

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF February 11, 2021 MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD

OPENING

County Board Chair Kathy Arbogast called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-07, this meeting was held remotely with most individuals participating through Zoom or Teleconference.

Pastor Jan Ambrose presented the invocation. Steve Lovell led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Absent: None

Also Present: County Clerk-Kristy Masching, Executive Director-Alina Hartley, Human Resources Director Ginger Harris, County Highway Engineer-Clay Metcalf, Finance Director-Diane Schwahn, IT Director-Jon Sear, Sheriff Tony Childress, Chief Deputy Jeff G. Hamilton, Captain Chad Gragert

AGENDA

Chair Arbogast stated that she would be adding "Proclamation-Respect Week" under item II. Presentations. She called for approval of the agenda as amended. *Motion by Carley, second by Fannin to approve the agenda as amended.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Steichen, Shafer, Mennenga, Kestner, Welch, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Carley, Lovell, Ambrose, Mays, Earing, Vitzthum, Blackard, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes at this time.

PRESENTATION

Proclamation: Respect Week – Chair Arbogast read the following proclamation recognizing and declaring March 1 through March 7th, 2021 as Respect Week in Livingston County.

The "Spread the Word to End the Word" campaign is an ongoing effort by the Special Olympics and Best Buddies to inspire respect and acceptance by raising the consciousness of society. The campaign is intended to engage schools, organizations and communities to rally and pledge their support and to promote the inclusion and acceptance of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The 2021 program is focused on the importance of connection. Connection is not only a relationship, but a shared strength developed between individuals. A strength where two individuals can feel, seen, heard and valued. NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathy Arbogast, on behalf of the Livingston County Board, do hereby proclaim the week of March 1st through March 7th, 2021 as Respect Week in Livingston County, and provide this Proclamation as our pledge of support and commitment to encourage inclusion and connection for all.

APPEARANCES

N/A

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Bills

Motion by Ritter, second by Blackard for approval of the Consent Agenda. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Steichen, Shafer,

Mennenga, Kestner, Welch, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Carley, Lovell, Ambrose, Mays, Earing, Vitzthum, Blackard, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** None

SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE

Sheriff Childress had nine of the newest officers from his department introduce themselves to the Board members in order to familiarize the Board with them and the officers with the board members. The officers in attendance were Karl Ladtkow, Katie Wilson, Jordan Blain, Matthew Howard, Keith Semmerling, Drew Chase, Samer Assaf, Kevin Shaughnessy and Jared Meinart

Sheriff's Annual Report & Sheriff's Semi-Annual Report: Sheriff Childress stated that he didn't feel that the new laws which were passed (Police Reform Bill) would have much effect on their civil processes since those jobs deal with items such as remedies and fees used with paper services. Sheriff Childress also reported that no laws were passed which would have an adverse effect on or did away with the School Resource Officer Program. He noted that he hasn't had any issues in finding quality recruits in light of what's been happening nationally. He foresees that it will be a problem in the future due to the reform bills. Childress said he is aware of a national movement to eliminate the election of County Sheriffs and have them appointed. Childress is one of seven appointed from throughout the country to an advisory board for a group called "Save America Now". This group was established to address problems in America whereby anti-police forces were coming after law enforcement. Sheriff Childress expressed his profound gratitude for the support his department has received from the County Board. He feels that his department has done the best they can with the funds they've received by providing the highest quality of employees to deliver the best quality of service to their constituents and will continue to do so. Discussion took place on his annual report regarding methamphetamine use, officer training and the quality service provided by the animal control department. *Motion by Carley, second by Weller to approve both the Sheriff's Annual Report & Sheriff's Semi-Annual Report (with one roll call vote).* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Steichen, Shafer, Mennenga, Kestner, Welch, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Carley, Lovell, Ambrose, Mays, Earing, Vitzthum, Blackard, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** None

HIGHWAY

Committee Chair Steve Lovell reviewed the **Action Agenda Items** as follows:

- a. **Letting Results:** February 2, 2021 Letting
- b. **Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation:** Federal-Aid Agreement for resurfacing Livingston CH 6 and McLean CH1 from Fairbury and Cropsey, approximately 10.4 miles known as Sect. No. 15-00145-06-RS / 20-0035-05-RS.

Motion by Lovell, second by Runyon to approve both of the Highway Action Items (with one roll call vote).

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

FINANCE

Resolution (#2021-02-02): Authorizing 2020 End of Year Transfers – Committee Chair Shafer noted that there were always some monetary items which were pending at the end of the year which needed to be cleaned up at a later date. This is what this resolution does for the FY2020 items. *Motion by Shafer, second by Fannin to approve this resolution authorizing the 2020 End of Year Transfers.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Steichen, Shafer, Mennenga, Kestner, Welch, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Carley, Lovell, Ambrose, Mays, Earing, Vitzthum, Blackard, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** None

Circuit Clerk Semi-Annual Report – Circuit Clerk LeAnn Dixon was present to review her report with the Board. *Motion by Shafer, second by Bunting to approve the Circuit Clerk's Semi-Annual Report for the time period of June 2020 through November 20.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Steichen, Shafer, Mennenga, Kestner, Welch, Arbogast,

Weller, Ritter, Carley, Lovell, Ambrose, Mays, Earing, Vitzthum, Blackard, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None
Absent: None

AG & ZONING

Committee Chair Bunting stated that they met before the Board meeting on some informational items but had nothing to report at this time.

PERSONNEL

No report

PUBLIC PROPERTY

Committee Chair John Vitzthum reported that a boiler went down in the Law & Justice Center. Alina stated that she would be sending out a new schedule for the board members to see what would be happening during the next few weeks with the Public Health Building. She noted that the work was progressing nicely.

ADMINISTRATIVE

County Board Chair Kathy Arbogast reported that starting in March, the committees would be meeting in person and in the board room. The County Board meetings would be held in person and by zoom. She also reminded the members to turn in their Strategic Planning worksheets tonight, if possible.

ELECTION, RULES AND LEGISLATIVE

Committee Chair Mike Kirkton reported that at their last meeting they focused on a general plan while waiting for the State of Illinois to send us our census data by the end of the month.

VETERAN'S ASSISTANCE

Committee Chair Ron Kestner reported that at their routine meeting they learned that the transmission had gone out in one of their high-mileage vans.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Committee Chair Marty Fannin stated they met before the County Board meeting and learned that some cameras at the Law & Justice Center were being replaced. Fannin reported that there hadn't been any applications turned in for the full-time IT Specialist position.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

John Slagel reported that the LCHA met in January. Slagel commented that the Sheriff's Department had contacted the LCHA and have resolved the issues. The LCHA is going to submit an application to HUD for permission to list the Chatsworth property for sale without the County Board or Village of Chatsworth's approval and see if it goes through.

MID-CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION

Bill Wilkey reported that the MCCA is experiencing financial difficulties since they haven't been able to hold fund raisers. They are considering dropping the Li-Heap Program as a result and are hoping some other entity will pick it up.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Joe Steichen reported that they hadn't met since his last report.

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Jack Vietti reported that their next meeting would be held next Thursday, February 18 at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bekah Fehr inquired about updates on the Livingston County Grant Program to small businesses. Alina Hartley responded that two applications had been approved, one for \$7,000 and one for \$3,000. There is another

application pending. There was one grant application from each of the following towns: Campus; Fairbury and Saunemin. The deadline to submit applications is February 26, 2021.

Bob Weller reported on his experience with trying to sign-up on-line for his COVID vaccination shot.

Jason Bunting invited the board members to the Farm Bureau Legislative Breakfast scheduled for Friday, March 12, at 7:30 a.m. at the Pontiac Elks Club. The seating is limited to fifty, by invitation only. All the safety guidelines regarding social distancing and masks are to be adhered to.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m., on motion by Fannin, second by Mays. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Steichen, Shafer, Mennenga, Kestner, Welch, Arbogast, Weller, Ritter, Carley, Lovell, Ambrose, Mays, Earing, Vitzthum, Blackard, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** None

Kathy Arbogast, Chair

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching
County Clerk

Minutes Bd 021121