

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2015 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, Justin Goembel, Daryl Holt, Paul Ritter and Bill Peterson.

Absent: James Carley.

Additional County Reps: County Administrative Resource Specialist Alina Hartley and State's Attorney Seth Uphoff. ETSB Chair Jim Woolford was also present at this meeting, along with several citizens of the county.

Committee Chair Flott noted the agenda. Justin Goembel then moved, seconded by Daryl Holt that the agenda for this meeting be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Minutes of the November 3, 2015 and November 12, 2015 committee meetings were referred to the committee. Daryl Holt 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:

ETSB Chair Jim Woolford reviewed the December 8, 2015 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 working on hiring one employee. Pertaining to finances they are still progressing on a 5 year budget, though they are currently focusing on working on the ICC approval for Streator joining the LivCom center. In addition they would like to evaluate potential future costs relating to the Spillman CAD system, as they work on attempting to project future replacement costs. Mr. Woolford then explained that Motorola is conducting an analysis of coverage in Dwight. A discussion took place on potential additional costs that could result from Motorola's recommendation, with a need to be reviewing the responsibility of such costs with Motorola. Mr. Woolford then mentioned that first user training will be beginning soon on the new Spillman CAD system. Mr. Woolford then remarked that LivCom has also agreed to be a backup to Mendota, replacing Streator as their backup. At this time it is hoped that the ICC will approve this phone system merger with Streator by the end of the year. Also, a potential ICC hearing may be waived, since their information submitted to the ICC is sufficiently detailed. It is being planned that Streator will become an active part of LivCom around May 1st of 2016. State's Attorney Seth Uphoff commented that he continued his review of the intergovernmental agreement with McLean County, and that other than some small changes it reflects the draft agreement that had previously been presented to board members. This agreement will allow for McLean County to serve as Livingston County's emergency telephone system back up.

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

State's Attorney Uphoff commented that this Pleasant Ridge Wind Energy project court case had been set for a court management conference on December 23rd, 2015 but this court management conference has been moved to January 20th, 2016, with this court management conference currently being scheduled to be held in Judge Bauknecht's courtroom. Mr. Uphoff related that this conference is open to the public, and that it will generally pertain to procedures and scheduling, as part of a status update on this case. Mr. Uphoff remarked about this case in general in that this will probably not be a quick review of this case, and he plans to zealously defend the county in this case.

Review of Livingston County Zoning Case SF-3-15:

The committee members were informed that the Livingston County Regional Planning Commission had held a hearing on this zoning case the previous evening. At this hearing the regional planning commission tabled this zoning case until their February 1, 2016 meeting, to allow for the subdivision property owners to collaborate about potential future development issues pertaining to this subdivision.

Update on Wind Energy Issues:

The varying opinions on wind energy regulation issues were mentioned, as these opinions may vary from leaving the wind regulations the same, to major changes in the regulations or modest changes somewhere in between making no changes to making major changes. Dialogue then 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. Potential referendum considerations and working on amending these wind energy regulations issues piecemeal was then talked about. Livingston County State's Attorney Seth Uphoff commented to the committee that he would be prepared to meet with the ad hoc committee next week as previously scheduled, to discuss some of the pending questions to his office about amending some of the wind energy regulations. The committee then debated the value of meeting on December 15th. A conversation took place on working towards taking action on the wind energy regulations, while the moratorium on wind energy projects is in place. The committee then came to a consensus to cancel the tentatively scheduled December 15, 2015 Ad Hoc committee meeting, that had tentatively scheduled to begin at 5 pm, in the Historic Courthouse. This Agriculture, Zoning and Emergency Services Committee will discuss how they plan to precede with these wind energy regulation issues at their January 2016 meeting.

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 plans for Livingston Landfill developments and maintenance of the closed Streator Area landfill where also mentioned. Host fee information from the last month was also presented to the committee.

Discuss Regulations for Solar Farms:

The zoning administrator presented the committee members with some information on solar energy and Solar Farms. These handouts included information about the University of Illinois Solar Farm, and copies of solar farm ordinances from other counties. These issues are being discussed at this time in that it is rumored that a solar farm is being considered for Livingston County. Any changes to the zoning regulations would need to in the form of a zoning text amendment(s).

The committee members will be able to review this material prior to their January 2106 meeting, and the zoning administrator can work on drafting solar farm regulations language prior to this January 2016 meeting. Then at this January 2016 meeting the committee can talk about how they may proceed with solar farm regulations.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee:

The committee members were informed that a draft mutual aid agreement with Illinois Emergency Services Management Association (IESMA) will be presented for their review in January 2016, with this committee considering a recommendation pertaining to this agreement at their February 2016 meeting.

Public Comment:

Committee Chair Flott stressed that he plans on working to complete the wind energy regulations review and amendments approval within the next eleven months, with these eleven months being the remainder of his term.

Review and Approval of Bills: None

Adjournment:

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

This meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Charles T. Schopp, Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission