

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF March 15, 2018 MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD

OPENING

County Board Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse, 112 W. Madison, Pontiac, Illinois.

The invocation was presented by Pastor Joel Paine of the Livingston County Assembly of God in Dwight. Tim Shafer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The clerk called roll with the following **present:** John “Jack” Vietti, Jason Bunting, John Slagel, G. Michael Ingles, Joseph D. Steichen, Tim Shafer, Patrick D. Killian, Ronald L. Kestner, Steven Lovell, Vicki Allen, Kathy Arbogast, Robert F. Weller, Justin Goembel, Daryl N. Holt, Mark Runyon, William Mays, Bob Young and Marty Fannin **Absent:** Paul A. Ritter (arrived at 6:30 p.m.), Carolyn Gerwin, James A. Carley, David W. Heath, Stanley R. Weber (arrived at 6:10 p.m.) and John L. Yoder

Also Present: County Clerk-Kristy Masching, Executive Director-Alina Hartley, Mental Health Executive Director-Christine Myers, Public Health Administrator-MaLinda Hillman and County Highway Engineer-Clay Metcalf

AGENDA

Chairman Young stated that time would be allowed after the presentations for a gentlemen to speak on behalf of the Community Healthcare Program. Young said they’d take about fifteen minutes for anyone else wishing to address the board at that time and asked participants to limit their comments to 2 or 3 minutes. Young also noted that there would be a special announcement before going into Executive Session. Young then called for approval of the agenda as presented. *Motion by Bunting, second by Ingles to approve the agenda as presented.* **MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Clerk Masching stated that the February and March meeting minutes would be ready for approval at the April board meeting.

PRESENTATION

Mental Health 2017 Annual Report – Executive Director-Christine Myers presented the 708/377 report. Ms. Myers stated that 50 years ago this March, the citizens and voters of Livingston County passed a referendum by a 4 to 1 margin to “establish and maintain community mental facilities and services including facilities and services for the developmentally disabled and the substance abusers. In fiscal year 1969, approximately 400 individuals were served compared to 8,300 served in 2017. Ms. Myers noted that there are tremendous agencies and programs that provide services for individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse in our county. These agencies employ over 235 staff. State funding, outside grants, Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance don’t pay for many of these services or cover very little of the actual costs. The tax dollars that are directed to the 708/377 Boards are used to financially support programs that have no other funding stream or services that are not covered under insurance. Ms. Myers ended by saying that their objective is to be effective and efficient stewards of tax dollars to best meet the mental health substance abuse and developmental disability needs of the citizens in Livingston County. *Motion by Vietti, second by Killian to approve the Mental Health 2017 Annual Report.* **MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

Public Health 2017 Annual Report - Public Health Administrator MaLinda Hillman briefly reviewed the annual report. The Public Health Department is governed by an eight member Board of Health which is appointed by the County Board. Joe Steichen is the County Board’s representative on her board. The three member TB Board is comprised of members who are also currently serving on the Board of Health. Her department is comprised of 28 full-time, 1 part-time and 8 PRN (as needed) employees, for a total of 37. The TB Clinic Fund ended with a November 30th balance of \$58,438, with local tax support being \$26,864. Ms. Hillman noted that this fund is

maintained at a break-even level since there hadn't been any TB cases since 2012. She explained that local tax support to the Public Health Department expenditures was \$372,352 or 18% of their total revenue source. She gave a brief overview of the programs this funding helps to subsidize such as Maternal Child Health, Senior Services, Environmental Health, rent, Communicable Diseases, and School Vision and Hearing Clinics. She noted that her department depends highly on State and Federal Grant funding which is 42% of their revenue source. They also pay \$55,500 to the county general fund for rent. Ms. Hillman stated that \$225,212.00 was spent on the Livingston County Community Health Care Program. The Public Health Fund ending balance was \$1,106,890 which was an increase of \$141,494. This increase is due in part to the state paying grant funding much better in FY17 than in FY16. She commented that in 2016, the state was arrears in grant funding of \$202,000 and in 2017 that figure was down to \$117,000. She reviewed the various revenue sources and stated that personnel (67%) and insurance (10%) comprised 77% of their expenditures.

Community Health Care Program Annual Report - Ms. Hillman presented an overview of this program which was started at the end of 2008 and was up and running by FY 2009. The goal of this program is to assist individuals to remain in their homes safely for as long as possible. She noted that 17% of our county population is age 65 and older, with approximately 7% of those individuals living in poverty. To be eligible for this program individuals must meet all eight criteria which include: demonstrate a medical/social need by meeting set criteria; have to be able to remain safely in a home environment with intermittent services; ineligible for other community programs; within the health department's scope of services; priority to citizens age 60 and older or who have been disabled; meet income eligibility requirements; Livingston County resident for at least 1 year; and services must be voluntarily accepted. The two components of the program are home services and home nursing. Both are licensed by IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health).

The **Home Services Program** is comparable to a housekeeping program which provides services such as housekeeping, laundry, meal preparation and bathing. She noted that the state also runs a housekeeping program. To qualify for the state program your assets must be under \$17,500 with home, one car and burial grounds are exempt. Ms. Hillman explained that her program uses a sliding fee schedule based on income of the individual with the homemaker services cost ranging from 0 to \$20/hr. She stated that in FY 2017, 55% of their clients in the home services program had an income under \$20,000. In order to qualify for the program, a functional assessment of needs evaluation is performed. They also take into consideration whether the individual has someone to help them. In FY 2017, 33 individuals were served for 1,178 visits and 2,088 hours of in-home service. Ms. Hillman did start winding down services and notifying clients once she was notified that the program was scheduled to sunset November 30, 2018. Currently, they have 16 individuals on the program. She noted that the highest number served was 82 for 3,672 visits with 5,293 hours of service. In FY 2017, 20 individuals were discharged with 11 going to nursing homes, assisted living facilities, died or moved in with family and 2 became eligible for the state program, She felt they met their goal which was to keep residents out of a nursing home for as long as possible.

The **Home Nursing Program** is the other component of the program and provides home health and home nursing care. Home health is an acute care program which provides services for an individual who is under a physician's orders, is homebound and requires skilled nursing care. Medicare insurance and Medicaid will reimburse for these services. Home nursing is more chronic disease management and also operates under a physician's orders. The individuals under this program can't easily get to a doctor's office for the services provided, so the RN's visit them at home to assess, set up medications, do blood draws for diabetes and Coumadin checks for blood thinners. In FY 2017, 30 individuals were served for 599 nurse visits, with 86% of those individuals having incomes less than \$20,000. The state doesn't include home nursing visits in their program. The highest number of individuals served in this program was 42 for 929 visits. In FY 2017, 8 were discharged with 3 transferred to home health, 1 died, 1 went to a nursing home, 1 moved out of county and 2 no longer needed the help.

The cost of the program at its highest was \$319,000 with FY 2017 coming in at \$225,212 (accrual basis) or \$220,942 (cash basis). The county is only billed for what the costs are to MaLinda's department. She noted that they did take in \$17,724 in co-pays for FY 2017, with the county paying over \$200,000. The main expense for the program is personnel and with the fringe benefit packet (30%) added in, adds up to 85%, with mileage costs

coming in at 7%. Ms. Hillman noted that Home Nursing is approximately 1/3 of the total cost, with Home Services being 2/3. She has discussed with the Board of Health the option of continuing the Home Nursing program using Public Health funds since there is a definite need for it and no one else offers these services. It will be on an annual basis to see what they can afford. Discussion highlights follow: Home services has two dedicated staff members while the Home Nursing is integrated with other programs which cuts the cost of services; have had individuals who've spent down assets and qualified for state programs; will serve individuals who qualify for help as long as she has funds through November 30, 2018; Public Health has increased fees slightly and is looking at other programs to generate revenue to offset personnel costs; likes to keep 3-4 months surplus since she doesn't know when State will pay; and anticipates the Home Nursing program to cost approximately \$60-\$70,000 annually, since they can integrate nurse expenses with other programs to cut administrative costs. *Motion by Steichen, second by Fannin to approve the Public Health 2017 Annual Report.* **MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

APPEARANCES

Citizens Address regarding Elimination of Community Healthcare Program – Rod Patterson addressed the board and requested that they reconsider their decision to discontinue the Livingston County Community Health Care Program. He is a fifth generation resident of Livingston County whose entire career has been to support people with disabilities and homeless people. He has served in administrative positions at Fox Center and with the Mosaic program. He has served on local, state and international social service boards and community service programs. He knows MaLinda is doing a great job with the CHCP and that it is a much needed service in the county. Patterson commented on some of the reasons he's heard as to why the board isn't in favor of continuing this program. One reason is that some members don't feel that tax money should go to support social services and that there are other agencies or programs the individuals can receive help from. He stated that there is nothing else in the private sector comparable to this program for the individuals who are supported by this program. Patterson knows that some board members feel the county are in competition with the private sector. None of the private agencies he's talked to will provide the services for just 3-4 hours a week. He also stated that churches will provide some assistance to their members for a short period of time but not for an extended period (years) and they won't provide needed personal assistance, such as baths. He knew that some want the state to pick up more and noted that it's still our tax money whether it be on the state or county level. He does acknowledge that the funding source for this program is dwindling down, but he is grateful that the board has continued to keep funding the program up to this date. He finished by asking the board members to reconsider their decision and to look for ways in which other funding could be utilized to keep this very important program going.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Bills
- B. Appointments:
 - a) **Gary Marx** – (**Resolution #2018-03-11**) reappointment to the Dwight Fire Protection District, three year term commencing May 7, 2018 and expiring the first Monday in May 2021.

