

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF March 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 Charles Ambrose presented the invocation. Gina Manker 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, Marty Fannin, Joseph D. Steichen, Tim Shafer, Scott Mennenga, Seth Welch, Robert F. Weller, Paul A. Ritter, William Mays, Steven Lovell, Linda Ambrose, James Blackard, Gerald Earing, John Vitzthum, Kathy Arbogast, Bill Wilkey, and Mark Runyon **Absent:** John Slagel, Ronald L. Kestner and James A. Carley

**Also Present:** County Clerk-Kristy Masching, Executive Director-Alina Hartley, Public Health Director-Jackie Dever, Chief Deputy-Jeff G. Hamilton, Mental Health Director-Chris Myers, County Highway Engineer-Clay Metcalf, Finance Director-Diane Schwahn and IT Director-Jon Sear

**AGENDA**

Chair Arbogast called for approval of the agenda as presented. *Motion by Fannin, second by Ritter to approve the agenda as presented.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Fannin, Steichen, Shafer, Mennenga, Welch, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** Slagel, Kestner and Carley

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were no minutes at this time.

**PRESENTATION**

**COVID 19 Status Update** – Public Health Administrator-Jackie Dever presented the COVID-19 status update. Ms. Dever reported the following items of interest: case load is decreasing, currently at 45 cases which is the lowest count in several months; averaging 5-8 new cases a day with total case load at 4,267; our positivity rate at 2% with regional rate at 2.7%; testing site at hospital is open 3 days/week and averaging 15-20 daily, down from 50 per day; much rapid-testing is taking place at long-term care facilities, schools, our jail and the prison; new guidelines being released daily for schools, long-term care facilities, etc.; currently in Phase 4; vaccine clinics (includes some pharmacies and long-term care units) going well with 10,000 doses being administered with 4,000 fully vaccinated; and she is hoping to see the Johnson one-dose vaccine arrive around April 1. Discussion followed. Board members commended and expressed their appreciation to the Public Health Department for their efficiency and effort put forth in getting people vaccinated through clinics and other organizations throughout the county. Ms. Dever stated that she's being very diligent and vocal in pursuing, on the regional level why we're not receiving our full amount of doses based on per capita compared to surrounding counties. Our county has received enough doses for almost 10% of our population to be fully vaccinated while many surrounding counties are at 20% or more. Ms. Dever reviewed the vaccine eligibility phases and who qualified for vaccinations under each category.

**P2D2 Grant Update** – Amelia Logan and Nate Miller, Pontiac Township High School students and members of the Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal Program (P2D2) presented information on a \$150,000 grant their local program received from the P2D2 Fund. They were able to purchase a truck and a trailer to be used for the collection of the pharmaceutical medications dropped off at the P2D2 boxes located at sheriff and police stations throughout Livingston County and Illinois. Once collected, the drugs are taken to Indianapolis for proper disposal. The grant funding was also used for officer overtime and fuel costs.

The students also provided a brief overview of the program noting that the program originated in 2007 at PTHS by students who saw an issue of unwanted, unused pharmaceutical medication finding their way in to the water and the hands of individuals. The P2D2 Program provides for an easy way to dispose of the drugs. Drugs may be dropped off at P2D2 receptacles located at the Pontiac Police Station and the Livingston County Sheriff's Department, as well as other police departments located in the county. Funding for the P2D2 program comes from drug related offenses in Illinois, such as drug busts and drug related incidents.

**Mental Health Annual Report** – Mental Health Director-Chris Myers reported that the 708 Board is governed by the Illinois Community Mental Health Act and required by statute to present an annual report. She stated that the agencies that serve people with mental illness, substance abuse issues and developmental disabilities stepped up to the plate during the pandemic to serve those individuals that needed their support in whatever manner was essential to them. Ms. Myers stated that she and the Livingston County Mental Health Board acknowledge their responsibility to make a concerted effort to provide quality and accessible services in our county where people live and work, to cultivate a synergistic relationship with the providers and the Board of Directors. Ms. Myers also reported that many of the service providers come to the 708 Board monthly meetings in order to provide accountability to the county board and the citizens of the county. The 708 Board knows and approves where every dollar of the levy is spent and monitors and audits the fees for service billing submitted by the agencies, to ensure that the agencies are following the parameters contained in their yearly contracts. Ms. Myers also thanked the County Board for their commitment and financial support that they supply, to meet the mental health, developmental disabilities and substance use needs of the citizens of Livingston County. Ms. Myers asked that board members contact her with any questions regarding the annual report they were provided with. *Motion by Bunting, second by Blackard for approval of the Mental Health FY2020 Report.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Fannin, Steichen, Shafer, Mennenga, Welch, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** Slagel, Kestner and Carley

#### APPEARANCES

N/A

#### CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Bills
- B. Appointment:
  - a. **James Patten** - re-appointment to the Livingston County Board of Review commencing June 1, 2020 and expiring May 31, 2022.
  - b. **Linda Dionne** - re-appointment to the Livingston County Board of Review commencing June 1, 2019 and expiring May 31, 2021.
  - c. **Nancy Giovanini** - re-appointment to the Livingston County Board of Review commencing June 1, 2019 and expiring May 31, 2021.
  - d. **Shelby Hoerner** – re-appointment to the Livingston County Farmland Assessment Review Committee commencing September 1, 2019 and expiring August 30, 2021.
  - e. **Michael Fogarty** – re-appointment to the Livingston County Farmland Assessment Review Committee commencing September 1, 2019 and expiring August 30, 2021.
  - f. **Denny Rich** – re-appointment to the Saunemin Fire Protection District commencing May 1, 2021 and expiring May 1, 2024.
  - g. **Bill Zeilman (Res. #2021-03-03)** – re-appointment to the Long Point Fire Protection District commencing May 1, 2021 and expiring May 1, 2024.

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

### SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE

Vice-Chair Bob Weller (in the absence of Chair Jim Carley) reported the following items of interest: reviewed the Jail, Animal and Pro-Active reports; YTD expenses are in-line and under budget; and upon completion of training, a young Labrador retriever will become the third dog member of the canine unit.

### HIGHWAY

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

- a) **Bridge Petition:** Saunemin Road District – Replace existing CMP’s with 2 – 78” ERS x 46’ Precoated CMP’s @ 1600N, 2527E Road. Estimated Cost = \$40,000. Section 21-26000-00-AB
- b) **Resolution (#2021-03-04):** IDOT Resolution Requesting Consent to the Reappointment of the Incumbent as County Engineer
- c) **Quarterly Report:** 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, FY 21

*Motion by Lovell, second by Barickman to approve all items of the Highway Action Items (with one roll call vote).*

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

### PUBLIC PROPERTY

**Proposal & Work Agreement: Diegan & Associates** – Alina Hartley explained that the Diegan proposal was for them to complete the asbestos testing at the old H&E Building, prepare the bid documents for both the asbestos abatement and the demolition and oversee both projects on the county’s behalf. This firm completed this same role on the Livingston Manor Nursing Home project. *Motion by Fannin, second by Ritter to approve the Proposal & Work Agreement with Diegan & Associates for the asbestos abatement and demolition work at the H&E Building.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Fannin, Steichen, Shafer, Mennenga, Welch, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** Slagel, Kestner and Carley

Committee Chair John Vitzthum reported that at their regular two-week zoom meeting they learned that work is progressing smoothly with the exception of an issue with NICOR that occurred recently. A conference call is scheduled for Friday to discuss the issue with NICOR. Vitzthum also reported that at the new building progress is on-going with interior stud work near completion and the mechanical workers are finishing up the preliminary back work prior to hanging the duct work.

### FINANCE

No Report.

### AG & ZONING

Committee Chair Bunting stated that they are hoping to host an electronic recycling event in Pontiac, on a Saturday in June. Bunting reported that Assistant Planning Administrator-Jessie King and his crew, Alina Hartley and Ginger Harris had been working diligently the last four months on the Emergency Operations Plan. He stated that it had been completed and sent to Springfield the day before. He thanked everyone who worked tirelessly to meet the deadline.

### PERSONNEL

They didn’t meet this month.

### ADMINISTRATIVE

County Board Chair Kathy Arbogast reported that UCCI announced that they would be holding their Galena Conference this year.

**ELECTION, RULES AND LEGISLATIVE**

Committee Chair Mike Kirkton reported that they had approved the appointments on the Consent Agenda and had done more work on the reapportionment. They are still waiting on census data from the state. Ms. Hartley stated that she had signed up to receive notification when the data had been released and would forward it on to the members at that time. The last information they had received was that information may not be released until September.

**VETERAN’S ASSISTANCE**

Vice-Chair James Blackard (in the absence of Committee Chair Ron Kestner) happily reported that the van that had previously been reported as needing its transmission replaced had instead been able to be repaired.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Committee Chair Marty Fannin stated they met before the County Board meeting and learned from Jon that with the passage of the new crime bill that all the officers would have to have body cameras by 2025. Sear also stated that in addition to the camera cost, there would be a cost of \$150,000 for the seven-year retention requirement of storing the camera footage.

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY**

No report.

**MID-CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION**

They didn’t meet this month.

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Joe Steichen reported that they met. Much of what they discussed was reported by Jackie Dever in her presentation earlier in the meeting.

**MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

Jack Vietti reported that their next meeting would be held next Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jason Bunting reminded the board members who had made a reservation for the Livingston County Farm Bureau Legislative Breakfast scheduled for Friday, March 12, at 7:30 a.m. at the Pontiac Elks Club that all safety precautions would be observed. Speakers would include Patrick Doggett (Congressman Kinzinger’s Office), Senator Barickman, Representatives Dan Brady and Tom Bennett and County Board Chair Kathy Arbogast.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

County Clerk Kristy Masching reminded the members that their pay date would be March 26 and that all per diem vouchers needed to be to her Friday (12<sup>th</sup>) morning.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m., on motion by Fannin, second by Welch. MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:* Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Fannin, Steichen, Shafer, Mennenga, Welch, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon  
**Nays:** None **Absent:** Slagel, Kestner and Carley

**Kathy Arbogast, Chair**

Attest:

*Kristy A. Masching*

County Clerk