

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF February 14, 2019 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.

Pastor Jan Ambrose presented the invocation. Chairman Robert Young extended his appreciation to Pastor Ambrose for scheduling the ministers for our meetings. Carolyn Gerwin led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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, Michael L. Kirkton, Patrick D. Killian, Jason Bunting, John Slagel, John L. Vietti, Joseph D. Steichen, Tim Shafer, G. Michael Ingles, Ronald L. Kestner, Paul A. Ritter, Carolyn Gerwin, Vicki Allen and Bob Young  
**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** County Clerk-Kristy Masching, Executive Director-Alina Hartley, County Highway Engineer-Clay Metcalf and Chief Deputy-Earl Dutko

**AGENDA**

Chairman Young asked for approval of the agenda. Carolyn Gerwin asked that “5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11) Pending Litigation” be added to Executive Session. *Motion by Bunting, second by Blackard to approve the agenda as revised.* **MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Young called for approval of the January 10, 2019 special board meeting minutes. *Motion by Weller, second by Kestner to approve the January 10, 2019 special board meeting minutes.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

**PRESENTATION**

**Resolution (#2019-02-02): Declaring 2019 Respect Week** – Chairman Young announced that he and the county board were happy to be able to participate in a resolution from the Livingston County Board recognizing and proclaiming March 2 through March 9, 2019 as Livingston County Spread the Word to End the Word Respect Week. Kathy Arbogast then read the resolution endorsing the “Spread the Word to End the Word Respect Week” campaign which is an ongoing effort by the Special Olympics and Best Buddies to inspire respect and acceptance through raising the consciousness of society about the R-word and how hurtful words and disrespect can be toward people with intellectual disabilities. Laura Baumgardner, a Life Skill Special Education teacher at PTHS commented that this was the third year they’ve had the board proclaim “Respect” week throughout the county. Ms. Baumgardner also stated that PTHS is one of the top 30 inaugural schools, selected from schools and colleges throughout the nation, to receive the National Banner Award from Special Olympics as a Unified Champion Banner School. She also noted that ESPN named PTHS as the top honor roll school in Illinois. Ms. Baumgardner also invited everyone to participate in the 5K for Respect Fun run/walk/virtual walk to be held in April 13. *Motion by Killian, second by Ritter to adopt the resolution recognizing March 2 through March 9, 2019 as Livingston County Spread the Word to End the Word Respect Week.*

Mike Ingles remoted into the meeting from his vacation site last month. He had a hard time hearing some of the discussion due to members not speaking directly into the microphones. As a result, he reminded the members to lean into their microphones and speak at all times.

Paul Ritter welcomed Wayne Talbot, who was visiting from Cambridge in the United Kingdom. He has been working with PTHS students and area groups on environmental endeavors as well as trying to engage students in career skills and trades.

## APPEARANCES

None

## CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Bills
- B. Appointments
  - a) **William Flott** – Vermilion Valley Emergency Telephone System Board
  - b) **David Lowe** – Trustee appointment to the Saunemin Fire Protection District, to fill unexpired term commencing February 1, 2019 and expiring April 30, 2019. Re-appointment as trustee, three year term commencing May 1, 2019 and expiring May 2022.
  - c) **Scott Sand** – Livingston County Regional Planning Commission, four year term commencing February 19, 2019 and expiring February 18, 2023.
  - d) **Jeff Mueller** – Commissioner appointment to Eastern Indian Creek Drainage District

Chairman Young called for approval of the consent agenda. *Motion by Ritter, second by Blackard for approval of the Consent Agenda.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Arbogast, Weller, Ambrose, Carley, Lovell, Vitzthum, Mays, Earing, Runyon, Blackard, Wilkey, Kirkton, Killian, Bunting, Slagel, Vietti, Steichen, Shafer, Ingles, Kestner, Ritter, Gerwin, Young and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** None

## FINANCE

**Circuit Clerk Semi-Annual Report** – Committee Chairman Tim Shafer reported that Ms. LeAnn Dixon had reviewed her report with the committee noting that there was a correlation between the fines and the jail population, fines were down when the jail population was down. *Motion by Shafer, second by Wilkey to approve the Circuit Clerk's Semi-Annual Report for the last half of FY2018.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Arbogast, Weller, Ambrose, Carley, Lovell, Vitzthum, Mays, Earing, Runyon, Blackard, Wilkey, Kirkton, Killian, Bunting, Slagel, Vietti, Steichen, Shafer, Ingles, Kestner, Ritter, Gerwin, Young and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** None

**Resolution (#2019-02-03): Authorizing End of Year Transfers** – Chairman Shafer explained that this resolution would allow the county to formally transfer \$26,700 to cover line item expenses that came in late at the end of FY 2018. *Motion by Wilkey, second by Arbogast to approve the resolution authorizing the End of Year Transfers.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Arbogast, Weller, Ambrose, Carley, Lovell, Vitzthum, Mays, Earing, Runyon, Blackard, Wilkey, Kirkton, Killian, Bunting, Slagel, Vietti, Steichen, Shafer, Ingles, Kestner, Ritter, Gerwin, Young and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** None

## HIGHWAY

Committee Chairman Steve Lovell introduced County Highway Engineer-Clay Metcalf who reviewed the **Action Agenda Items** as follows:

- a) **Letting Results:** February 5, 2019 Letting
- b) **Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation: (Resolution #2019-02-04)** Federal-Aid Agreement for replacement of Structure No. 053-3216 in Esmen Road District. Estimated division of cost = \$206,400 FHWA, \$51,600 split 50-50 to Livingston County and Esmen Road District. Includes Resolution appropriating County Aid to Bridge funds for Local Agency share of cost.
- c) **Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation: (Resolution #2019-02-05)** Federal-Aid Agreement for replacement of Structure No. 053-3230 in Esmen Road District. Estimated division of cost = \$180,800 FHWA, \$45,200 split 50-50 to Livingston County and Esmen Road District. Includes Resolution appropriating County Aid to Bridge funds for Local Agency share of cost.
- d) **Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation: (Resolution #2019-02-06)** Federal-Aid Agreement for resurfacing CH 16 (Ancona Road, 300E) between Long Point Spur (2640N) IL Rt. 17 (3000N), Sect. No. 12-00062-02-RS. Estimated division of cost = \$664,000 FHWA, \$100,000 State Matching Assistance, \$66,000 Livingston County. Includes Resolution appropriating County

Matching  
Tax funds for Local Agency share of cost.

- e) **Bridge Petition:** Union Road District – SN 053-3179 (2500N, 2890E), \$325,000 – Replacement, TBP
- f) **Engineering Agreement:** Union Road District – SN 053-3179, Hampton Lenzini & Renwick (HLR) – STP-Br Program FY 20. – Design for Repair of Existing Bridge, Cost not to exceed \$28,000 including soil borings. Right-of-way engineering and environmental coordination to be done at consultant’s schedule of chargeable rates.

*Motion by Lovell, second by Weller to approve all of the action items with one roll call vote.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Arbogast, Weller, Ambrose, Carley, Lovell, Vitzthum, Mays, Earing, Runyon, Blackard, Wilkey, Kirkton, Killian, Bunting, Slagel, Vietti, Steichen, Shafer, Ingles, Kestner, Ritter, Gerwin, Young and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** None

#### **SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE**

**Sheriff’s Annual Report & Sheriff’s Semi-Annual Report** - Committee Chair Kathy Arbogast reported that they had reviewed both reports in detail at their committee meeting. *Motion by Arbogast, second by Ambrose to approve both the Sheriff’s Annual Report and Semi-Annual Report with one roll call vote.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Arbogast, Weller, Ambrose, Carley, Lovell, Vitzthum, Mays, Earing, Runyon, Blackard, Wilkey, Kirkton, Killian, Bunting, Slagel, Vietti, Steichen, Shafer, Ingles, Kestner, Ritter, Gerwin, Young and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** None

**Liquor License Application: FALS, LLC (Fairbury American Legion Speedway)** – Committee Chair Arbogast stated that this was a new license application for the speedway since there was a new majority owner. *Motion by Arbogast, second by Wilkey to approve the liquor license for FALS, LLC (Fairbury American Legion Speedway).* **MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

#### **AG & ZONING**

No report.

#### **ELECTION, RULES & LEGISLATION**

Committee Chairman Jim Carley reported that his committee approved the four appointments under the consent agenda.

#### **PUBLIC PROPERTY**

Committee Chairman Ingles reported that Don’s report contained the details and if anyone had questions they could contact him or Don Verdun. He also reported that Farnsworth is in the final stage of the design documents for the new H & E building. They will have the finished product for review at the March committee and board meetings.

#### **PERSONNEL**

Chairman Jack Vietti reported that they met in joint session with Finance on February 6 in Executive Session.

#### **VETERANS ASSISTANCE**

Chairman Ron Kestner reported that they welcomed a new member, Mike Kirkton at their February 4 meeting and approved the bills as presented.

#### **INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY**

Committee Chairwoman Vicki Allen reported that Jon Sear reviewed his monthly report with the committee. Vicki highlighted her report as follows: the hard drive for the L&J Center camera system went down, he performed a ghost copy and avoided replacement, saving \$3,000; met with Representative Bennett and Sheriff concerning getting all the schools on the same camera system; and reported that the projection screens located in the Historic Courthouse and Law & Justice Center (same manufacturer) and are defective, the chemicals used on

them is disintegrating. The company allowed us a discount of over 50% for the screens replacement which will include installation from a secondary company. Sear also received a request from the Boys & Girls Club for used computer equipment. He was able to donate used but functional units which were wiped clean and normally would have been recycled through ATR recycling.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

Chairman Young reported that the first Strategic Planning Session was held the night before (February 13). He felt they received a lot of great information and had good discussion. He noted the breakout sessions would be held next week with the department heads. He thanked Alina, Diane and Ginger for their hard work in planning and preparing for the session.

#### **LIVINGSTON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY**

John Slagel did not have a report since they didn't meet this month.

#### **MID CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION**

Bill Wilkey reported that their next meeting would be held at the Historic Courthouse on March 20 at 6:00 p.m. He also noted that they had been very busy helping citizens with relief on their utility services.

#### **BOARD OF HEALTH**

Joe Steichen did not have a report since they didn't meet this month.

#### **LIVINGSTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH**

Jack Vietti reported that their next meeting would be held at the Public Health building on Thursday, February 21 at 4:00 p.m.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Earl Rients voiced his concerns over whether the Board represented their constituents or their own opinions, had allegiance to their God and whether giving a multi-billion dollar corporation a million dollars of tax payer's money was justified by cutting a program geared at helping Livingston County residents.

Jerry Gordon voiced his opinion on the work he and others had done for over a year to get the Board to reconsider sunsetting the Community Healthcare Program only to be avoided, insulted or ignored. He noted that the people's referendum passed with 9,949 votes thus indicating their support of the program. The people have a place in guiding their government and are not going away nor would forget what's happened.

Alice Gordon, an RN/Nurse Practitioner also expressed her feelings of support for the Community Healthcare Program and their petition/referendum work. She stated that all the votes counted whether you were a property owner and paid taxes or not. The number of votes indicated a mandate from the people and asked the members to address it at their meetings.

Joan Lipinski commented on how she and an expanding group of citizens had been working to engage the Board to reconsider their decision of eliminating the Livingston County Community Healthcare Program through various means of communication methods and finally with an advisory referenda. She voiced the following concerns: that the Board hadn't addressed their request to reconsider the program even after overwhelming public support of the advisory referendum; Board didn't have a contingency plan for the referendum outcome; the Board has been unwilling to investigate alternative funding sources to accommodate the voters; and the Board hadn't addressed their constituents advice in a public meeting.

Ed Lipinski commented on the Community Healthcare Program as follows: 9,940 voters voted in favor of the program; 7,571 voted for a tax increase even though many were not in favor of a tax increase (feel it's a budget issue); feel that it's time for the Board to do their job, initiate a discussion with the public and find a solution.

Murray McLean, a 35 year resident of Livingston County, former business owner and tax payer feels that the Board should represent and honor the wishes of their constituents as shown by the favorable outcome of the advisory referendum and re-instate the Livingston County Community Healthcare Program.

Bob Weller announced that there would be a public hearing at the Dwight Village Hall on Tuesday, February 19 at 6:00 p.m., for discussion on a proposed Detention Center. He urged the members in attendance to attend and learn about this proposal. He noted that in the event the room is not large enough, they would be moving the meeting to the St. Patrick's Catholic Church Community Hall.

There was a five minute break beginning at 6:50 p.m. and ending at 6:55 p.m. Executive Session commenced at 6:55 p.m., with regular session resuming at 7:10 p.m.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) Pending Litigation was made by Gerwin, second by Blackard. MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:* Arbogast, Weller, Ambrose, Carley, Lovell, Vitzthum, Mays, Earing, Runyon, Blackard, Wilkey, Kirkton, Killian, Bunting, Slagel, Vietti, Steichen, Shafer, Ingles, Kestner, Ritter, Gerwin, Young and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** None

#### **ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

#### **CLOSING CEREMONY**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m., on motion by Ritter, second by Earing. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES ON VOICE VOTE.*

**Bob Young, Chairman**

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching  
County Clerk

April 11, 2019  
Approved