Chairman Young called for approval of the consent agenda. *Motion by Bunting, second by Weller for approval of the Consent Agenda.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Slagel, Ingles, Steichen, Shafer, Killian, Kestner, Ritter, Lovell, Allen, Arbogast, Weller, Goembel, Holt, Runyon, Mays, Weber, Young and Fannin **Nays:** None **Absent:** Gerwin, Carley, Heath and Yoder

HIGHWAY

Committee Chairman Jason Bunting reviewed the **Action Agenda Item** as follows:

- a) **Letting Results:** March 6, 2018 Letting
- b) **Quarterly Report:** 1st Quarter FY 2018

Motion by Bunting, second by Runyon to approve both action items with one roll call vote. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Slagel, Ingles, Steichen, Shafer, Killian, Kestner,

Ritter, Lovell, Allen, Arbogast, Weller, Goembel, Holt, Runyon, Mays, Weber, Young and Fannin **Nays:** None
Absent: Gerwin, Carley, Heath and Yoder

AG & ZONING

Chairman Daryl Holt commented that they were presented informational packets briefing them on two items, proposed solar energy projects and the solid waste synopsis.

SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE

Committee Chairman Ron Kestner reported the following: heard the monthly department report, the Pro-Active Report and the Animal Control Report; approved two raffle licenses; and billed out \$162,624.51 for inmate housing. The committee learned that the jail was currently housing a total of 137 detainees, 49 from the federal North District, 17 from the Federal Central District, 29 from Cook County, and 42 from Livingston County.

ELECTION, RULES & LEGISLATION

Presentation of Proposed Amendments to the Standing Rules – Committee Chairman Marty Fannin reported that they were presenting the members with the proposed changes to the Standing Rules. The members will have thirty days to review them and will then come back in April to take action on. The first proposed changes is to remove any reference to “Livingston Manor” in visits. Fannin stated they had some issues this winter with committees not being able to meet so they are recommending a change into the standing rules that establishes the following: 1) The Chair shall establish the agenda for all meetings of the Board. The Chair may in his/her discretion, include committee items requiring action, whereby the Committee was unable to meet due to lack of a quorum. 2) During his/her Committee tenure, a member of a Committee including the Chair and Vice Chair, may be removed and/or reassigned by the Chairman of the Board. 3) The Chairman of the Board shall be designated as an Alternate Committee Member, and may serve in the absence of any Committee Member, during any Committee meeting. Fannin explained that this meant that the County Board Chairman is a member of each and every committee and will be able to fill in, if and when needed. It was suggested that if any members had any questions on these changes that they attend the April committee meeting for further discussion.

Chairman Fannin also noted that they were continuing on-going discussions on the make-up and size of the County Board.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

Agreement Amendment: Mosaic Lease for Water Street Property - Committee Chairman Ingles reported that the first item was the agreement amendment with Mosaic for lease of the Water Street property (former Regions Bank building). He stated that in the original agreement the lease was intended to begin once they were able to sell their existing property. At this time, that hasn't happened and as a result Mosaic would like to move forward. This amendment would allow the lease to start June 1, and would also allow them to start the improvements to the building that they had planned providing proof that they had the funding, which they have. The committee has reviewed and approved the architectural drawing of the building changes that will be made. *Motion by Ingles, second by Arbogast to approve the amendment to the original agreement be approved.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Slagel, Ingles, Steichen, Shafer, Killian, Kestner, Ritter, Lovell, Allen, Arbogast, Weller, Goembel, Holt, Runyon, Mays, Weber, Young and Fannin **Nays:** None
Absent: Gerwin, Carley, Heath and Yoder

Chair Ingles also noted that they had reviewed some on-going maintenance issues. He reminded the members that they had entered into an agreement with Farnsworth look at various options with the H & E Building. After reviewing several existing properties that could be rehabbed for their use, they've come to the conclusion that the existing buildings looked at will not work. So our options at this time would be a major rehab/remodel to the existing building or building new. They are also checking into a company called “Smart One” which will come in and outline a program where we can make expenditures on energy savings that will pay for themselves.

ADMINISTRATIVE

2018 Strategic Plan & Short Term Goals - Chairman Young commended Alina and Ginger for the major part they had in planning, organizing and presenting the information at the planning sessions. Young thought they

were very good sessions for all the attendees. Alina thanked all the participants and noted that there were a combined total of 39 county board members, other elected officials, department heads and other managers that participated in this year's sessions. She appreciated everyone's efforts. *Motion by Kestner, second by Ritter to approve the 2018 Strategic Plan & Short Term Goals.* **MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

FINANCE

Committee Chairman Shafer stated that the treasurer has encountered some challenges with the new Financial Edge accounting software and is trying to work through those on a budget.

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

Committee Chairwoman Vicki Allen reported that they met with Jon Sear. Vicki highlighted her report as follows. Jon has been meeting with department heads on the phone system change over and is hoping to finish the project up the second week in April. One of the features is that the phone lines can be transferred to a cell phone if needed. He's also been working on setting up jail mail. This mail will be scanned and will be web based, with detainees paying for this service. Jon is still looking for an easy way to transfer the emails from gmail to exchange.

PERSONNEL

Committee Chairman Kathy Arbogast reported that they didn't have a meeting.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE

Ron Kestner noted the committee met with Mr. Bailey. Mr. Bailey presented his monthly report. The committee approved the bills on behalf of the veterans in need. Joe Steichen informed the group that Supt. Bailey had gone into the hospital on Monday (12th) for knee surgery. He should be discharged from St. Joe's tomorrow morning.

RECREATION

No report since they didn't have a meeting.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

John Slagel that they had met earlier in the day (15th) and spoke with him about Part 58-Environmental Review. They said that Livingston County is the responsible entity for the Livingston County Housing Authority. They are saying we have refused to help them with the review, so we will need to investigate into this further. They are looking for either financial assistance to do an environmental review to get grants or if not financial assistance then at least signing off on the environmental review that they would pay for.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Debbie Bacigalupo, a lifelong resident of Livingston County urged the board to reinstate the Community Health Care Program. She feels that this is a very important program and is needed as there are no other programs that are going to pick this up for the people who are falling through the cracks.

John Reis, born and raised in Fairbury is in support of the Community Health Care Program, too. Over 80% of the participants stayed at home or moved to other programs when qualified and no longer needed support of the program. The program is efficiently run and operates within its budget with half of the participants paying fees.

Alice Gordon, resident of rural Strawn is hoping that the Board will continue or re-instate the Community Health Care Program, too. She's a registered nurse and a nurse practitioner and feels that this program is very important and should be continued.

Bekah Fehr read a statement on behalf of County Board Member-Carolyn Gerwin, who was unable to attend the meeting. Highlights follow. The reason county recipients "fall through the cracks" in the state program is that the county's need assessment doesn't take into account the person's assets, only income. We also don't count the assets or the income available to the client's spouse or other household members. County recipients can have up

to \$50,000 in income and unlimited assets and still receive benefits paid for by other Livingston County families who are impoverished or struggling themselves. Even if the eligibility requirements were tightened it would be wrong for the county to continue the program. Welfare is not a county function. Any government is very inefficient when it comes to providing any kind of social services. In 2017, the county program provided 2,508 hours of actual care, spent over \$200,000 and paid \$81/hr. to provide basic maid service, cooking and LPN level care. We are competing with local care providers who are trying to provide a charity or make a living and that is not fair to them. Government is not able to provide charity. Using power to take income earned by one group of people, to give it to another is not charity or compassion.

Board member Justin Goembel announced that he would be resigning effective at the end of this meeting. He and his family will be relocating out of the state. He thanked the Board and stated it had been an honor and a privilege to serve the residents of Livingston County. He thanked his wife and family for putting up with the long nights and many, many meetings. Chairman Young expressed his gratitude to Justin, for being such a good board member and wished him nothing but the very best of luck.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) Personnel Matters was made by Fannin, second by Steichen. MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes: Vietti, Bunting, Slagel, Ingles, Steichen, Shafer, Killian, Kestner, Ritter, Lovell, Allen, Arbogast, Weller, Goembel, Holt, Runyon, Mays, Weber, Young and Fannin *Nays:* None *Absent:* Gerwin, Carley, Heath and Yoder

Executive Session began at 7:12 p.m., with regular session resuming at 7:20 p.m.

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

CLOSING CEREMONY

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m., on motion by Goembel, second by Mays. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES ON VOICE VOTE.

Bob Young, Chairman

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching
County Clerk

April 12, 2018
Approved