

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF July 11, 2019 MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD

OPENING

County Board Chairman Bob 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 Victor Randall of the New Life Assembly of God Church in Dwight presented the invocation. Bill Mays led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The clerk called roll with the following **present:** Kathy Arbogast, Linda Ambrose, Steven Lovell, John Vitzthum, William Mays, Gerald Earing, Mark Runyon, James Blackard, Bill Wilkey, Michael L. Kirkton, Patrick D. Killian, Jason Bunting, John L. Vietti, Tim Shafer, Gina Manker, Paul A. Ritter, Marty Fannin, Bob Young and Vicki Allen **Absent:** Robert F. Weller, James A. Carley, John Slagel, Joseph D. Steichen and Ronald L. Kestner

Also Present: County Clerk-Kristy Masching, Executive Director-Alina Hartley, Orry Cummings-SmartWatt and County Highway Engineer-Clay Metcalf

AGENDA

Chairman Young called for approval of the agenda as presented. *Motion by Lovell, second by Ritter to approve the agenda as presented.* **MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Young noted that the June minutes would be approved in August.

PRESENTATION

None

APPEARANCES

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Bills
- B. Appointments:
 - a) **Richard Kiefer** – reappointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals, five year term, commencing July 17, 2019 and expiring July 16, 2024.
 - b) **Dennis Wenger (Resolution #2019-07-22)** – Trustee reappointment to the Fairbury Rural Fire Protection District, three year term commencing May 6, 2019 and expiring the first Monday in May, 2022.
 - c) **Merle Jehle** – Trustee reappointment to the Cullom Fire Protection District, three year term commencing May 6, 2019 and expiring the first Monday in May, 2022.
 - d) **Neil Turner** – Trustee reappointment to the Emington-Campus Fire Protection District, three year term commencing May 6, 2019 and expiring the first Monday in May, 2022.

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

HIGHWAY

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

- a) **Letting Results:** July 2, 2019 Letting
- b) **Quarterly Report:** 2nd Quarter, FY 19
- c) **Engineering Agreement:** Addendum to Nevada Road District – Section 18-16110-03-FL, (3250N, 1900E), – Railroad Crossing Safety Project per Illinois Commerce Commission, Hampton Lenzini & Renwick (HLR), Estimated Cost = \$2,500.

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

FINANCE

Resolution (#2019-07-23) SmartWatt Energy Savings Investment – Committee Chair Tim Shafer stated that this resolution with a ceiling dollar amount of \$1,456,697 to be extended, with the gist of the expenditure ultimately being to get this money back through energy savings and management both in terms of equipment and the manner in which we deal with utilities, from the company called SmartWatt. This has gone back through Property Committee for about eighteen months and was forwarded on to Finance for their review. Shafer explained that the Finance Committee had discussed it and had come to the conclusion that since the idea was to spend the money and recoup it over time that it was an endeavor that should be made. *Motion by Shafer, second by Killian to approve the Resolution authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Tax-Free equipment lease purchase agreement and related documents, and authorizing the Chairman to enter into a Measurement and verification Services Agreement with SmartWatt with the maximum total project cost not to exceed \$1,456,697.* Orry Cummings from SmartWatt was present to answer questions. Discussion highlights follow. Once the scope of the project is set, a financing option will be selected. Both committees had approved Scenario 1 which included the chillers. SmartWatt is working with more than a dozen counties on similar projects. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Arbogast, Ambrose, Lovell, Vitzthum, Mays, Earing, Runyon, Blackard, Wilkey, Kirkton, Killian, Bunting, Vietti, Shafer, Manker, Ritter, Fannin, Young and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Weller, Carley, Slagel, Steichen and Kestner

County Clerk: Semi-Annual Report – Committee Chair Shafer reported that County Clerk Kristy Masching had reviewed her report with the committee which was provided at the meeting and in the packet. *Motion by Shafer, second by Wilkey to approve the County Clerk’s Semi-Annual Report.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Arbogast, Ambrose, Lovell, Vitzthum, Mays, Earing, Runyon, Blackard, Wilkey, Kirkton, Killian, Bunting, Vietti, Shafer, Manker, Ritter, Fannin, Young and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Weller, Carley, Slagel, Steichen and Kestner

SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE

Committee Chair Kathy Arbogast reported that various departments had presented their budget and capital requests to the committee.

Sheriff’s Semi-Annual Report - *Motion by Arbogast, second by Ambrose to approve the Sherriff’s Semi-Annual Report.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Arbogast, Ambrose, Lovell, Vitzthum, Mays, Earing, Runyon, Blackard, Wilkey, Kirkton, Killian, Bunting, Vietti, Shafer, Manker, Ritter, Fannin, Young and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Weller, Carley, Slagel, Steichen and Kestner

ELECTION, RULES & LEGISLATION

Committee Vice-Chair (in the absence of Chairman Carley) reported that they had reviewed the appointments approved on the Consent Agenda.

Resolution (#2019-07-24): Referendum Questions Regarding New Tax Rate & an Increase in the Limiting Rate Applicable under PTELL - *Motion by Allen, second by Manker to approve the Resolution placing the referendum question regarding a new tax rate and an increase in the limiting rate applicable under PTELL (for purpose of providing social services for senior citizens).* Discussion took place. Chairman Young noted that this had been discussed for months and if the Board approves this resolution it will be on the March 17, 2020 ballot for approval of the county voters. If the voters do not approve it, then discussion of the home healthcare issue is over. Ms. Hartley explained that the tax that would be levied would be specifically for senior citizens social services. She stated that Public Health Department could continue their programs but they would need to do that under their own levy. This particular statute that is being used to levy this tax is specifically for senior citizens which is why the resolution (Section 1) is worded the way it is. We're asking the voters to vote for it for this particular purpose, but down the road should Public Health choose to do something different, they technically could as long as it was geared towards senior citizens social services. The intent is that it would be used for this program that the Board approves as part of their budget process. The statute does not define at what age a person is considered a senior citizen. The Finance Committee would need to determine the amount to levy each year as part of their budget process. This resolution would give you the authority to levy up to the maximum rate of .025% and also authorizes you to exceed our PTELL limitation. It only gives the Board the authority to exceed the limit this coming year. The PTELL calculation is based off the prior year. Once you do that, you will have a new calculation based off of the higher rate. You wouldn't be exceeding the PTELL calculation year after year, but would exceed it the first year. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Arbogast, Lovell, Vitzthum, Blackard, Wilkey, Vietti, Shafer, Manker, Ritter, Young and Allen **Nays:** Ambrose, Mays, Earing, Runyon, Kirkton, Killian, Bunting and Fannin **Absent:** Weller, Carley, Slagel, Steichen and Kestner

PERSONNEL

Committee Chair Vietti reported that they had discussed the Human Resources Department budget noting that it was reduced slightly from last year. Ms. Harris reported on employee turnover and provided information on a perfect attendance incentive she was working on to implement sometime in the future.

AG & ZONING

No report

PUBLIC PROPERTY

Committee Vice-Chair John Vitzthum (in the absence of Chairman Killian) reported the following items: had spoken with Mr. Vaughn on the possibility of a lease with IHR following the construction of the Health Building; reviewed the budget and capital requests with Don Verdun; and reviewed his monthly bills.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Chairman Young reported that some of the Board members would be attending a work session in Galena.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE

Linda Ambrose (in the absence of Committee Chair Ron Kestner) reported the following: they discussed the 2020 budget and referred on to Finance; clarified how donations could be made to the County Color Guard; learned that the vans are running good; and noted that they were under budget.

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

Committee Chair Vicki Allen reported that they reviewed the IT Department 2020 Budget with Jon noting that he was able to shift some expenses around to allow for the hiring of an additional part-time employee. Sear doesn't have any capital requests but he's looking to get estimates from Frontier on the addition of paging speakers. He's currently working with the state on the video arraignment. He's looking to utilize Zoom at a cost of \$600 a year, with DOC to contribute half of the cost and the remaining portion to be paid out of court automation. Updates to the Sage software (HR & Bookkeeping program) have been installed and are currently in the testing phase. The IT Department also participated in the active shooter training.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

No report

MID CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION

Bill Wilkey shared a power point presentation about the Mid Central Community Action organization and the services they provide to the community and county. Wilkey stated that their office is located at 320 W. Madison in Pontiac. Last year they provided assistance to over 700 people with their utility bills.

BOARD OF HEALTH

No report

LIVINGSTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH

Jack Vietti reported that they met on July 1 and reviewed their FY2020 budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

There was a recess from 6:30 p.m. until 6:35 p.m. Executive session commenced at 7:18 p.m. Open session resumed at 6:40 p.m.

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action taken.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

*The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m., on motion by Bunting, second by Lovell. **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES ON VOICE VOTE.***

Bob Young, Chairman

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching
County Clerk

August 15, 2019
Approved