

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF June 17, 2021 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 Jan Ambrose presented the invocation. Mark Runyon 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, Ronald L. Kestner, Seth Welch, James A. Carley, Robert F. Weller, Paul A. Ritter, Steven Lovell, Linda Ambrose, James Blackard, Gerald Earing, Kathy Arbogast, Bill Wilkey, and Mark Runyon **Absent:** Scott Mennenga, William Mays and John Vitzthum

Also Present: County Clerk-Kristy Masching, Executive Director-Alina Hartley, GLCEDC CEO-Adam Dontz, County Highway Engineer-Clay Metcalf, Finance Director-Diane Schwahn, Human Resources Director-Ginger Harris, and IT Director-Jon Sear

AGENDA

Chair Arbogast called for approval of the agenda as presented. *Motion by Ritter, second by Blackard to approve the agenda as presented.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Arbogast called for approval of the May 13, 2021 County Board minutes. *Motion by Fannin, second by Earing to approve the May 13, 2021 County Board meeting minutes.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

PRESENTATION

Service Recognition Awards – County Board Chair Kathy Arbogast recognized sixteen employees who attained service milestones with the county during the first six months of 2021. She thanked them for their dedicated service to the county. Those recipients were: **5 Year Service Recognition** – Trent Ruestman-Highway, Ron Studebaker-Circuit Clerk, Mary Jo Stadel-Public Defender, Mary Kennedy-Public Health and Mary Jo Krall-Public Health; **10 Year Service Recognition** – Steve Rapp-Highway, Tondra Harris-Public Health, Michelle Harder-Animal Control, Emily Frobish-Sheriff; **15 Year Service Recognition** – Jason Draper-Sheriff and Jeff Durham-Facilities Services; **20 Year Service Recognition** – Darrick Renken-Sheriff, Brian Hoffmeyer-Sheriff and Janice Golliday-Mental Health; **30 Year Service Recognition** – Rodney Reed-Sheriff and Sheriff Tony Childress.

APPEARANCES

N/A

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Bills
- B. Appointments:
 - a. **Dave Quick** – reappointment to the Cornell Fire Protection District for a three-year term commencing May 1, 2021 and expiring May 1, 2024.
 - b. **Don Bunting** – (Res. #2021-06-12) reappointment to the Odell Fire Protection District for a three-year term commencing May 1, 2021 and expiring May 1, 2024.
 - c. **Jason Wolf** – (Res. #2021-06-13) reappointment to the Odell Fire Protection District for a three-year term commencing May 1, 2021 and expiring May 1, 2024.
 - d. **Dale Sass** - (Res.#2021-06-14) reappointment to the Long Point Community Fire Protection District for a three-year term commencing May 1, 2021 and expiring May 1, 2024.

- e. **Brent Smith** – (**Res. #2021-06-15**) reappointment to the Long Point Community Fire Protection District for a three-year term commencing May 1, 2021 and expiring May 1, 2024.
- f. **Lynn DiNardi** – reappointment to the Livingston County Housing Authority Board for a five-year term commencing from May 23, 2021 and ending May 23, 2026.

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

FINANCE

Property Tax Abatement Agreement: Zutat Feed Solutions – Adam Dontz reviewed the criteria which Zutat Feed Solutions met to qualify for the seven-year abatement. He noted the following: company is located outside of Chatsworth; abatement is for a new 60,000 square foot building; Zutat investing over \$10 million in building; 28 FT jobs; will meet wage criteria with wage and benefit package of \$34,148; and exceeds all criteria outlined in MOU for the property tax abatement. *Motion by Ritter, second by Earing to approve the Property Tax Abatement Agreement for Zutat Feed Solutions. MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:* Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Steichen, Shafer, Kestner, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** Mennenga, Mays and Vitzthum

HIGHWAY

Vice-Committee Chair Mark Runyon reviewed the **Action Agenda Items** as follows:

- a) **Letting Results:** June 8, 2021 Letting
- b) **Architectural Agreement:** Middleton & Associates. Design agreement for new Maintenance Building.
- c) **Quarterly Report:** 2nd Quarter, FY 21

Motion by Runyon, second by Weller to approve the Highway Action Items (all three items with one roll call vote). MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes: Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Steichen, Shafer, Kestner, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** Mennenga, Mays and Vitzthum

ELECTION, RULES AND LEGISLATIVE

Resolution (#2021-06-16): Approving 2021 Reapportionment Plan & Ordinance (#2021-06-17) Amending Ordinance No. 2011-06-33, Reapportioning Livingston County Board – Chair Kathy Arbogast noted that she had spoken with State’s Attorney Yedinak during the break. She stated that since the resolution had already been presented, if no one had any objections to any portions of the resolution other than the reduction in the size of the board, the board would vote on what the resolution said. Committee Chair Mike Kirkton summarized the five aspects of the plan which would be voted on at this meeting. The five aspects are: 1) the number of board members and reducing the number to eighteen; 2) based on census data and our reapportionment plan, leaving the boundaries of the three districts of Livingston County as they are; 3) the chairman of the County Board is elected every two years by the county board members and not the constituents at large; 4) the salary of the County Board members will be computed on a per diem basis and remain at the same rate, no increase for another ten years; and 5) the salary of the chairman will be computed on a per diem basis and remain at the same rate, no increase for another ten years, too. Chair Arbogast reiterated that as long as no one had any objections to any portions of the resolution other than the reduction of the board to eighteen members, then you would vote yes. The resolution would be voted on as it stands, including the reduction of the board to eighteen members. Kirkton explained that the deadline for passage of the reapportionment plan was by July 1 or the July County Board meeting (July 15). He noted that there was a bill on Governor Pritzker’s desk that would extend that deadline and extend the use of ASC data in place of the census data. The committee’s recommendation was to complete the reapportionment plan tonight, a month ahead of the deadline to give the board plenty of time so that the reapportionment process

wouldn't be passed on to an ad-hoc committee. After the July deadline, the reapportionment process would go on to an ad-hoc committee established by the County Clerk and the State's Attorney. The ad-hoc committee would determine the reapportionment plan for the County Board and the county. The Board would lose control of the process. *Motion by Manker, second by Barickman to approve Resolution (#2021-06-16) 2021 Reapportionment Plan & Ordinance (#2021-06-17) Amending Ordinance No. 2011-06-33, Reapportioning Livingston County Board.* Discussion took place. State's Attorney Randy Yedinak stated that if the process went to an ad-hoc committee the size of the board would remain the same as the largest number that's allowed by statute (29) or the size of the Board in October 1969. Yedinak said that the size of the County Board was something that also had to be considered in the plan. It was noted that if the first motion failed, which included the reduction of members to eighteen, then anyone could make a motion to amend the resolution, to amend the number of county board members. Chair Kirkton stated that the number of people on the County Board was still a part of the reapportionment plan and needed to be voted upon. It was his recommendation that any changes be made after the Board had voted on what the committee had worked diligently upon for three months. Barickman who was a member of the committee noted that their committee knew they weren't making the decision for the Board but putting it before the Board for their consideration. Fannin called for the question and then withdrew his request. Discussion continued with members of the Board voicing their reasons for or against reducing the size of the Board, the election cycle if reduced to twenty-one members (odd number) and committee restructuring after reapportionment. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Fannin, Shafer, Kestner, Carley, Ritter, Blackard, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** Slagel, Steichen, Welch, Weller, Lovell, Ambrose and Earing **Absent:** Mennenga, Mays and Vitzthum

Comm Chair Kirkton also reported that the committee is working on restructuring the committees and updating the Standing Rules.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

Vice-Chair Gerald Earing (in the absence of Committee Chair John Vitzthum) reported the following items. The ad-hoc committee has been working on a plan for leasing out the IHR building. The soil has been moved from the new H&E building parking lot to make it solid. Chair Kathy Arbogast thanked the County Highway Department for their part in removing and storing the soil from the H&E parking lot project

SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE

Vice-Committee Chair Bob Weller reported that the committee reviewed the monthly reports from the jail, the task force and the Sheriff. There were no action items.

AG & ZONING

Committee Chair Bunting reported the following. The committee has been in conversation with a potential wind farm (EDF) located in the northeastern part of the county and encompassing Broughton, Sullivan and a portion of Union Township. They are hoping to have their special use permit paperwork filed in the fall of 2021, with construction commencing in the spring of 2023. There is also the possibility of another wind farm in conjunction with a solar farm coming into the county and filing their special use permit late in 2021 or early 2022.

Bunting also thanked those who helped out at the electronic recycling event held Saturday, June 12th. They loaded three trucks in Pontiac, one in Fairbury and another truck in Pontiac on Monday (14th).

PERSONNEL

Committee Chair Jack Vietti reported that their committee had a presentation from Jeff Gilmore on the employee's health insurance HSA option.

VETERAN'S ASSISTANCE

Committee Chair Ron Kestner reported that they reviewed and approved the bills, noting that they were well within their budget for the year.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Committee Chair Marty Fannin reported that they discussed at length cyber insurance and other possibilities to help prevent us against cyber-attacks. He stated that discussion will be continued at next month's meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE

No meeting was held.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

John Slagel reported that at their March meeting they discussed the Chatsworth dissolution issue. It was noted that they will need a letter from the county or Chatsworth in order for them to move forward with selling the property. They are working with Chatsworth on a plan everyone is satisfied with.

MID-CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION

No report.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Joe Steichen reported the following items of interest from their Monday night meeting: COVID cases were down in the county; plenty of vaccine is available; and the Board of Health is working on proposals for use of the stimulus funding.

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Jack Vietti reported that their next meeting would be held next Thursday, July 15th at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

ANNOUNCEMENTS

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m., on motion by Fannin, second by Kestner. **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

Kathy Arbogast, Chair

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching

County Clerk