. In regard to the Spillman CAD system user training is continuing. They are working on some technical issues. 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, the makeup of the ETSB will change. Streator is to have representation on the ETSB, which is causing a need for existing ETSB membership to resign to allow for the Streator representation on the ETSB.

Moratorium extension

Bob Young then moved, seconded by James Carley to recommend that this Agriculture, Zoning and Emergency Services Committee recommend that the Livingston County Board direct and instruct the Livingston County Zoning Board of Appeals to send notice and conduct public hearings on a proposed zoning text amendment to Chapter 56, Schedule VIII, Code of Ordinances, Livingston County Illinois, proposing a 230 day extension to the existing 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 filed after the date an ordinance is adopted by the County Board authorizing the moratorium as a text amendment. The Chairman and Secretary of the County Board are authorized to sign the application for a zoning text amendment and submit it to the attention of the Livingston County Zoning Administrator for processing.

A discussion took place on this motion, with the 230 day period representing that November 30th, is the final day that this current committee and county board can take official action as it currently assembled. The County Board will need to reorganize on or after December 1, 2016 as a result of the November elections and their rules. Reasons discussed for this moratorium extension included the potential referendum, waiting on the State Attorney General's opinion on specific wind energy regulation issues and the continuance of the review of the wind energy regulations, with these reasons being related to each other to some extent. Mention was made that EDF continues to have an interest in developing a wind energy project in the Northeast area of Livingston County. Some timing issues on working on these issues were noted, with the month of August being a key period for finalizing draft proposals. Therefore, work is continuing to spell out the details on these issues to meet the proposed new time line. The timing of the expected attorney general's opinion was mentioned, which may create a need to address future proposals with consideration of multiple situations, to meet the proposed timeline. Consideration of multiple situations will also be considered depending on the potential referendum. Dialogue then took place on legal issues of extending the moratorium. State's Attorney Seth Uphoff, at the January 28th, 2016 meeting of this committee, remarked that with the county waiting on an attorney general's opinion related to this area, and with the county continuing to work to move forward in addressing these issues, the county has established rationales to extend the moratorium.

This motion was approved by roll call vote: Flott-Yes, Young-Yes, Carley-Yes, Goembel- Absent, Holt-Absent, Ritter-Yes and Peterson-Yes.

Update on Wind Energy Issues:

The zoning administrator plans on creating a new version of a working draft of the wind energy regulations. This new working wind energy regulations draft document is to just reflect the suggestions for final changes made at past committee meetings. This new draft document can then be reviewed at the regularly scheduled March meeting of this Agriculture, Zoning and Emergency Services Committee.

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. 2016 construction of a new cell area and some final cover were mentioned. Gas system issues with the winter weather and power outages were noted, along with some erosion areas that will need to be addressed this Spring. Committee Chair Flott remarked about the economics of the Hoosier landfill gas to energy facility, and he also expressed his appreciation that the landfill gas is now being used to produce energy. Host fee information from the last month was also presented to the committee. Dialogue then took place on the monitoring of the leachate, private wells, and water monitoring wells. We are willing to discuss any specific monitoring issue or request.

Discuss Draft Regulations for Solar Farms:

Mr. Schopp included revised draft solar farm regulations in his committee hand out material. This is an informal draft that reflected changes in the solar farm definition and screening regulations that were discussed at the January 5, 2016 meeting of this committee. A conversation relating to noise from solar farms and transmission stations took place. It was the consensus of the committee to move forward with these regulations, with the zoning administrator approved to work on formalizing these regulations as part of a new text amendment.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee: None

Public Comment: None

Review and Approval of Bills:

An invoice in the amount of \$4,560.50 from Deigan and Associates, LLC for Professional Services for the period of October 5, 2015 to January 22, 2016 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 submitted to the committee. Bob Young moved, seconded by Bill Peterson, that this statement be approved for payment. This motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment:

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

This meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Charles T. Schopp, Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission