

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 8, 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, and John Slagel.

Absent: Tim Shafer

Others Present: Additional County Representatives included: Interim County Board Chair Kathy Arbogast, Non Committee County Board member Linda Ambrose and County Executive Director Alina Hartley, and Joel Barickman.

Committee Chair Jason Bunting commented about the agenda for this October 8, 2019 meeting, with Mr. Slagel wanting an update on the Maley plat matter being made business part of item e on the agenda. John Slagel 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 September 12, 2019 committee meeting. Patrick Killian moved, seconded by Paul Ritter, 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 documents related to zoning regulations regarding cannabis businesses as special uses in appropriate districts. One document was titled proposed amendments to the Livingston County Zoning Regulations Pertaining to Cannabis. This document reflected proposed new definitions, proposed new special uses to the agriculture, business and industrial districts and a proposal to have the county board make the final decision in regard to cannabis business related special uses. A second document was a model ordinance pertaining to municipal cannabis business zoning. The proposed new definitions came from this document. The third document was highlighted zoning district maps that highlighted zoning districts in which cannabis business could be allowed. The need to comply with the State regulations in addition to local regulations was also mentioned. The intention of considering cannabis business as special uses is to allow for a hearing and discussion on issues that could have an effect on area uses, such as water use by a cannabis cultivation center. The committee discussed cannabis business issues. A discussion on cannabis production in comparison to hemp production also took place. The state's limitations on cannabis business licensing were also commented about. State limitations in licensing could limit the interest in such businesses in our area.

Paul Ritter moved, seconded by John Slagel to allow for the zoning administrator to proceed with formalize the proposed cannabis business special uses as an official zoning text amendment. This motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote. The Livingston County Regional Planning Commission and Livingston County Zoning Board of Appeals will be part of the review process pertaining to text amendments related to 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 discontinuing the use of some gas wells because of reduced gas production in the area of some gas wells and a proposed enclosed flare test on October 7th and 8th. Also mentioned were NPDES reports and groundwater well monitoring results. It was also noted that waste is now being placed at the top of the active cell. Comments on a recent IEPA inspection at the Streator Area Landfill were also made. No violations were cited as a result of this inspection. Updated signage at the landfill gates will be placed to replace the older worn signs. Monthly host fee information was also provided to the committee.

Recycling Projects Update:

Communications continue to take place regarding an electronics recycling event in Dwight, probably sometime in October. The planning commission administrator attended a meeting at which battery recycling was discussed. A reliable battery recycling program operated by call2recycle was part of this program. This battery recycling program will be reviewed as the battery recycling program is evaluated.

Discussion on the Comprehensive Plan relating to solar energy development:

Copies of the proposed comprehensive plan amendment were presented to the county board members. Copies of the minutes of the Livingston County Regional Planning Commission meetings at which this amendment was discussed were also given to the committee members. The discussion in these minutes will add to the perceptive for considering this amendment. The committee will review this information and discuss this matter at a future meeting. If this proposal would move forward as a formal comprehensive plan text amendment a public hearing by the regional planning commission would held, prior to this issue coming back to the county board.

Property Use Complaints Process Updates:

The property use complaints process continues as time allows. The issues in the Cayuga area will be part of the areas focused on.

The Maley property plat has yet to be recorded, as efforts will continue to accomplish this matter.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee: None

Public Comment:

Interim County Board Chair Kathy Arbogast mentioned the presence of Joel Barickman, whom is to be proposed to fill the vacant seat on the county board.

Review and Approval of Bills:

An invoice with a total amount of \$ 1,754,75 from Deigan and Associates, LLC for Professional Services for the period from September 17, 2019 to September 30, 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 Paul Ritter, that this committee approve the payment of these invoices. This motion was approve by a voice vote.

Adjournment:

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

This meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Charles T. Schopp, Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission