

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 3, 2021 MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m..

Present: Gerald Earing, Scott Mennenga, Jason Bunting, and John Slagel,

Absent: Tim Shafer, Paul Ritter, and Steven Lovell

Committee Chair Bunting commented about the agenda for this August 3, 2021 meeting. It was noted by the Chair that discussion of the county's emergency declaration regarding the COVID-19 pandemic be added. Gerald Earing then moved, seconded by John Slagel that this agenda be approved as amended. This motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Committee Chair Bunting then referred to the minutes of the July 6, 2021 committee meeting. Scott Mennenga then moved, seconded by John Slagel that the July 6th minutes be approved as presented. This motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Business:

COVID-19 Emergency Declaration

The county board chair, Kathy Arbogast, was present at the meeting to discuss her thoughts regarding the issue of whether or not to remove the emergency declaration that was put in place at the beginning of the pandemic. Arbogast stated that she felt it would be best to leave the declaration as it is until the federal government recommends otherwise.

The pros and cons of the decision were then weighed amongst committee members. It was decided that for emergency funding purposes, it would be best to leave the emergency declaration in place in case emergency funding were to be needed in the future.

Livingston County Health Department Administrator, Jackie Dever, was also present to answer any questions the committee members had.

With no other questions or comments, it was determined that no action would be taken on the already in-place emergency declaration.

Briefing on Solid Waste:

The zoning administrator presented a solid waste update to committee members. Carbon Monoxide issues at the landfill were noted among other gas issues since the recent gas system replacement. The zoning administrator noted that it was the intention of the landfill to bring in crews to fix the issues in the fall of this year.

The zoning administrator also noted that they are preparing for the movement of the Enbridge pipeline to make room for the new cell construction of the landfill.

Electronic Recycling Discussion:

The zoning administrator noted that the county is approved to host another e-waste recycling drive and that a preliminary site and date needed to be discussed.

There was then discussion about a potential site for the event. It was determined after discussion that the old K-Mart parking lot worked out very well at the Pontiac location and that it would be preferred to have it there again if possible. However, it was also determined that the Village of Dwight should be contacted to determine if the event could be held there.

A preliminary date of November 7th, 2021 was agreed upon for the next drive as well.

Graymont Property Condemnation:

The assistant zoning administrator then presented the committee with a request by Rooks Creek Township to condemn a property located at 302 N. Main St. in Graymont due to it being considered a “danger to the public”.

The assistant zoning administrator then gave a brief overview of the request.

There was then discussion about the options of the committee and board as it related to this request and what those options would entail if the county got involved with it or not.

After further discussion it was decided that it would be in the county’s best interest not to get involved with this particular matter. John Slagel then moved to recommend to the full board that the county not get involved with this condemnation request and let Rooks Creek Township handle it. That motion was seconded by Gerald Earing.

The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee:

Due to previous mention by a board member about why the county board gets involved with certain zoning cases, but not others, the zoning administrator discussed with committee members their options regarding how involved the county board can get as it relates to zoning cases and that a zoning text amendment could be made to better fit the wishes of the county board on what zoning cases they wish to hear.

The zoning administrator then informed committee members that due to delayed legislation from the state, EDF Renewables contacted the zoning office and informed them that their wind farm project for the Campus area would be temporarily suspended.

The assistant administrator then informed committee members of a solar farm application that would be going to hearings next month and ultimately to the county board and this committee likely in October.

The committee members were then informed of the Valley View special use cases that are going before the zoning board of appeals on the upcoming Thursday and the potential opposition that has been heard.

Public Comment: None

Review and Approval of Bills: None

Adjournment:

With there being no further business to come before the committee, there was a motion by Gerald Earing, second by John Slagel to adjourn. The motion was carried with a voice vote of all ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m..

Jesse J. King, Assistant Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission