

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF November 14, 2019 MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD

OPENING

County Board Chair Kathy Arbogast 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 Charles Ambrose presented the invocation. John Slagel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also Present: County Clerk-Kristy Masching, Executive Director-Alina Hartley, County Highway Engineer-Clay Metcalf and Finance Director-Diane Schwahn

AGENDA

Chair Arbogast stated that VII. Executive Session and VIII. Action Resulting from Executive Session would be removed from the agenda. Chair Arbogast called for approval of the agenda as amended. *Motion by Bunting, second by Fannin to approve the agenda as amended.* **MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Arbogast called for approval of the October 17, 2019 meeting minutes. *Motion by Blackard, second by Wilkey to approve the October 17, 2019 meeting minutes.* **MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

PRESENTATION

Presentation of Service Awards: Chair Arbogast presented a five year service award to Finance Director-Diane Schwahn; a twenty-five year service award to County Highway Engineer-Clay Metcalf; and a thirty year service award to Probation/Court Services Director-Ron Baker.

APPEARANCES

Request to address the Board regarding the FY 2020Budget: Joan Lipinski – Ms. Lipinski presented a brief history on how the Livingston County Community Healthcare Program came to be, what services the program provided to the county residents as well as what actions the public had taken since the Board discontinued the program due to its dwindling funding source. She spoke about the advisory referendum the public had initiated for the November 2018 ballot and the Board’s action of adding an invalid binding tax increase referenda question as well. Ms. Lipinski noted that 84% of the voters were in favor of continuing the program with 64% in favor of a tax increase. She feels that the public wishes to continue the program, and to research for alternate funding sources within the budget, have and continue to be ignored by the County Board. She feels that there is a way for Board members to start listening and working with constituents. The proposed 2020 budget does not reflect the people’s choice for a program. She asked that the members vote no on the budget until funds are re-arranged or plan and vote to transfer funds immediately.

Request to address the Board regarding the FY 2020Budget: Dick Haas – Mr. Haas conveyed his feelings on the Community Healthcare Program. He praised Ms. Lipinski for her knowledge of the Community Healthcare Program and endorsed her recommendations. He commented that the point he wanted to make was that our budget process was willfully inadequate compared to anybody’s professional standards. He feels that it doesn’t make any effort to comply with popular sovereign and self-government and that the members need to talk and reason with each other more.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Bills

B. Appointment:

- a) **Keith Bahler** – reappointment to the Regional Planning Commission commencing November 18, 2019 and expiring November 17, 2023.
- b) **Rudy Piskule** – reappointment to the Regional Planning Commission commencing November 18, 2019 and expiring November 17, 2023..

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

HIGHWAY

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

Lovell congratulated Metcalf on his 25 years of service with the county.

- a) **Agreement:** Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick – Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement for design of a bridge replacement of S.N. 053-3058 on CH 34, Mortland Bridge 3070N, 800E, Section 19-00171-01-BR. – Non MFT Project. Cost not to exceed \$32,000 for Basic Services.

Motion by Lovell, second by Runyon to approve the Agreement with Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick for the bridge design. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Carley, Ambrose, Mays, Lovell, Vitzthum, Blackard, Earing, Runyon, Killian, Wilkey, Kirkton, Vietti, Bunting, Slagel, Steichen, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Weller, Manker and Ritter

AG & ZONING

Proposal and Work Agreement: Diegan & Associates – Committee Chairman Jason Bunting highlighted the work agreement and proposal as follows: it is for continued Environmental/Solid Waste Landfill Consulting Services; continues into 2020; and includes an average hourly increase of \$5.50 for principal staff utilized.

Motion by Bunting, second by Lovell to approve the proposal and work Agreement for Diegan & Associates for 2020. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Carley, Ambrose, Mays, Lovell, Vitzthum, Earing, Runyon, Killian, Wilkey, Kirkton, Vietti, Bunting, Slagel, Steichen, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen **Nays:** None **Present:** Blackard **Absent:** Weller, Manker and Ritter

Bunting thanked the Village of Dwight for hosting the county's second electronic recycling event on November 2nd. He also expressed his appreciation to the many volunteers who took the time to help during the four hour event. They collected a little less than 15,000 pounds (two semis) of recycled goods.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

Chair Killian reported that Don Verdun presented his monthly report.

Resolution (#2019-11-40) Resolution Authorizing Lease/Sublease to Project OZ – Killian provided the following information on the proposed Project OZ lease: State's Attorney had prepared the lease; includes a rent rate of \$200 a month; business hours will be 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; and noted that personnel from McLean County will come here to provide assistance for the homeless children in our county. *Motion by Killian, second by Wilkey to approve the lease agreement for Project Oz.* Linda Ambrose commented that Project Oz was already in Livingston County helping the children but needed an area to work out of. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Carley, Ambrose, Mays, Lovell, Vitzthum, Blackard, Earing, Runyon, Killian, Wilkey, Kirkton, Vietti, Bunting, Slagel, Steichen, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Weller, Manker and Ritter

Ad-Hoc Committee Update - Gerald Earing stated that at their second meeting this month they reviewed a 2018 Farnsworth & Wylie drawing and plans and toured the Opperman building.

ELECTION, RULES & LEGISLATION

Chairman Marty Fannin reported that they approved the appointments of Keith Bahler and Rudy Piskule to the Regional Planning Commission and reviewed the proposed new credit card company information.

Resolution (#2019-11-41) Approving Fifth Third Bank Credit Card Program and Agreements – Fannin remarked that there was an updated agreement on the member’s desk with changes marked in red which pertained to the destruction of all previously used credit cards. He asked that the approval be pending State’s Attorney review and approval. *Motion by Fannin, second by Vietti to approve the Fifth Third Bank Credit Card Program and agreements.* It was noted that with this program all credit card statements would flow through the Bookkeeping Department so all charges could be verified. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Carley, Ambrose, Mays, Lovell, Vitzthum, Blackard, Earing, Runyon, Killian, Wilkey, Kirkton, Vietti, Bunting, Slagel, Steichen, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Weller, Manker and Ritter

FINANCE

At this time, Chair Kathy Arbogast announced that prior to the vote of the Vanguard Appraisal Proposal if any board members had a comment, they would be given a few minutes to do so. She asked that if members concurred with a member’s remarks, they tap their desks rather than reiterating what was said.

Resolution (#2019-11-42): State’s Attorney Appellate Prosecutor – Committee Chairman Tim Shafer explained that this was an arrangement in Illinois which would allow for the State’s Attorney’s Office to receive help in preparing for Appellate Court cases. The annual cost increased from \$15,000 to \$18,000., which is a nominal fee to pay for the services available and utilized. *Motion by Shafer, second by Blackard to approve the State’s Attorney Appellate Prosecutor Resolution.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Carley, Ambrose, Mays, Lovell, Vitzthum, Blackard, Earing, Runyon, Killian, Wilkey, Kirkton, Vietti, Bunting, Slagel, Steichen, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Weller, Manker and Ritter

Resolution (#2019-11-43): FY 2019 Year end Transfers – Finance Director-Diane Schwahn stated that this action would transfer money to a few of the departments who had almost gone over what was appropriated for them for FY 2019. The total amount to be transferred to the Coroner, Sheriff and Jail Departments amounts to a total of \$200,237 and is being transferred from contingency and insurance fund line items. This amount is about half of what was transferred for departments last year. *Motion by Shafer, second by Bunting to approve the FY 2019 Year End Transfers Resolution.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Carley, Ambrose, Mays, Lovell, Vitzthum, Blackard, Earing, Runyon, Killian, Wilkey, Kirkton, Vietti, Bunting, Slagel, Steichen, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Weller, Manker and Ritter

Ordinance (#2019-11-44) Mental Health Fund Levy & Developmentally Disabled Person Fund Levy – Shafer noted that two separate boards, along with the county and the departments administer the programs. *Motion by Shafer, second by Wilkey to move for approval of the FY2019 levies payable in 2020 for the Mental Health Fund-708 Board Levy of \$909,065 and the Developmentally Disabled Person Fund-377 Board Levy of \$417,240, with one roll call.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Carley, Ambrose, Mays, Lovell, Vitzthum, Blackard, Earing, Runyon, Killian, Wilkey, Kirkton, Vietti, Bunting, Slagel, Steichen, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Weller, Manker and Ritter

Ordinance (#2019-11-45) Southeast Livingston County Ambulance Service (SELCAS) Fund Levy - Shafer asked for approval of the FY 2019 levies payable in 2020 for the SELCAS districts as follows: Chatsworth \$16,975; Fairbury \$173,904; Forrest \$43,500; Strawn \$2,550; Rural District \$120,276; for a total of \$357,205. *Motion by Shafer, second by Killian to move for approval of the FY 2019 SELCAS levies payable in 2020.*

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

Ordinance (#2019-11-46) for Adoption of FY 2019 County Levies payable in 2020 – Committee Chairman Shafer presented the county levies and asked that they be approved.

County Corporate (General Fund) Levy	\$2,986,800.00
IMRF Levy.....	965,000.00
County Highway Fund Levy.....	746,310.00
County Aid to Bridges Fund Levy.....	373,232.00
County Federal Aid Matching Tax Fund Levy.....	373,232.00
Tuberculosis Clinic Fund Levy	27,000.00
Public Health Fund Levy	398,483.00
Tort Judgment & Liability Insurance Fund Levy.....	650,000.00
Social Security Fund Levy.....	705,100.00
County Extension Education Fund Levy.....	149,217.00
Veterans Assistance Fund Levy.....	140,000.00
Unemployment Insurance Fund Levy.....	15,000.00

Motion by Shafer, second by Fannin to move for approval of the FY 2019 payable 2020 County Levies.

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

Resolution (#2019-11-47) Adoption of the Annual Appropriations - Motion by Shafer, second by Earing for approval of the Resolution for Adoption of the FY2019 Annual Appropriations (Budgets). **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Carley, Ambrose, Mays, Lovell, Vitzthum, Blackard, Earing, Killian, Wilkey, Kirkton, Vietti, Bunting, Slagel, Steichen, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen **Nays:** Runyon **Absent:** Weller, Manker and Ritter

Remove from the Table: Vanguard Commercial & Industrial Appraisals - Motion by Shafer, second by Bunting to remove the Vanguard Commercial & Industrial Appraisal proposal from the table. It was explained that before any type of discussion or motion could be taken on this item, it had to be removed from the table. It was also noted that the committee had recommended to approve the Vanguard proposal last month. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Carley, Ambrose, Mays, Lovell, Vitzthum, Blackard, Earing, Runyon, Killian, Wilkey, Kirkton, Vietti, Bunting, Slagel, Steichen, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Weller, Manker and Ritter

Proposal: Vanguard Appraisals – Commercial & Industrial Appraisals – Motion by Shafer, second by Blackard that the agreement with Vanguard Appraisals, subject to attorney review be approved. Discussion highlights follow. Those **in favor of the proposal** cited the following reasons: current process is inconsistent and unfair making county liable; the county has been in violation of the state statute for some time with regards to commercial assessments; reason for reassessment of 1,221 commercial properties is to make sure they're paying the correct amount of taxes, thus creating equity for all taxpayers in Livingston County; initial investment is large but would get us back in compliance with the law; endorsed the assessor's long term plan for consistent future reassessments of commercial properties once the Vanguard appraisal was completed in 2023. Concerns voiced by those **not in favor** of the proposal included: data provided by Vanguard to justify the work was a very small sample size, had serious outliers making the margin of error very large; didn't feel that this was an emergency situation; created worry and pressure to approve a half million dollar proposal; 2.5 years before boots would hit the ground without thinking this through or looking at any of the other available options; contract issues such as no out-clause included in contract; felt that the county should be able to do this in-house now and moving forward; not convinced based on information presented at Finance, that the county's assessments are that far out of line to justify spending a half million dollars; inequities should be taken care of now and not wait for three years; and, wondered why, if the overall assessment system in Illinois was such a large problem and was systemic

to this state that Vanguard had only worked with one other county in Illinois since 2011. Chair Arbogast noted that if this proposal was approved it would be pending the addition of the out-clause and upon State's Attorney review. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Carley, Lovell, Blackard, Earing, Killian, Wilkey, Vietti, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Arbogast and Allen **Nays:** Ambrose, Mays, Vitzthum, Runyon, Kirkton, Bunting, Slagel, Steichen and Barickman **Absent:** Weller, Manker and Ritter

Resolution (#2019-11-48) Appointing Supervisor of Assessments - Motion by Shafer, second by Lovell to reappoint Shelly Renken as Livingston County Supervisor of Assessments for the term commencing December 22, 2019, and ending December 23, 2023. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Carley, Ambrose, Mays, Lovell, Vitzthum, Blackard, Earing, Runyon, Killian, Wilkey, Kirkton, Vietti, Bunting, Slagel, Steichen, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Weller, Manker and Ritter

PERSONNEL

Committee Chairman Jack Vietti reported that they reviewed the executive session meeting minutes.

SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE

Committee Chairman James Carley reported that the Pro-Active unit had been extremely busy. Animal Control reported that the contract with the Humane Society had been signed. The committee had approved a raffle license for the Sportsman's Club.

ADMINISTRATIVE

No report.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE

Committee Chair Ron Kestner reported that they had approved the bills and discussed some assistance for some very needy veterans.

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

Committee Chair Vicki Allen reported that they reviewed Jon's department report. Sear reported the following: Spillman server locked up several times, but then started working properly without explanation; were a couple of issues with the phone system at the Public Safety Complex; he had ordered computers and hard drives for his end of year purchase; had been working with the commissary company software as the jail is transitioning to a new company effective December 1; and reported that their first run with the Department of Corrections and the Court System went very well.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

John Slagel didn't have anything to report on the LCHA since they were to meet the following week.

Slagel presented information on the "East Central Illinois Land Bank Outreach" meeting he attended recently at the request of Chair Arbogast. This program is a way for counties and municipalities who have "blighted" properties (dilapidated abandoned houses with unkempt lawns), to find funding resources to gain possession of, redevelop the properties and get them back on the tax rolls. Land Banks let municipalities group together to apply for grants and alternate funding resources rather than competing. The "Central Illinois Land Bank" is a growing nearby organization which Slagel feels is worth our consideration and would open the door for municipalities within the county to help improve blighted property.

MID CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION

Bill Wilkey reported that their next meeting was scheduled for November 20. He also noted that they had been busy with paying utility bills.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Joe Steichen introduced Jackie Dever as the new Public Health Administrator.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH

Jack Vietti reported that their next meeting would be held next week at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Arbogast congratulated board member Paul Ritter on his nomination for a \$250,000 conservation prize.

Earl Riens commented on what the Board’s response would have been if the Livingston County Community Healthcare Program referendum had failed.

Ed Lipinski asked that the Board look to the future of Livingston County and its residents. He noted that the county is fortunate to have the landfill fees which have been used for the building construction/remodeling projects which didn’t require any public input, scrutiny or approval. He asked that the Board rethink this process and reverse their methods by allowing citizens to vote on major capital expenditures. Landfill money then would be available to partially support and encourage local initiatives such as renewable energy, inexpensive broadband width, county-wide public transportation, senior healthcare services, recreation and education.

Joan Lipinski appreciated the discussion on the spending of half a million dollars. She stated that the transfer of \$150,000 from contingency would have paid for the Community Healthcare plan this year. She feels that there is money available in the Enterprise and Host Funds and commented that the budget narrative for both funds say that the funds can be used to enhance the lives of people who live in Livingston County.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Removed from agenda.

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Removed from agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Arbogast announced that for the December committee meeting week she would like to have the committees that don’t have any pressing business that needs to be done in December, meet prior to the Board meeting to pay their bills.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m., on motion by Fannin, second by Kirkton. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES ON VOICE VOTE.

Kathy Arbogast, Chair

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching

County Clerk

December 12, 2019

Approved

Minutes Bd 111419.A