

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 MEETING

The committee chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm at the Livingston County Historic Courthouse, 112 W. Madison St., Pontiac, Illinois and roll call was taken.

Present: Jason Bunting, Gerald Earing, Patrick Killian, Steven Lovell, Tim Shafer and John Slagel.

Absent: Paul Ritter.

Others Present: Additional County Representatives included: County Board Chair Bob Young, Non Committee County Board member Gina Manker, interested citizen Brad Maley and county farm bureau representative Shelby Hoerner.

Committee Chair Jason Bunting commented about the agenda for this September 12, 2019 meeting, Gerald Earing moved, seconded by Tim Shafer, 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 August 6, 2019 committee meeting. John Slagel moved, seconded by Steve Lovell, that these meetings minutes be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Business:

Discuss the Regulation of Cannabis Businesses:

The committee members were presented with copies of three documents related to the State of Illinois's new cannabis regulations. One document was titled "Is your Community Ready for Recreational Cannabis?" from Ancel Glink. This document noted that a community can opt out or significantly limit cannabis businesses. A 1000 foot setback from the perimeter of school grounds, a playground, a public park or a public library was mentioned. The second document was copies of parts of House Bill 1438, which pertains to the State of Illinois new cannabis regulations and taxation. From this document it was related that conditional or special uses can be part of the zoning process. The third document was a copy of a model ordinance pertaining to municipal cannabis business zoning. Information in this document provided pertinent definitions regarding cannabis businesses, and again indicated as to how condition or special uses can be part of the regulations. Comments were made in that since these are newer regulations, many government entities are researching how to address the potential new cannabis businesses. It was also mentioned that at this point the state makes reference to 17 adult recreational cannabis dispensary regions, in which limits are initially made as to the number of dispensary licenses that will be allowed in each region. It appears that Livingston County is in the West Central Illinois nonmetropolitan area, in which 3 licenses would initially be allowed. This reflects that only 3 dispensary licenses will be issued over a larger geographic area.

However, a continued discussion should take place as to how Livingston County may address the zoning issues related to cannabis businesses in case the county is approached about the development of such a use. The zoning administrator suggested that this review of regulations cannabis businesses continue next month with cultivation businesses being considered as special uses in the agriculture and industrial zoning districts, and that the dispensary business be considered as special uses in commercial districts. The county limitations on the areas of industrial and commercial districts were mentioned, as the larger municipalities have their own zoning regulations and would separately regulate these uses. The committee agreed to allow for the zoning administrator to draft some language for zoning regulations related to cannabis businesses as special uses in appropriate districts. The committee will review this issue again at their next meeting. The Livingston County Regional Planning Commission and Livingston County Zoning Board of Appeals will be part of the review process for cannabis businesses zoning regulations.

Solid Waste Report – Review of a synopsis of solid waste related documents:

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, including information on sealing the caisson wells and a proposed enclosed flare test on October 7th. NPDES reports, and private well sampling results. A new permit has been issued for Livingston Landfill which considers parcels A, B and C as closed, with parcel D remaining as the active cell. Deigan and Associates provided their submittal reviews, of which copies were provided to the committee members. Two areas of this report were highlighted, with one pertaining to IEPA comments related to the proposed leachate phytoremediation permit application. The second Deigan and Associates comment pertained to the representatives meeting at the landfill the day of the Livingston Landfill open house, with these comments including mention of the proposed cell construction in 2020. Monthly host fee information was also provided to the committee.

Recycling Projects Update:

Communication has taken place regarding an electronics recycling event in Dwight, probably sometime in October. Mention was made that the battery recycling program needs to be evaluated as to how to continue the program. An invoice from Dynamic regarding the electronic and battery recycling projects was part of the committee information documents.

Property Use Complaints Process Updates:

The property use complaints process continues as time allows.

All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update:

The next mitigation planning meeting will in December at 7 pm follow this committees December meeting.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee:

The committee was provided information regarding a potential amendment to the Livingston County Comprehensive Plan, pertaining to solar farm areas. The committee was also informed about Tri-County Planning Commission seeking a grant pertaining to the 2020 Census. Livingston County is part of the 10 county North Central Region, of which the Tri-County Planning Commission is considering being a coordinator for census outreach efforts. It was agreed that Livingston County would support this effort, without making any commitments regarding the county's participation.

Public Comment:

Brad Maley expressed his frustration on how long it is taking to complete the administration of his subdivision plat. Efforts are being made to complete this task.

Review and Approval of Bills:

An invoice with a total amount of \$ 3,178.75 from Deigan and Associates, LLC for Professional Services for the period from July 31, 2019 to September 9, 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. An invoice from Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations, for the battery and electronic recycling projects in the amount of \$1,474.65 was also reviewed by the committee. Patrick Killian moved, seconded by Steven Lovell, that this committee approve the payment of these invoices. This motion was approve by a voice vote.

Adjournment:

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

This meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Charles T. Schopp, Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission