

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 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, Gerald Earing, Patrick Killian, Tim Shafer and John Slagel.

Absent: Paul Ritter and Steven Lovell.

Others Present: Additional County Representatives included: County Board chair Kathy Arbogast, Non committee County Board Members Jim Blackard, John Vitzthum and Gina Manker. County Executive Director Alina Hartley, County Network Computer Systems Administrator Jon Sear.

Committee Chair Jason Bunting commented about the agenda for this September 8, 2020 meeting. Mr. Bunting remarked that planning commission assistant Jesse King was not present at this meeting, and that as he had researched zoning issues related to airports, this agenda be amended having item 2 g be removed from this agenda. Tim Shafer then moved, seconded by Gerald Earing, that this agenda be approved as amended. This motion was approved by a roll call vote; Bunting-Yes, Ritter-Absent, Earing-Yes, Killian-Yes, Lovell-Absent, Shafer-Yes, Slagel-Yes.

Committee Chair Jason Bunting then referred to the minutes of the August 4, 2020 committee meeting. Patrick Killian moved, seconded by Gerald Earing, that these meetings minutes be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a roll call vote; Bunting-Yes, Ritter-Absent, Earing-Yes, Killian-Yes, Lovell-Absent, Shafer-Yes, Slagel-Yes.

Business:

Review of the Proposed Essman Subdivision and Map Amendment:

This is a proposal pertaining to the review of a final plat of subdivision to allow for a two lot subdivision, with a zoning district map amendment that would allow for smaller lot sizes, with these zoning cases being referred to as Livingston County Zoning Cases SF-2-20 and ZM-2-20. This subdivision is being proposed to allow for the continued use of the property with two dwellings on the family property. In this case two dwelling units were located on the same tract of land prior to zoning regulations becoming effective in Livingston County, with one dwelling being demolished that the applicant would like to rebuild. In order to rebuild that dwelling the proposed subdivision and map amendment should be approved to bring the property into compliance with the zoning regulations. The zoning administrator reviewed his report for this case and he mentioned that after reviewing this case the Livingston County Regional Planning Commission has made a recommendation that this zoning case be approved. The Livingston County Zoning Board of Appeals completed their review of Livingston County Zoning Case ZM-2-20, at a public hearing at their August 6, 2020 meeting. Dan Essman the applicant in this zoning case was present at that meeting, being the only person to present testimony at that meeting. At the conclusion of that public hearing for this zoning case the Livingston County Zoning Board of Appeals made a recommendation to the Livingston County Board that this zoning case be approved. Gerald Earing moved, seconded by John Slagel, that this committee recommend to the Livingston County Board that this proposed two lot Essman Subdivision,

Livingston County Zoning Case SF-2-20, and that the accompanying zoning map amendment Livingston County Zoning Case ZM-2-20 be approved allowing for the zoning classification on the subject property be changed from a AG, Agriculture, District classification to a RA, Rural Residence, District classification which would allow for the subdivision to be finalized as proposed. This motion was approved by a roll call vote; Bunting-Yes, Ritter-Absent, Earing-Yes, Killian-Yes, Lovell-Absent, Shafer-Yes, Slagel-Yes.

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 for Livingston Landfill focused on reports regarding the landfill gas system and NPDES reports relating to the Livingston Landfill. Monthly host fee information was also verbally provided to the committee. A comment was made pertaining to litter accumulating along the I-55 – Route 66 right of way. Livingston Landfill is to be contacted about having this litter area cleaned up.

Recycling Update:

A conversation then continued as to where the next electronic recycling event to take place in Pontiac may be held at. Options for this event will be explored for an event to take place in early November. Options on how to recycle tires was discussed.

Update on the Status of the County Hazard Mitigation Plan project:

The committee members were informed that the update of the county hazard mitigation plan is now in draft form, and that after some information relating to Reading Township was clarified IEMA approved of this draft document and this draft document has been forwarded to FEMA for their approval of this document, which is expected to take several months. The county board will then take action on the county approval of the final document.

Wind Energy Update:

The zoning administrator commented that his office has been contacted regarding the wind energy turbine tower height limitation in Livingston County of 500 feet. These contacts are in regard to technology changing in regard to wind energy and wind turbines, of which larger platforms are being considered that will have larger turbines being placed on towers desired to be taller than 500 feet. This technology would reduce the number of turbines needed for a same size wind energy project. Such as 25 4 megawatt turbine structures would be needed for a 100 megawatt project in comparison to 20 2 megawatt turbine structures. Discussion took place in regard to wind energy tower turbine height limitations, in part pertaining how this would affect other current county wind energy zoning regulations, such as setback distances. A need or want to have the county formally move forward with a discussion and proposal to amend the zoning regulations was talked about. Other Woodford County zoning regulations were remarked about, in part in regard to FAA approval of wind turbine tower siting. A consensus was made to have the zoning and planning office research the wind energy regulations relating to wind energy turbine tower heights in area counties. The committee will then continue this conversation at future committee meetings.

Solar Energy Update:

Mention was made in regard to Governor Pritzker's eight principles for a clean and renewable Illinois economy. If clean energy working group discussions conclude action could be taken during the fall veto session. The solar projects approved for Livingston County could be affected by new energy legislation and as to how the state may facilitate these projects moving forward.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee:

The committee was informed that with Woodford County receiving federal small business administration assistance relating to the recent flooding in Roanoke, Livingston County can receive this same assistance as an adjoining county.

Public Comment:

Options on how to recycle tires was discussed.

Inquiries will also be made regarding the cleaning of some of the existing wind turbine towers in Livingston County, that have leaked fluids with blowing dust and dirt soiling the turbine towers.

Review and Approval of Bills:

An invoice with a total amount of \$ 995.00 from Deigan and Associates, LLC for Professional Services for the period from July 22, 2020 to August 21, 2020 relating to landfill monitoring and technical reviews of Republic/Allied Waste's Livingston and Streator Area Landfills, for environmental/solid waste landfill consulting service. Tim Shafer moved, seconded by Patrick Killian, that this committee approve the processing of this invoice. This motion was then approved by roll call vote. Bunting-Yes; Ritter-Absent; Earing-Yes; Kilian-Yes; Lovell-Absent; Shafer-Yes; Slagel-Yes.

Executive Session Pursuant to 5/ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) – Litigation –

In regular session Patrick Killian moved, seconded by Gerald Earing, that this committee go into executive session pursuant to 5/ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) Pending litigation. This motion was then approved by roll call vote. Bunting-Yes; Ritter-Absent; Earing-Yes; Kilian-Yes; Lovell-Absent; Shafer-Yes; Slagel-Yes.

This executive session began at 6:42 pm.

Action Resulting from Executive Session- None

Adjournment:

John Slagel moved, seconded by Patrick Killian, that this meeting be adjourned. This motion was approved by a roll call vote; Bunting-Yes, Ritter-Absent, Earing-Yes, Killian-Yes, Lovell-Absent, Shafer-Yes, Slagel-Yes.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Charles T. Schopp, Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission