

MINUTES OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
HELD ON APRIL 3, 2017, STARTING AT 7:00 PM
IN THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
112 W. MADISON ST. PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

Chairman Mike Haberkorn called the meeting to order and roll call was taken.

Those present were: Mike Haberkorn, Jerry Gaspardo, Rudy Piskule, Eddie Hoerner, Verne Taylor, Dean Wahls, Dee Woodburn, Shane Long, Scott Cranford and John Slagel, with John Slagel being recognized as a new member on the Livingston County Regional Planning Commission.

Those absent were: Keith Bahler, Scott Sand and Luke Bartlett.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Chairman Haberkorn mentioned the agenda to this meeting. With no recommendations for additions or amendments to the agenda for this meeting, Jerry Gaspardo moved, seconded by Verne Taylor, that the agenda for this meeting be approved as presented. This motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the February 6, 2017 meeting were mentioned by Chair Haberkorn. With no recommendation for amendments to these minutes, Chair Haberkorn declared that these minutes be approved as presented.

BUSINESS:

Case ZT-2-17; Pertains to a request by the County Board of Livingston County for a zoning text amendment to Chapter 56, Article VIII, Code of Ordinances, Livingston County, Illinois, proposing a three month extension of 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 (WECS). This proposed three month moratorium extension would begin on June 1, 2017 and it shall expire on August 31, 2017. The zoning administrator explained that this moratorium extension text amendment is being presented as an administrative option, so that if the Livingston County Board needs to extend this moratorium at their May 2017 meeting this text amendment will have preceded through the public hearing review process needed as part of the review of text amendments. Existing wind energy text amendments are being reviewed by the county board at this time, and the status of that review may dictate a need to approve or deny this proposed moratorium extension.

An explanation was given that the Livingston County Board is considering the results of the referendum that was on the ballot in this past November's election. The county board is considering two sets of wind energy related setbacks that would reflect results from this referendum on wind energy setbacks. One set of setbacks would be for the majority of the county reflecting setback distances currently under consideration by the county board, and a second set of setbacks would reflect lesser setbacks for seven contiguous townships in the northeastern part of the county. The planning commission members then discussed these county board considerations on two sets of wind energy setbacks commenting on noise being generated by the recently built wind farm in Ford County and how setbacks in the seven township area will need to consider noise issues. The planning commission then related to the proposed zoning text before them acknowledging that the option of extending the existing WECS moratorium is an option the county board should have.

At the conclusion of this dialogue regarding this zoning case, Dee Woodburn moved, seconded by Shane Long, that the planning commission recommended the approval of Livingston County Zoning Case ZT-2-17, proposing a three month extension of 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 (WECS). This proposed three month moratorium extension would begin on June 1, 2017 and it shall expire on August 31, 2017. This recommended moratorium extension would be giving the Livingston County Board an administrative option to extend this moratorium at their May 2017. This motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The status of the Dollar General zoning map amendment case was then discussed. It was explained that with more testimony was presented to the zoning board of appeals, than to the regional planning commission, including testimony on traffic, and that the zoning board of appeals has recommended that this zoning case be denied, because of potential traffic concerns and because of potential permitted uses in the commercial zoning classification be sought.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

INFORMATIONAL UPDATE:

The planning commission members present were informed that their next meeting is scheduled for Monday May 1st. at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dean Wahls moved, seconded by Shane Long, that the meeting be adjourned. This motion was unanimously approved.

This meeting was then adjourned at 7:35 p.m.