

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5, 2019 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: Jason Bunting, Paul Ritter, Gerald Earing, Patrick Killian, Steven Lovell, Tim Shafer and John Slagel.

Absent: None

Others Present: Additional County Representatives included: County Board Chair Bob Young, Non-committee County Board members Linda Ambrose and Kathy Arbogast and County Executive Director Alina Hartley. Livingston County Farm Bureau representative Roger Wahls, was also present.

Committee Chair Jason Bunting commented about the agenda for this March 5, 2019 meeting, with the committee chair commenting that business items 6 and 7 on the agenda regarding executive session can be removed since no executive session is to be held. Steven Lovell moved, seconded by Paul Ritter, that this agenda be approved as proposed to be amended. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Committee Chair Jason Bunting then referred to the minutes of the February 5, 2019 committee meeting. Gerald Earing moved, seconded by John Slagel, that these meetings minutes be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Business:

Review of Livingston County Zoning Case ZT-1-18 – an Amendment to the Livingston County Solar Energy Regulations:

The zoning administrator reviewed his report pertaining to this zoning case. This zoning case originated as a proposal to define the zoning districts in which solar farms would be allowed as special uses. This proposal is to have solar farms as special uses in AG, Agriculture, Districts and I2, General Industry, Districts. The original proposal then stimulated discussions on the existing definitions, so the definition for Solar Farm is proposed to be amended as outlined in the report, as a new definition for Accessory Use Solar Systems, which is also included in the zoning administrator's report. Then during review of solar farm special use applications the height and type of fence was debated, with the final recommendation for this text amendment would be to allow for a chain link fence with a minimum height of 7 feet. The committee members verified the reasoning for these proposed text amendments, while still contemplating the proposed text amendment regarding the fencing issue. John Slagel then moved, seconded by Paul Ritter, that this committee recommend to the full county board that Livingston County Zoning Case ZT-1-18 be approved as outlined in the zoning administrator's report. This motion was approved by a voice vote.

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

Printed copies monthly synopsis document reviews were presented to and reviewed with the committee members.

These reports and discussion on these reports focused on reports regarding the landfill gas system, NPDES reports, and groundwater monitoring reports regarding the Livingston Landfill. The committee members were also advised about correspondence related to landfill odors. The committee members were then briefed on a proposed leachate phytoremediation system, which was then discussed by the committee members.

Monthly host agreement fund information was also provided to the committee.

Review of Noxious Weeds Regulations:

A copy of a letter from the Illinois Department of Agriculture was referenced as this letter makes reference to certain requirements of the Illinois Noxious Weed Law, with the Illinois Department of Agricultural recommending a county review of these regulations to consider if any improvements might be made to improve effectiveness. Copies of the committee minutes from that last county review of this matter had been made available to the committee members. The committee understands that they can consider any changes to the county noxious weed guidance as a situation(s) may necessitate.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee:

The committee members were informed that the Illinois Power Agency's solar adjustable block program lottery is now tentatively scheduled to take place on March 21, 2019.

Pending Illinois General Assembly bills pertaining to considerations to amend the language in the livestock management Facilities act and in the county zoning statutes were discussed.

Public Comment: The status of the county battery recycling program was discussed, with the county seeking a new outlet to dispose of the batteries. The condition of a tract of land in Wing was also discussed.

Review and Approval of Bills:

An invoice with a total amount of \$4,123.75 from Deigan and Associates, LLC for Professional Services for the period from January 3, 2019 to February 18, 2019 relating to landfill monitoring and technical reviews of Republic/Allied Waste's Livingston and Streator Area Landfills, for environmental/solid waste landfill consulting service to Livingston County was submitted to the committee. Gerald Earing moved, seconded by John Slagel, that this committee approve the payment of this invoice. This motion was approved by a voice vote.

Executive Session Pursuant to 5/ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) – Litigation - None

Action Resulting from Executive Session- None

Adjournment:

Then Paul Ritter moved, seconded by Patrick Killian, that this meeting be adjourned. This motion was approved unanimously.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Charles T. Schopp, Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission