

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF January 16, 2020 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 Nathan Moore presented the invocation. Chair Kathy Arbogast (in the absence of Jack Vietti) led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also Present: County Clerk-Kristy Masching, Executive Director-Alina Hartley, GLCEDC Executive Director-Adam Dontz, Livingston Area Career Center Director-Tara Graves, County Highway Engineer-Clay Metcalf, and Sheriff's Department-Lt. Jeff Hamilton

AGENDA

Chair Arbogast stated that Highway Action Item b. Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation (resurfacing CH3 between IL Rt. 17 & 2700 North) was being withdrawn from the agenda. Chair Arbogast called for approval of the agenda as amended. *Motion by Ritter, second by Manker to approve the agenda as amended.*
MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Arbogast called for approval of the December 12, 2019 meeting minutes. *Motion by Blackard, second by Manker to approve the December 12, 2019 meeting minutes.* **MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

PRESENTATION

Presentation STEAM LACC / GLCEDC – Livingston Area Career Center (LACC) Director-Tara Graves and GLCEDC Director-Adam Dontz were in attendance to provide an update on the STEAM/STEM Program at the LACC. Dontz explained that the LACC is making progress not only with their curricular and professional development but with their outreach to the business community and the increased participation by the business community with the schools. Ms. Graves stated that the LACC serves juniors and seniors from six high schools within the county. They're constantly looking for opportunities to partner education with application of what they are doing. Ms. Graves works with local businesses to update their curriculum, such as the six-week summer internship at Caterpillar for six students which transitioned into a school year coop opportunity for 2 of their students. They offer sixteen courses based upon student enrollment. They are currently targeting automotive/diesel technology and have forty students enrolled since adding diesel technology. Ms. Graves noted that Caterpillar is donating a C15 engine for the automotive/diesel technology class. Work is continuing on another summer internship with Caterpillar for the automotive/diesel technology class students. They are hoping through their partnership with Caterpillar to be able to offer a manufacturing course in the near future. Ms. Graves stated that all of the instructors for their courses have come from industry and must meet the requirement of career centers of having at least 2,000 hours of experience within that field. She noted that in the past they have partnered with Heartland Community College to offer adult programs such as welding and a certified nurse's assistant class and are looking to grow in that area.

APPEARANCES

None

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Bills

B. Appointment:

- a) **Samuel Schmidgall** - reappointment to the Forrest-Strawn-Wing Fire Protection District commencing January 16, 2020 and expiring the second Wednesday of January, 2023.

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

HIGHWAY

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

- a. **Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation**: Federal-Aid Agreement for replacement of Structure No. 053-3122 in Long Point/Amity Road Districts. Estimated division of cost = \$280,000 FHWA, \$70,000 split 50-50 to Livingston County and Road Districts. Includes **Resolution (#2020-01-01)** appropriating County Aid to Bridge Funds for Local Agency share of cost.
- b. **Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation**: ~~Federal Aid Agreement for cold in place recycling and resurfacing CH 3 (Campus Road, 300E) between IL Rt. 17 (3200N) and Campus (2700N), Sect. No. 14-00199-03-RS. Estimated division of cost – \$1,376,000 FHWA, \$55,000 State Matching Assistance, \$289,000 Livingston County. Includes Resolution appropriating County Matching Tax funds for Local Agency share of cost. (Removed from agenda.)~~
- c. **Resolution (#2020-01-02)**: Resolution appropriating County Matching Tax funds in the amount of \$650,000 for design engineering and construction costs to replace S.N. 053-3058 on CH 34, Mortland Bridge 3070N, 800E, Section 19-00171-01-BR.

Motion by Lovell, second by Earing to approve the Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation: Replacement of Structure No. 053-3122 (Resolution #2020-01-01) Appropriating County Aid to Bridge Funds & County Maintenance Resolution #2020-01-02 Appropriating Matching Tax Funds to replace SN 053-3058 on CH 34 (both items with one roll call vote). MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes: Carley, Weller, Ambrose, Mays, Lovell, Vitzthum, Blackard, Earing, Runyon, Killian, Wilkey, Kirkton, Bunting, Slagel, Manker, Steichen, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Ritter, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen *Nays:* None *Absent:* Vietti

AG & ZONING

Committee Chair Bunting reported that his committee reviewed the solid waste report, reviewed a worksheet for the updates to the All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update on behalf of the county and reviewed pending zoning cases. Bunting also thanked all the board members who attended the Farmland Assessments meeting held earlier in the week as well as those who showed interest in the proposed private airport near Saunemin. The ZBA meeting on the proposed airport was recessed and will resume on March 11. Bunting also noted that there was an opening on the Zoning Board of Appeals. They are looking for a candidate from the west side of County Board District #2. Interested candidates should contact Chair Arbogast or Bunting.

FINANCE

Resolution (#2020-01-03): Authorizing Disposal of Excess Property - Committee Chairman Tim Shafer explained that this resolution was for the disposition of seven Sheriff's Department vehicles that have been rotated out. Shafer commented that in the past the vehicles had gone to auction but in this case the committee would like to try a sealed bid auction first to see if they could get a better price for them. *Motion by Shafer, second by Bunting to approve the disposition of the seven Sheriff's Department vehicles through a sealed bid sale first and second by auction. MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:* Carley, Weller, Ambrose, Mays, Lovell, Vitzthum, Blackard, Earing, Runyon, Killian, Wilkey, Kirkton, Bunting, Slagel, Manker, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Ritter, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen *Nays:* Steichen *Absent:* Vietti

Resolution (#2020-01-04): Authorizing Working Cash Loan to Tort Judgment Fund- Chairman Shafer explained that this resolution would authorize the transfer of \$100,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Tort Judgment Fund to cover the cost of the 2020 insurance premiums which are due to the Counties of Illinois Risk Management Agency (CIRMA). *Motion by Shafer, second by Earing to approve the disposition of the seven Sheriff's Department vehicles through a sealed bid sale first and second by auction.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Carley, Weller, Ambrose, Mays, Lovell, Vitzthum, Blackard, Earing, Runyon, Killian, Wilkey, Kirkton, Bunting, Slagel, Manker, Steichen, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Ritter, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Vietti

Resolution (#2020-01-05): Authorizing Year End Transfers- Committee Chairman Tim Shafer explained that this resolution would authorize the line item transfers of \$4,500 to close out a couple of the General Fund budget accounts for FY 2019. *Motion by Shafer, second by Kirkton to authorize the FY 2019 General Fund end of year transfer of funds in the amount of \$4,500.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Carley, Weller, Ambrose, Mays, Lovell, Vitzthum, Blackard, Earing, Runyon, Killian, Wilkey, Kirkton, Bunting, Slagel, Manker, Steichen, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Ritter, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Vietti

PUBLIC PROPERTY

Committee Chairman Pat Killian reported that his committee reviewed the monthly facilities' report with Don Verdun. He reported the following highlights of their meeting follow: SmartWatt activity is moving along; discussion held on \$3,000 increase in Johnson Controls contract and whether the county was receiving all the services/training as specified in contract; Verdun reviewed the basic repairs completed during the month on the county buildings and the staff cleaned the lights in the County Board room. At this time, the H&E Ad-Hoc Committee presented their findings and recommendation.

H&E Building Ad-Hoc Committee Recommendation – Ad-Hoc Committee member Marty Fannin stated that the Ad-Hoc Committee had reviewed all available buildings, their advantages and disadvantages and was respectfully recommending to the County Board to support eliminating the option of purchasing an existing building and focus their attention on building a new building on property that is currently owned by the county and focus its resources on identifying options for reducing cost of a new building and identifying energy efficiencies, form and function. Fannin noted that this recommendation had also been approved by the Property Committee. He also stated that by moving the new building to the front of the current building on the property, would reduce costs significantly as well as utilizing a simpler building layout. *Motion by Fannin, second by Weller to approve the findings and recommendation of the Ad-Hoc Committee that the Property Committee and County Board support eliminating the option of purchasing an existing building and focus its attention on building a new building on property that is currently owned by the County. Further it is recommended that the County focus its resources on identifying options for reducing the cost of a new building while balancing energy efficiencies, form and function, and overall costs.* Discussion highlights focused on the following items: needed a real apples to apples comparison to better figure out what the actual cost differences would be (ie: dollars per square foot); don't know what cost will be unless we authorize architects to move forward; cost savings by repositioning new building in front of original building and making it a straight line building; how much more should be spent in researching options; too many unknown issues (sewer, parking lot, mechanical and HVAC systems) to keep pursuing Opperman building; Opperman willing to make improvements to our specifications at no cost to us; county can build on their own land at a lower cost with less risk; approximately \$500,000 cost savings by moving building to front of property; new proposals should include all costs such as furniture, cabinets and demolition; concerns with going from a 1922 (current H&E site) building to 1959 (Opperman site) building with unknown sewer issues; and need to think of employee's, not a good atmosphere for them. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Carley, Weller, Ambrose, Lovell, Vitzthum, Earing, Killian, Kirkton, Bunting, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen **Nays:** Mays, Blackard, Runyon, Wilkey, Slagel, Manker, Steichen and Ritter **Absent:** Vietti

ADMINISTRATIVE

Approval of Travel Expenses - Chair Kathy Arbogast reported that the request was for expenses which would exceed the travel policy limit. This would be for the annual UCCI conference to be held in Galena on July 26-28. *Motion by Fannin, second by Ritter to approve the travel expenses for the UCCI Conference in Galena.*

MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. **Ayes:** Carley, Weller, Ambrose, Mays, Lovell, Vitzthum, Blackard, Earing, Runyon, Killian, Kirkton, Bunting, Slagel, Manker, Steichen, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Ritter, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen **Nays:** Wilkey **Absent:** Vietti

SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE

Committee Chairman James Carley reported the following items of interest. The meeting was well represented by the Sheriff's Department. Jail Superintendent Inman informed them that the Federal population is high and bringing in a significant amount of funding. Deputy Hardyman, the Animal Control Officer is retiring and will need to be replaced. Sheriff Childress noted that their medical provider is conducting blood draws at the jail for DUI's and believes that they are the first jail in the state to be doing this. Sheriff Childress also reported that they are in the process of conducting the screening process for potential deputies. Lt. Hamilton provided information on the P2D2 program (initiated by some of Mr. Ritter's PTHS students) for unused/unwanted medications from Livingston County residents and how they are disposed of once they have been collected. The unused medications are transported to Indianapolis where they are heated up into steam fuel which provides electricity throughout Indianapolis including some of the downtown sports venues.

ELECTION, RULES & LEGISLATION

Committee Chairman Marty Fannin reported that they met prior to the board meeting to approve the appointment of Mr. Samuel Schmidgall to the Forrest-Strawn-Wing Fire Protection District.

PERSONNEL

Vice-Committee Chair Linda Ambrose (in the absence of Chairman Jack Vietti) reported that their committee had met in a joint meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss on-going contract negotiations.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE

Committee Chair Ron Kestner reported that they reviewed the bills. Kestner noted that a veteran whom they had been assisting had passed away. Kestner extended his gratitude to the veteran for his service to our country.

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

Committee Chair Vicki Allen reported that Jon Sear provided the following items of interest: he replaced the backup appliance and things were working well; a new network system had been established for the election system, connecting our election server directly to the State Board of Elections (connection is similar to the LEADS system); replaced the DVD recorder at the Sheriff's Department; tested some new equipment at the full board meeting last month, with everything appearing to work well with the exception of the camera at the podium; part time position has been posted with no inquiries thus far; and he has been monitoring the firewalls based on recent threats.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

John Slagel presented the following items from their December 18 special meeting and their regular meeting on January 16. They met for the following items: approved a bid of \$386,000 from the Schemel Companies for the modernization of the Odell project; changed the check requiring limit; and approved an amendment to the Five Year Plan Ending 2022, by adding that the disposition of any of its housing units with a negative financial impact may be pursued in the next five years. At their regular meeting held on January 16 they approved a change in Personnel Policy so that workers get paid overtime when working holidays. Their next meeting will be held on March 19th, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

MID CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION

Bill Wilkey commented that they met January 15 and learned that they had been very busy with weatherization and assisting people with electric and gas bills. Their next meeting will be held on March 18 at the Historic Courthouse.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Joe Steichen reported their board had not met since their December meeting. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 30.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH

No report

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Lipinski reminded the Board members that they shouldn't be worried about repeating things they said at a committee meeting because committee meetings aren't recorded, with the only record of comment being what is said at the County Board meeting. Lipinski commented that the board meeting video recordings were important because he wasn't able to attend last month's meeting and learned from watching the recording that refrigerators were available from the Housing Authority and so was able to help a friend acquire some. With regards to the Health & Education building, he hoped that the Board decided to build a building that served the citizens and the people who work there the best that they possibly could. He felt that the Board should take time to consider Mr. Opperman's offer rather than just one option.

Joan Lipinski commented that for the past eighteen months she has heard that many people on the Board believe things such as costs, believe that it would be more expensive and believe there wasn't money in the budget. As a citizen, she'd like to know more facts regarding costs, know that someone really examined the budget and know that they couldn't find any extra money in the budget. She feels that the public needed more facts from the Board.

County Clerk Kristy Masching noted that she had placed the annual Statement of Economic Interests for each Board member to fill out and return to her office as soon as possible. Clerk Masching also announced that her office was in need of election judges for the upcoming March 17, General Primary Election. Training classes would begin January 23rd and continue throughout February. Interested parties should contact her office.

Jason Bunting announced that the Livingston County Soil and Water Conservation District annual meeting will be held at the Elks Country Club on Thursday, January 23 at 8:00 a.m.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Action Resulting from Executive Session

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m., on motion by Ritter, second by Fannin. **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES ON VOICE VOTE.**

Kathy Arbogast, Chair

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching

County Clerk

April 16, 2020

Approved