

MINUTES OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
HELD ON JUNE 5, 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, Verne Taylor, Keith Bahler, Dean Wahls, Dee Woodburn, Scott Sand, Luke Bartlett and John Slagel

Those absent were: Eddie Hoerner, Shane Long and Scott Cranford.

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 Dee Woodburn, that the agenda for this meeting be approved as presented. This motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the May 1, 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-3-17; Pertains to a request by the Livingston County Board for a zoning text amendment to Chapter 56, Zoning, Code of Ordinances Livingston County Illinois, which focuses on the most recent considerations for amending the Livingston County wind energy regulations. The Livingston County zoning administrator reviewed his report with the planning commission members. This report and review consisted of the application for this text amendment, copies of the zoning regulation pages that would be effected by this proposed text amendment, on which the proposed changes were highlighted in green. The zoning administrator remarked about the proposed text language regarding a hearing facilitator, as implementing a hearing facilitator into administrative review process. Grammar/linguistic changes were mentioned to the planning commission members. Proposed new WECS setback distances in seven townships were noted along with the reasoning. Proposed transmission line setback language was also mentioned, of which suggestions on changing this language to become more understandable was then commented about, along with proposed noise setback language. The zoning administrator further reviewed his report noting the seven townships being the primary focus of this proposed text amendment in part reflect the results of a November 8, 2016 advisory referendum pertaining to the minimum distance wind turbines may be set from residences. Copies of a specimen ballot with this advisory question were provided to the planning commission members. These seven contiguous townships voted for lesser setbacks, with a map of the location of the seven townships of Round Grove, Dwight, Nevada, Odell, Union, Broughton and Sullivan being provided. The zoning administrator also made reference to the comments in his report, regarding a Illinois Wind

Resource Map, the topographical feature of the Cayuga Ridge in this area, the soil types in this area, a lower population density in this area and how this area is located between two existing wind farm developed areas.

The planning commission members began discussion on the proposed changes, with a discussion on which setback distance would apply to a residence in the proposed lesser setback distance area of which would be across the road from a township in an area with a the larger setback distance area, on township border lines. It was agreed that the larger setback distance should apply to all residences within the 3250 foot setback distance area. A change in the language in this area was discussed to reflect that the greater setback distance of 3250 would apply to all residences adjacent to areas which have this setback distance. It was then noted that would apply to just 5 townships. A remark on measuring from the center line versus edges of foundations was then made. Then a discussion on awkwardness of the proposed text language on number (9) on page 8 of the proposed wind energy regulations took place, with this proposed language reflecting transmission lines setbacks. The planning commission agreed that new language would be appropriate in this area, but no definitive examples of new language was made. Then dialogue took place regarding the proposed text language regarding noise levels found on page 12 of the proposed wind energy regulations. Again dialogue took place about the awkwardness of this language, and it was questioned as to if the word setbacks could be removed. The believed intent of the 150 foot setback was discussed. Again the planning commission agreed that the new language would be appropriate in this area, but no definitive examples of the new language were made.

At the conclusion of this dialogue regarding this zoning case, Luke Bartlett moved, seconded by Rudy Piskule, that this Livingston County Planning Commission recommended the approval of Livingston County Zoning Case ZT-3-17, while suggesting that the following areas of the proposed draft language of this proposed text amendment be considered for editing as discussed during this meeting. 1. Page 7 Setbacks; 2. Page 8 – (9) transmission line setback language; 3. Page 12 – Sec. 56-620 Replace the word setback. The planning commission members agreed the zoning administrator could draft new text language to reflect the planning commission's considerations in their review of these three text amendments. This motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

INFORMATIONAL UPDATE:

The planning commission members present were informed that their next meeting is scheduled for Monday June 26th. At 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dee Woodburn moved, seconded by Verne Taylor, that the meeting be adjourned. This motion was unanimously approved.

This meeting was then adjourned at 8:00 p.m.