

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF July 15, 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.

Minister Ginger Harris of the Flanagan Christian Church presented the invocation. Tim Shafer 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, Tim Shafer, Scott Mennenga, Seth Welch, James A. Carley, 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:** Joseph D. Steichen and Ronald L. Kestner

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 Carley, second by Ritter to approve the agenda as presented.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Arbogast called for approval of the June 14, 2021 Special County Board meeting minutes. *Motion by Fannin, second by Blackard to approve the June 14, 2021 Special County Board meeting minutes.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

PRESENTATION

N/A

APPEARANCES

N/A

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Bills
- B. Appointments:
 - a. **James McCabe** – reappointment to the Pontiac Rural Fire Protection District for a three-year term commencing May 1, 2021 and expiring May 1, 2024.
 - b. **Jeanne Elliott** – reappointment to the Livingston County Board of Health for a three-year term commencing from June 2021 and ending June 2024.
 - c. **Katherine Austman** – reappointment to the Livingston County Board of Health for a three-year term commencing from June 2021 and ending June 2024.
 - d. **Katherine Austman** – reappointment to the Livingston County TB Board for a three-year term commencing from June 2021 and ending June 2024.

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

FINANCE

Resolution (#2021-07-18): Establishing Uniform Real Estate Transfer Tax (Supplements Resolution #05-27) – Committee Chairman Tim Shafer noted that the provided copy of a resolution which was passed about sixteen years ago regarded the real estate transfer tax. There was a small omission at that time which we are correcting with the new resolution. There were a couple of beneficial interests that the State covered, we covered too. In the language that we drafted, we only covered one of those. Now it will cover assignments of beneficial interests for documents such as real estate trusts. This action will bring us in compliance with our practice and is a law in the books. Our language will comply with our practice. *Motion by Shafer, second by Fannin to approve Resolution (#2021-08-18): Establishing Uniform Real Estate Transfer Tax (Supplements Resolution #05-27).*

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

Resolution (#2021-07-19): Public Defender Salary – Committee Chairman Tim Shafer stated that by law the County must pay the Public Defender 90% of the State’s Attorney’s salary in order to be reimbursed by the State for 66 2/3% of the Public Defender’s salary. Since the State increased the State’s Attorney’s salary effective July 1, 2021, the County must increase the Public Defender’s salary in order to receive the reimbursement from the State. *Motion by Shafer, second by Bunting to approve Resolution (#2021-08-19): Public Defender Salary.*

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

Chair Shafer commented on the on-going budget process noting that the department heads were doing a very good job of holding the expenses about the same from year to year. He also reminded the board members that there would be a significant impact on the budgets with raising the hourly pay rate \$1.75 an hour.

HIGHWAY

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

- a) **Letting Results:** July 6, 2021 Letting
- b) **Resolution (#2021-07-20):** Resolution to adopt Livingston County Highway Department Purchasing Policy
- c) **Resolution (#2021-07-21):** Reappointing County Engineer
- d) **Agreement:** IDOT Agreement for County Engineer’s Salary Program

Letting Results - *Motion by Barickman, second by Mennenga to approve the Highway July 6, 2021 Letting Results.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** Ayes: Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Shafer, Mennenga, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon Nays: None Absent: Steichen and Kestner

Resolution (#2021-07-20): Resolution to adopt Livingston County Highway Department Purchasing Policy - Lovell noted that the committee had been working on the proposed purchasing policy for a few months with the Elections, Rules and Legislation Committee. *Motion by Earing, second by Runyon to approve Resolution (#2021-07-20): Adopting Livingston County Highway Department Purchasing Policy.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** Ayes: Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Shafer, Mennenga, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon Nays: None Absent: Steichen and Kestner

Resolution (#2021-07-21): Reappointing County Engineer & Agreement: IDOT Agreement for County Engineer’s Salary Program – Lovell explained that this action was required by IDOT and was for a term of six years. *Motion by Lovell, second by Ambrose to approve Resolution (#2021-07-21): Reappointing County Engineer & Agreement: IDOT Agreement for County Engineer’s Salary Program (approve both items c. and d. with one roll call vote).* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** Ayes: Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Shafer, Mennenga, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose,

Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** Steichen and Kestner

County Highway Engineer Clay Metcalf reported that they are behind in the oiling and chipping road work due to unfavorable weather conditions. Metcalf stated that the August 15 deadline could be extended if need be to allow additional time for completion of this process. He will be checking with townships throughout the county for their input before a decision is made. Metcalf noted that they usually do not do any oiling and chipping work in September due to the cooler weather.

AG & ZONING

Resolution (#2021-07-22): Zoning Case ZM-3-21 Zutat Feed Solutions – Committee member Gerald Earing and Jesse King-Assistant Planning Administrator provided information on this case. This business will be located outside of Chatsworth and will be manufacturing feed. The discussion quickly transitioned to Zoning Case ZM-2-21 Pitte and the Board inadvertently failed to act on this item.

Resolution (#2021-07-23): Zoning Case ZM-2-21 Pitte – The Jason Pitte Family was requesting a change in the zoning classification of two pieces of property located in South Streator currently zoned as C1, Local Business and R2, Low Density Multiple Family. They are asking that this be changed to a zoning classification of C3, General Business which would allow them to construct a rental storage unit facility on their property. It was noted that this request had gone before the Regional Planning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Ag & Zoning Committee. Jessie King, the assistant Zoning Administrator noted that the variance part of the case was voted down by the ZBA. As a result, any storage structure would have to be built at least ten feet away from property lines. The applicant does plan to construct an eight foot chain-link fence with privacy mesh attached to it that has a 90% light-blocking feature. It was noted that the peak of the buildings was 8’6” so any security lighting would be below that area shining down on the unit doors. The hours of operation for the storage unit facility would be limited from dawn to dusk. The primary issues heard from objectors of this proposal regarded the loss of a play area for their children and if the storage business would fail, what future developments might take its place. Jason Pitte, the applicant, was present to answer questions the board members had. Pitte noted the distance between the resident’s homes and where the storage units would be was about 200-300 feet. He stated that access to the facility would only be from the front and there would not be any doors to the individual storage units on the outside walls of the storage facility. Discussion took place with many board members expressing their thoughts for or against this proposal. *Motion by Bunting, second by Earing to approve Resolution (#2021-07-23): Zoning Case ZM-2-21 Pitte.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Shafer, Mennenga, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast and Wilkey **Nays:** Slagel, Fannin and Runyon **Present:** Mays **Absent:** Steichen and Kestner

Resolution (#2021-07-24): Authorizing Renewal of Host Agreement – Zoning Administrator Chuck Schopp noted that the proposed Landfill Host Agreement was identical to what had been presented in prior year’s Host County renewal agreements with American Disposal Services of Illinois. It’s a three year contract commencing January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2024. The updates to this agreement include dates, the name of the county board chair and the amounts we receive for the Host Benefit Fee. The tonnage fees are adjusted according to each year’s CPI. Schopp explained that the figures were higher with the CPI but tonnage was down due to the pandemic. *Motion by Bunting, second by Fannin to approve the Host Agreement renewal.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Shafer, Mennenga, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** Steichen and Kestner

ELECTION, RULES AND LEGISLATIVE

Vice-Chairman Gina Manker reported that they reviewed the appointments which were approved earlier in the meeting. Their committee is reviewing the Standing Rules and has made some suggestions which Ms. Hartley is incorporating into a draft revision for their review next month. Chairman Kirkton asked that board members who had any additions or deletions to the Standing Rules should send them to any member on the ERL Committee. It

was explained that once a draft copy is completed, it will be distributed for the Board members review and then would be put on display for thirty days prior to the Board taking action.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

Committee Chair John Vitzthum reported that things seem to be moving along at the construction site of the new Public Health building. The rain has delayed a few jobs. IHR has a few items to move out of their old building. Public Health is hoping to move into the new building in September with furniture to be delivered in mid-August. They are not sure if ComED had set the transformer. A local landscaper business is drafting a design which would be divided into sections where we could work with each individual school on their particular section.

SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE

Chair Kathy Arbogast reported that they discussed the Sheriff's capital budget requests and the FY2022 Budget Requests for the Circuit Clerk/Circuit Court, Coroner and Probation.

PERSONNEL

Committee Chair Jack Vietti reported that they didn't have a meeting.

VETERAN'S ASSISTANCE

Committee Vice-Chair Jim Blackard (in the absence of Committee Chair Ron Kestner) reported that Tom Bailey is planning on trading in two vehicles for one new van. Bailey is also looking for an assistant who he can train to become his replacement.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Committee Chair Marty Fannin reported that they continued their ongoing discussion on what would be the most efficient way to handle cyber security.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Chair Kathy Arbogast reported that they discussed the FY 2022 Budget & Capital Requests for the County Board Office, the Finance Department and Human Resources Department.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

John Slagel reported that at their next meeting will be July 29th. They are doing on-going negotiations to get HUD's permission to sell the property in Chatsworth.

MID-CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION

No report.

BOARD OF HEALTH

No report.

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Jack Vietti reported that their next meeting would be held next Thursday, August 19th at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Kathy Arbogast announced that the GLCEDC Golf Outing will be held August 26th. If any board member is interested in forming a four-member team, contact Alina by August 6th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m., on motion by Fannin, second by Mays. **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

Kathy Arbogast, Chair

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching
County Clerk

Minutes Bd-Reg Sesn 071521.A