

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF January 10, 2019 Special 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 clerk called roll with the following **present:** Kathy Arbogast, Robert F. Weller, Linda Ambrose, James A. Carley, Steven Lovell, John Vitzthum, William Mays, Gerald Earing, Mark Runyon, James Blackard, Bill Wilkey, Patrick D. Killian, Jason Bunting, John Slagel, John L. Vietti, Joseph D. Steichen, Tim Shafer, Ronald L. Kestner, Paul A. Ritter, Vicki Allen and Bob Young **Absent:** G. Michael Ingles and Carolyn Gerwin
Vacancy: Yoder

Also Present: County Clerk-Kristy Masching, Executive Director-Alina Hartley and Public Health Administrator-MaLinda Hillman

AGENDA

Chairman Young asked that Public Comment be moved to take place prior to discussion on the referendum resolution. *Motion by Bunting, second by Ritter to approve the agenda as amended.* **MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

At this time, Chairman Young led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Young explained that the purpose of the meeting was to decide on the resolution for referendum questions regarding a new tax rate and an increase in the limiting rate under PTELL in order to continue home healthcare in the future. He then asked the public to come forward with any comments they might have prior to the board deliberating this issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan Lipinski requested that the board not put the two referendum questions on the ballot because it would be very confusing to the citizens and seemed to be a rushed job. She noted that the citizens were asking the Board to find money in their budgets to continue funding for what basically was the Livingston County Community Healthcare program which provided housekeeping and healthcare services. She asked that the Board take a few months to investigate the budget to find the additional funds and amend the budget. Ms. Lipinski also noted that if the Board decided to move forward with the resolution, she hoped the Board would hold many forums throughout the county explaining how the PTELL tax process would work. She felt that her group had educated the citizens on what they wanted in their referendum and what the Livingston County Community Healthcare program provided.

ACTION AGENDA

Resolution: Referendum Questions Regarding New Tax Rate & an Increase in the Limiting Rate Applicable under PTELL – At the request of Chairman Young, Alina Hartley provided the following explanation on the PTELL process. She stated that when the referendum questions were approved by the voters in November, the board began the process of looking into what would need to be done in order for the board to levy the senior citizen social services tax. There were some timing issues that also came into play with the 2019 budget. It was discovered at that time that there were additional referendum requirements that would need to be met under PTELL. Right before Christmas, the County Clerk's office notified her that the deadline for the Board to approve placing something on the April election ballot was January 14th, which was prior to the January Board meeting. The April election is the only election in 2019, so in order to meet that deadline a special meeting of the Finance Committee was called where they approved and requested the Special County Board Meeting so the referendum questions could be considered. Both questions would need to be approved by the voters in order for the Finance Committee to consider levying the tax for the FY 2020 budget.

Chairman Young spoke in favor of providing community healthcare since that was what the voters had asked for but stated that additional funding would be needed in order to provide for the program. He stated that there was no extra money in the budget, noting that department heads had been reducing their budgets over the past couple of years and what had been approved was earmarked for specific uses within their departments. Young noted that by putting the referendum questions on the April ballot, the Public Health Department would be able to work towards implementing a program in 2020. He also noted that the result of a positive referendum, and if the tax was levied at its full amount, would generate about \$180,000 in revenue.

Ms. Hartley noted the following regarding the resolution: they had worked hard on it for three weeks; hired outside legal counsel who was experienced in PTELL issues; had been reviewed by the Illinois Department of Revenue to ensure that it met PTELL requirements; moved quickly so the Board would have the opportunity to consider whether to move forward with it or not; the levy would be effective with the 2019 tax levy year payable 2020 and be for the FY 2020 budget. The additional taxes on a \$100,000 home was estimated to be \$13.58 as determined by the complicated PTELL formula which takes into account the average increases in the levies over the last four years and takes that in addition to the 0.025% and adds that into the levy to come up with the \$13.58 as well as what the approved extendable rate would be at that time; \$7.00 would be the maximum amount at the 0.025% rate and the \$13.58 is the combination of increases over four years plus the 0.025%.

Motion by Shafer, second by Wilkey to place the resolution referendum questions on the ballot. Discussion highlights follow. Chairman Young explained how we came to this point after deciding to sunset the Livingston County Community Health Care Program in 2017. Public Health Administrator-Malinda Hillman presented a summary of the Community Health Care Program noting the following: was started in 2009; comprised of two components, the Home Services Program (encompasses home services such as housekeeping, bathing, etc.) and the Home Nursing Program (chronic disease management); and both programs are licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health. The home nursing service is not provided by anyone else in the county. Ms. Hillman noted that she has integrated the home nursing service with some of their other maternal child health programs. Individuals utilizing the Home Services Program must meet all criteria for eligibility, including income eligibility, and are charged an hourly rate based on a sliding fee scale. Ms. Hillman noted that they have been working with East Central Agency on Aging on a pilot program (hasn't been rolled out yet) which pays for medication management (home nursing). She also noted that she is trying to continue the Home Nursing Program because it's more economical and she can use the Public Health levy to subsidize it. She stated that she cannot afford the Home Services Program without assistance; estimated that it cost about \$100,000 a year to provide; and noted that she ended that program November 30. Ms. Hillman stated that in order to continue both programs the amount of funding needed would depend upon the type of criteria she would include in the programs, the stricter the criteria the less funding needed. If she could afford the home nursing under the Public Health levy, which is currently around \$385,000 she would use the IMRF and FICA levy to pay for the benefits side of it. The goal of both programs was to keep people out of nursing homes and off Medicaid. She stated that before the Home Services program ended in November they worked with the remaining participants in finding other health care givers and transitioned them off. She noted the following regarding the home services program: highest number of clients served was 82 in 2013; of those 82 clients, conducted 3,672 visits translating into 5,293 hours of service; with 74% of those falling under the income level of \$21,000. Ms. Hillman also noted that her department is licensed as a home services and home nursing agency and not as Medicare certified home health agency. Ms. Hartley stated that the wording "Home Healthcare Program" was used in the proposed referendum question because it was a carryover from what the board voted on when they included the referendum on the November 2018 ballot. She stated that what's required is that it be used for that program the way that it's written now. The tax statute that was used before was specifically for senior citizens. If the Board wished to change the wording they could, but the Board was the one who wanted to limit what the tax could be used for. Ms. Hartley explained that even though the Public Health levy is not at its maximum rate, it is part of the county's aggregate which consists of fourteen levies. Under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, we still have limits of which the Public Health is a part of. She reported that this means that for 2019, what we levied for this year's budget, we received across all fourteen funds an increase of \$288,000 and for the prior year an increase of \$204,000. If only the home nursing services program is requested, this would mean that about 25% of the overall aggregate of every fund the county levies for would go to Public Health. If it's anything more than that a referendum would still

have to take place in order to ask for the increase in the extension limitation. At this time, Chairman Young asked that the motion be re-read and commented that a “yes” vote was to put the referendum questions on the ballot, with a “no” vote not to put on the ballot and the program would expire. *Motion by Shafer, second by Wilkey to place the resolution referendum questions on the ballot.* **MOTION FAILED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Lovell, Earing, Wilkey, Killian, Slagel, Vietti, Shafer, Kestner and Young **Nays:** Arbogast, Weller, Ambrose, Carley, Vitzthum, Mays, Runyon, Blackard, Bunting, Steichen, Ritter and Allen **Absent:** Ingles and Gerwin **Vacancy:** Yoder

CLOSING CEREMONY

Chairman Young announced that Board District #3 Member-John Yoder resigned. He was very proud to have served as a board member. Candidates interested in filling the vacancy must reside within District #3 and be Republican. He will be contacting Mike Kirkton but also requested that anyone else meeting the requirements and interested in serving should contact him.

Ms. Hartley reminded the members to fill out the sign-in forms for the planning sessions and return them to her as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m., on motion by Mays, second by Ritter. **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

Bob Young, Chairman

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching
County Clerk

February 14, 2019
Approved

Minutes Bd 011019.A