

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2017 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: Justin Goembel, Jason Bunting, James Carley, Marty Fannin, Steven Lovell. And Paul Ritter.

Absent: Daryl Holt.

Others Present: Additional County Representatives included: County Board Chairman Bob Young and County Administrative Resource Specialist Alina Hartley, Non-committee county board members present were Vicki Allen, Carolyn Gerwin and John Slagel. Several interested citizens of the county were also present at this committee meeting.

In the absence of the Committee Chair, Committee Vice-Chair Justin Goembel noted the agenda, noting this was Tuesday not Thursday, as incorrectly typed on the agenda. Paul Ritter then moved, seconded by Marty Fannin, that the agenda for this meeting be approved. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Committee Vice-Chair Goembel then referred to the minutes of the January 3, 2017 meeting. Then Paul Ritter moved, seconded by James Carley, that these meeting minutes be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Business:

ETSB Report:

County Administrative Resource Specialist Alina Hartley reported that evolution into the Vermilion Valley Regional Emergency Communications Authority did take place on February 1, 2017, and this new ETSB authority is now in effect. Existing employees were hired back as part of this reorganization.

Solid Waste Report – Review of a synopsis of solid waste related documents and host fee information:

A printed copy of the planning commission monthly synopsis of landfill information and correspondence was presented to the committee members. This correspondence primarily related to gas system reports, groundwater monitoring results. Copies of maps depicting gas system infrastructure were also provided to the committee members.

Printed copies of host fee information were also presented to the committee.

A concentration of plastic and litter from Odell to Dwight was noted. American Disposal has been and will be contacted about a need to pick up this area. A comment was made that the areas around the phone numbers on the trucks need to be cleaned, making the phone numbers more visible, as part of the landfills policy of controlling waste from blowing out of the transport trailers.

Committee Review of the Livingston County Zoning Board of Appeals Report and Recommendation pertaining to Livingston County Zoning Case application ZT-3-16; a proposed text amendment regarding wind energy regulations:

Review the results on the Advisory Referendum on the distances between wind turbines and residences:

Review of the extension of the moratorium on the construction of WECS projects, Zoning Case ZT-1-17:

The wind energy agenda related items were combined together for discussion purposes, primarily relating to considering the extension of the moratorium on the construction of WECS projects. Mr. Schopp commented a need to consider a need for additional legal counsel to review a proper legal avenue to incorporate proposed language in the existing zoning text amendment of which the zoning board of appeals has made a recommendation, the results of the November referendum which reflects the opinions of the voters in each of their townships. Mr. Schopp related that with a need to incorporate all of the various wind energy related matters the committee should consider extending the moratorium to allow time for these matters to be properly addressed. The committee acknowledged some legal advice on being restrained in changing or adding to the existing text amendment language. It was expressed as to everyone is frustrated with how the wind energy regulations amendments process has proceeded. County Administrative Resource Specialist Alina Hartley related that some new legal counsel has been contacted to review these wind energy matters, with it being considered about how the work done up to this point on the wind energy matters can be used as a foundation for moving forward. It was questioned as to how long it would take for additional legal review and potential amendments to move through the review process. A remark of wanting to take the time to do this the right way was made. A conversation as to how action on the existing wind energy text amendment could proceed. A hope to legally connect all of the wind energy text amendment issues together was expressed. Dialogue then took place as to how if the moratorium is not passed and no action is taken on the exiting proposed text amendment the wind energy regulations would go back to the existing regulations. County Board Chair remarked that he understood everyone's frustration about this process, while expressing a need to consider a need to remain as patient as possible as we work to get the wind energy related amendments legally appropriate. How wind farm companies may view the county was then discussed. A potential comprehensive plan review was also remarked about.

Marty Fanning moved, seconded by James Carley, that this committee recommend to the Livingston County Board, that the moratorium on WECS projects be extended for three months as proposed in Livingston County Zoning Case ZT-1-17. This motion was grudgingly approved by roll call vote; Holt-Absent; Goembel-Yes; Bunting-No; Carley-Yes; Fannin-Yes; Lovell-Yes; Ritter-Yes.

Other Business as Needed:

Mr. Fannin led a discussion on regard to the junky eyesore appearance around what is referred to as the Sun Trucking property area. Mr. Fannin requested that enforcement actions start over with this area.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee:

The Zoning administrator noted a proposed location of a Dollar General store in unincorporated South Streator, which is part of a map amendment being reviewed by the Livingston County Zoning Board of Appeals, which will come before this committee and the county board at future meetings.

Public Comments:

Carolyn Gerwin commented on IEPA burning regulations and how they could be contacted relating to illegal burning issues.

Jeff Bryan, Tri-Point Schools Superintendent expressed his appreciation to the county board for considering the differing opinions and considerations about wind energy within in the county, including allowing a forum for public opinion with the referendum on the ballot this past November.

Judy Campbell commented about the wind farm under review in LaSalle County. Mrs. Campbell provided copies of an Otter Creek Wind Farm project map indicating proposed turbine locations and setback areas, a project location map which reflects the proposed project borders Livingston County, a plat book page copy of Newtown Township of which reflects the location of residences, building sites in Livingston County bordering this proposed Otter Creek Wind Farm. Mrs. Campbell questioned as to if the county would have interest in representing to LaSalle County that Livingston County may require setback distances greater than what is required in LaSalle County, and request that the Livingston County setback distances be complied with regarding Livingston County housing sites bordering on this LaSalle County project area. It was questioned as to if it is legal for one county to attempt to imposed their regulations on another county. It was also questioned as to if the Livingston County residents bordering this project have concerns.

Dean Steidinger commented about options on moving forward with the wind energy regulation issues.

Review and Approval of Bills: None

Adjournment:

Then Marty Fannin moved, seconded by Jason Bunting, that this meeting be adjourned. This motion was approved unanimously.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Charles T. Schopp, Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission