

## AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 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, Tim Shafer and John Slagel.

Absent: None

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

Committee Chair Jason Bunting commented about the agenda for this November 5, 2019 meeting, Gerald Earing 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 October 8, 2019 committee meeting. Paul Ritter moved, seconded by Patrick Killian, that these meetings minutes be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Business:

Review of 2020 Deigan and Associates Proposal and Work Agreement:

The committee members were provided with a copy of a 2020 Deigan and Associates Proposal and Work Agreement, along with a copy of the existing 2019 agreement to be used for comparison of the hourly billing rates for the Deigan and Associates personnel. An average increase of five and half dollars per hour is being proposed. Discussion took place regarding the proposed personnel hourly billing rates, along with a discussion on the history of the county's use of Deigan and Associates as an environmental consultant. Then John Slagel moved, seconded by Patrick Killian, that this committee recommend the approval of the 2020 Deigan and Associates Proposal and Work Agreement. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

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 enclosed flare testing. Also mentioned were NPDES reports and groundwater well monitoring issues.

Copies of Deigan and Associates Submittal Reviews with comments, Deigan and Associates Livingston Landfill Fall Inspection Report, Deigan and Associates Streator Area Landfill Site Inspection, and the Streator Area Landfill Split Sampling 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter report were presented to and reviewed with the committee members. Monthly host fee information was also provided to the committee.

#### Recycling Projects Update:

Comments were made pertaining to an electronics recycling event in Dwight that took place this past Saturday on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. One entire trailer and 3/4ths of a second trailer were filled with the electronics being shipped for recycling. A Spring 2020 electronic recycling event is being proposed for Fairbury, tentatively on the third Saturday in April.

#### Discussion on the Comprehensive Plan relating to solar energy development:

Copies of the proposed comprehensive plan amendment were presented to the county board members. This proposed text amendment is in regard to limiting solar energy development to 160 acres per township, while recognizing the value of the county's agricultural land, with a preference that solar projects be developed on property of lesser value. 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. Discussion on this proposed comprehensive text amendment then took place, with committee members expressing their opinions that the individual land owners should be allowed to make decisions on use of their own properties, without limitations on acreage used per township. Reasoning for the proposed text amendment was discussed, as a way to spread out potential solar development while still protecting agricultural land, of which protecting agricultural land is a goal of the county's comprehensive plan. Remarks were then made in the differences in the classes of farm land in Livingston County, and how land owners should be trusted to choose farm land in the lesser quality of soil classifications for uses other than conventional crops, such as solar farms, as alternative uses of the land that may be more economical use of the property. Mentions were made as to how solar farms are reviewed as special uses of which should be reviewed and approved or denied on the merits of each proposal. A conversation took place as to how if circumstances pertaining to solar energy development changes in the future, a text amendment can then be considered. The committee discussed potential committee action on this proposal, with Paul Ritter then making a motion, seconded by Patrick Killian, that this proposed comprehensive plan text amendment not be approved for further action. This motion was approved by 6 to 1 by roll call vote, Bunting-Yes, Ritter-Yes, Earing-Yes, Killian-Yes, Lovell-Yes, Shafer-Yes, and Slagel-No.

#### Property Use Complaints Process Updates:

The property use complaints, and will be addressed as time allows. The Maley property plat has yet to be recorded, as the final plat needed to be completed as needed. Dennis Haab noted that the property in Wing had improved pertaining to unused vehicles being removed from the road right of way, but recently has regressed back to its former condition with vehicles being placed on the right of way edge replacing those that had been removed.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee: None

Public Comment: None

Review and Approval of Bills:

An invoice with a total amount of \$6,073.75 from Deigan and Associates, LLC for Professional Services for the period from September 30, 2019 to October 15, 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 approved 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 7:00 p.m.

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Charles T. Schopp, Administrator  
Livingston County Regional  
Planning Commission