

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF August 15, 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 Rod Kodavatikanti of the River of Life Outreach Church presented the invocation. Michael Kirkton (in the absence of Paul Ritter) 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, William Mays, Gerald Earing, Mark Runyon, James Blackard, Bill Wilkey, Michael L. Kirkton, Patrick D. Killian, Jason Bunting, John Slagel, John L. Vietti, Tim Shafer, Gina Manker, Ronald L. Kestner, Marty Fannin, Bob Young and Vicki Allen     **Absent:** John Vitzthum (arrived at 7:45 p.m.), Joseph D. Steichen, Paul A. Ritter (arrived at 6:25 p.m.)

**Also Present:** County Clerk-Kristy Masching, Executive Director-Alina Hartley, Ryan McGuckin-Superintendent of Woodland Schools, Teachers-Hanna Cox & Cathy Kalnicky-Woodland School District, GLCEDC CEO-Adam Dontz, The Farnsworth Group Representatives-Neil Finlin, Dave Burnison and Jeff Gastel, Zoning Administrator-Chuck Schopp and Circuit Clerk-LeAnn Dixon

**AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Young called for approval of the June 13 and July 11, 2019 board meeting minutes. *Motion by Bunting, second by Fannin to approve the June 13 and July 11, 2019 board meeting minutes.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

**PRESENTATION**

**GLCEDC & Woodland Schools STEM Update** – Adam Dontz-GLCEDC stated that the County Board had provided grants to four Livingston County school districts for their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs with Woodland (K-12 district) being the second of the four to present information to the Board on how their \$37,500 grant was being utilized. Superintendent Ryan McGuckin and two STEM teachers, Hannah Cox and Cathy Kalnicky provided the following information: started their STEM program two years ago; has grown from two classes into three classes, one for Jr. High students and two for high school students; Math and Science Departments have become intertwined as a result; \$37,500 grant was the starter with local businesses contributing as well; has increased student thought process and participation in computer science, coding and engineering; goal was to incorporate more engineering practices that were incorporated within the science standards through the state; have developed a program which would allow a student to take up to 5 years of STEM based courses from grade school through high school; and noted that the goal this year was to incorporate real world problems such as building prosthetics, energy efficient housing and an assistive devices ramp. They extended their appreciation to the Board for their financial contribution.

**APPEARANCES**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Bills
- B. Appointments:
  - a) **Joe Stock** – appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals, unexpired term (replacing Marty Fannin) commencing August 16, 2019 and expiring January 23, 2023.

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

### **PUBLIC PROPERTY**

**Resolution (2019-08-25): Approving the new Health Building Construction Project and Accepting the Low Bid Proposal Submitted by Peoria Metro** - Committee Chair Chairman Killian introduced The Farnsworth Group-Neil Finlan, Dave Burnison and Jeff Gastel who presented a review and update of materials presented in prior board meetings regarding the new Public Health building. Finlan noted the following highlights: step 5 of the 6 step process had been completed with construction and monitoring of the construction being the final step; provided a brief history of the Planning and Design Process from December 2017 to the present; noted that building orientation discussion had taken place with the preference being that the building be oriented towards Torrance Avenue; and the Board selected Concept 2 (build on new current site) to proceed into the schematic design phase. The primary request regarding the Site Plan was that the existing building remain operational during construction and that the entry remain oriented towards Torrance Avenue. Finlan spoke on some of the issues which would need to be addressed if the site of the new building was on the north side of the existing building. He also commented on the issues with the other buildings which were considered such as the K-Mart Building (Concept 3) and the building located on the corner of Ladd and Washington streets (Concept 4), noting that there were not many existing properties with the right size and configuration. Finlan reported on the bidding process noting that they had received a cluster of three lower bids, all coming in higher than what was hoped for. He noted that the overage difference was in the site costs such as earthwork, site, storm, water and site paving. He reviewed the work schedule with a substantial move-in date set for June 2020 and the final project completion date being November 2020.

Discussion highlights included the following items: pros and cons of utilizing the K-Mart building; disadvantage if the new building entrance faced Manlove Street due to utility, storm and sanitary sewer pipe placement around existing building; noted that the existing building sits in the wrong spot for The Farnsworth Group to make it work as economically as they'd like or as functionally as they could; reasons the estimated cost increased from \$5.3 to \$6 million; underestimated allowances for some costs such as bid site costs, furniture and technology; the actual bid results from the contractors came in higher than what was anticipated; eight bids were submitted with three of them being \$5.1, \$5.2 and \$5.4 million; the placement and size of the retention pond; the conditions that warranted the expenditure of a \$7.2 million building; the design of the building was an outcome of a programming process with the users of the various parts of the building which led to the unique size and shape of the building; noted that the use of the building depended on the funding of the different services that were offered and could change over time; wouldn't be as much site preparation by placing the building on the north side; and the privacy issue and lack of a discrete entrance is a bogus reason for not using the K-Mart building due to the fact that the Hope Pregnancy Center is located downtown between two courthouses. Ms. Hartley stated that the increase in the Farnsworth proposal from their last presentation versus where we were today was \$1.2 million and was attributed to the following item increases: construction costs (+\$689,000); furniture was increased based on what was spent, on average, for the other buildings for furniture and rolling filing cabinets (+\$280,000); security equipment, access control and telephone systems (+\$80,000); and contingency increase of \$100,000., for a total of \$1.149 million. Ms. Hartley noted that with the exception of the construction costs the additional increases came from items we looked at internally and came up with the estimated costs for. She added that we also used our experience in what we had done with the Historic Courthouse and the Law and Justice Center to come up with the other estimates which was felt to be an accurate projection. *Motion by Weller, second by Vietti to move forward with the new Health Building Construction Project and accept the low bid proposal submitted by Peoria Metro.* It was noted that this issue could come up for discussion and further review at a later date if it failed to pass at this time. **MOTION FAILED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Weller, Carley, Lovell, Killian, Bunting, Vietti, Kestner and Young **Nays:** Arbogast, Ambrose, Vitzthum, Mays, Earing, Runyon, Blackard, Wilkey, Kirkton, Slagel, Shafer, Manker, Ritter, Fannin and Allen **Absent:** Steichen

### AG & ZONING

**Resolution (#2019-08-26) Zoning Case: SF-1-19 & V-4-19 Wenger Subdivision (2 Lot Subdivision) –** Zoning Administrator-Chuck Schopp explained that this property development proposal pertained to a 5.75 acre parcel of land located on the end of Pine Street in an unincorporated area in the west area of Fairbury. The Wengers were proposing a 2 lot subdivision to allow a lot to be created for future residential development, while leaving the existing farm buildings on their own lot. This proposal also included a variance request (ZBA approved) for one lot which would be 35 feet instead of 150 feet as stipulated in AG, Agriculture, and District property. The Regional Planning Commission, the Livingston County Zoning Board of Appeals and the Ag & Zoning Committee have approved this proposal. Schopp also noted that since this property adjoined the City of Fairbury there would be the potential for annexing their property to the City of Fairbury. *Motion by Bunting, second by Killian for approval of Zoning Case: SF-1-19 & V-4-19 Wenger Proposed 2 Lot Subdivision.*

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

Bunting also noted that due to a scheduling conflict in September, the Ag & Zoning Committee meeting would be held at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, prior to the County Board meeting.

### FINANCE

**Resolution (#2019-08-27) Establishing Public Defender's Salary –** Committee Chairman Tim Shafer stated that if a county pays their Public Defender 90% of the State's Attorney's salary, then the State would reimburse the county 66.66% of the Public Defender's salary. Shafer noted that this is what the county had done in the past. *Motion by Shafer, second by Bunting to approve the Resolution establishing the Public Defender's Salary at 90% of the State's Attorney's salary.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Arbogast, Weller, Ambrose, Carley, Lovell, Vitzthum, Mays, Earing, Runyon, Blackard, Wilkey, Kirkton, Killian, Bunting, Slagel, Vietti, Shafer, Manker, Kestner, Ritter, Fannin, Young and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Steichen

**Circuit Clerk: Semi-Annual Report –**Circuit Clerk-LeAnn Dixon reported that there wasn't anything unusual in her report and that they receipted more payments for fines and fees in the first six months due to income tax refunds. *Motion by Shafer, second by Earing to approve the Circuit Clerk's Semi-Annual Report.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Arbogast, Weller, Ambrose, Carley, Lovell, Vitzthum, Mays, Earing, Runyon, Blackard, Wilkey, Kirkton, Killian, Bunting, Slagel, Vietti, Shafer, Manker, Kestner, Ritter, Fannin, Young and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Steichen

### ELECTION, RULES & LEGISLATION

**Resolution (#2019-08-28): Accepting Proposal Submitted by Liberty Systems for Elections Equipment and Services -** Chairman Carley reported that County Clerk Kristy Masching presented the results of the bid process for the new election equipment. Carley noted that two bids had been received, one from our current election vendor Liberty Systems (Unisyn System) and the other from ES&S Election Systems (DS200 System). He stated that Ms. Masching had presented the committee with a dissertation on the pros and cons of both systems which was very informative and that she preferred the Unisyn System. IT Director-Jon Sear had also provided his thoughts on the two systems and stated that he preferred the Unisyn system as well because it used the Linux system which provided a higher level of security and for its redundancy capabilities. Carley reported that there was about a \$34,000 difference between the two bids with the company that didn't have our business (ES&S) offering a customer discount to offset the fact that their equipment was more expensive. Carley stated that one aspect that stood out for him was the high quality of service and technical support our current vendor (Liberty Systems) provides to the county and noted that they are located in central Illinois. It was noted that our current election equipment was fifteen years old. Discussion took place with Ms. Masching providing some additional information. *Motion by Carley, second by Wilkey to approve the proposal submitted by Liberty Systems for the Unisyn equipment, which included a six year service contract.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Arbogast, Weller, Ambrose, Carley, Lovell, Vitzthum, Mays, Earing, Runyon, Blackard, Wilkey, Kirkton, Killian, Bunting, Slagel, Vietti, Shafer, Manker, Kestner, Ritter, Fannin, Young and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Steichen

### **HIGHWAY**

Committee Chairman Steve Lovell reported that there were no action items. He did note that they purchased three pickup trucks from a local dealer who was the low bidder.

### **PERSONNEL**

No report since they didn't meet.

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

Vice-Committee Chair Bob Weller reported that they heard reports from the Sheriff, Pro-Active Unit and on the jail population.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

Chairman Young reported that there had been a lot of activities with all the committees doing a great job working on the budget process.

### **VETERANS ASSISTANCE**

Committee Chair Ron Kestner reported that they had adjusted a couple of line items in their proposed budget for next year.

### **INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY**

Committee Chair Vicki Allen reported that they reviewed Jon's recommendation to request that the addition of a paging system for the Law & Justice Center and Historic Courthouse be added to the list of capital items. Ms. Allen stated that Jon reported that the issue is that if the fire alarm is going off, you can't hear anything coming over the telephones. This request would also include speakers for the hallways, board room, etc. where no phones were located. Jon also reviewed his monthly report as follows: he finished the NACo leadership training; reported that the motor on the screen in the board room needed to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$2,000; and that he had been working with Kristy Masching on the replacement of the election equipment and he also preferred the Unisyn equipment based on the redundancy and security.

### **LIVINGSTON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY**

John Slagel reported a meeting was held on July 18 but he was unable to attend due to being on a family vacation. He did report the following from the minutes he procured: elected new officers (same as last years); most of the rental units were full; and wrapped up their summer lunch for kids program which served about 30-40 kids each day. The next meeting will be held on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

### **MID CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION**

Bill Wilkey reported that they didn't have a meeting and their office had moved to their new location.

### **BOARD OF HEALTH**

No report

### **LIVINGSTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH**

Jack Vietti reported that their next meeting is Thursday, September 19.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joan Lipinski commented on the Board's decision to place two tax increase referendum questions on the March 17, 2020 General Primary ballot after the Community Healthcare Program advisory question had passed. She noted that the Board said they would examine the issue while setting the FY 2020 budget, but felt that there was no evidence that that had occurred. Her concern is that the Board would be asking citizens to pay extra taxes for a program that hadn't been developed nor had a program been crafted to educate the public. She felt that it would be a good idea for the board members to respond to the public's wishes. On another note, she wondered when the bugs would be cleaned out of the ceiling lights in the board room.

Alice Gordon's comments were directed to the Public Health Building discussion and Jim Blackard's impassioned statements which were encouraging to her. She felt that Board members were finally noticing the issue and discussing both sides instead of voting along the line of the committee chairman. Ms. Gordon also noted that she had gone on a tour of the building and definitely felt that a new building was needed. She also stated that since environmental services such as well permits, water testing and septic system permits/inspections were offered there, 100% of our population whether in a direct or indirect manner utilized the Public Health Building.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

There was a recess from 7:35 p.m. until 7:40 p.m. Executive session commenced at 7:40 p.m. Open session resumed at 8:00 p.m.

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

*Motion by Wilkey, second by Manker to amend the agreement with the Attorney General's Office extending the dates. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Arbogast, Weller, Ambrose, Carley, Lovell, Vitzthum, Mays, Earing, Runyon, Blackard, Wilkey, Kirkton, Killian, Bunting, Slagel, Shafer, Manker, Kestner, Ritter, Fannin, Young and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Vietti (left at 7:35 p.m.) and Steichen*

*Motion by Fannin, second by Ritter to approve legal counsel for the County to move forward with litigation with respect to ADA issues at the Livingston County Law & Justice Center. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Arbogast, Weller, Ambrose, Carley, Lovell, Vitzthum, Mays, Earing, Runyon, Blackard, Wilkey, Kirkton, Killian, Bunting, Slagel, Shafer, Manker, Kestner, Ritter, Fannin, Young and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Vietti (left at 7:35 p.m.) and Steichen*

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m., on motion by Lovell, second by Kestner. **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES ON VOICE VOTE.***

**Bob Young, Chairman**

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching  
County Clerk

October 17, 2019  
Approved