

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m..

Present: Tim Shafer, Gerald Earing, Steven Lovell, Jason Bunting, and John Slagel,

Absent: Paul Ritter and Scott Mennenga

Committee Chair Bunting commented about the agenda for this September 7, 2021 meeting. Steven Lovell moved, seconded by Gerald Earing that this agenda be approved as presented. This motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Committee Chair Bunting then referred to the minutes of the August 3, 2021 committee meeting. A needed correction was noted regarding the date at the top of the minutes. John Slagel then moved, seconded by Tim Shafer that the August 3, 2021 minutes be approved as amended. This motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Business:

Briefing on Solid Waste:

The zoning administrator and assistant administrator presented a solid waste update to committee members. Details from a recent phone call with Republic Services were shared with committee members regarding upcoming projects at the landfill as well as previous issues that were noted.

It was also shared with the committee members that the contractor that the Livingston Landfill uses to assist with litter pickup has had a difficult time getting applicants for the job. Therefore, the number of employees is down regarding that area of landfill operations.

Highway Litter Discussion:

The assistant zoning administrator then updated committee members of the effort to mitigate the litter problem before it occurs. It was noted that Paul Ritter had mentioned to the zoning office that he was interested in gauging his high school class's interest in conducting a study of the interstate in an effort to determine how extensive the litter issue was and if it could be attributed to the truck traffic that brings in waste to the landfill from the North.

Committee members then discussed how the county could accurately pinpoint the root cause of the issue and address the correct entities to attempt to resolve the issue.

There was then discussion as to how the county should address matters like this.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee:

The zoning administrator then commented on the recent hearing that was conducted by the Regional Planning Commission regarding the proposed 10 MW solar farm that is proposed to be placed on Enbridge's land. It was noted that there was no contact with the zoning office or interested parties at the planning commission hearing one way or another on the project. There was then some discussion as to certain aspects of the proposed solar project.

The zoning administrator told committee members that the state would be meeting to potentially vote on a green energy bill on the upcoming Thursday which could have a direct impact as to how some of the outstanding wind and solar projects could proceed.

The zoning administrator then informed committee members that the zoning office had met with representatives of the EDF Renewables wind energy project recently. Committee members were informed that EDF Renewables is currently awaiting site approval from the FAA. It was currently project that hearings on this particular wind energy project could begin in late spring. Committee members were also informed that the wind energy project that has interest in a footprint spanning from Woodford County into Livingston County had also recently contacted the zoning office to let them know that they are still interested in development. They had also inquired about whether the county had considered increasing their tower height which they were informed that the county would not be increasing the allowed tower height.

There was then discussion about hosting another E-Recycle event in the county and where it would be hosted. The zoning administrator stated that he had spoken with the Village of Dwight who indicated that they were open to hosting the event. It was then agreed that the event would be hosted in Dwight and then two tentative dates were selected.

The assistant zoning administrator then updated committee members on the progress of the cleanup of a property located in unincorporated Cornell with a considerable number of busses and other vehicles being stored on the property. The assistant zoning administrator informed members that a sizeable fine had been assessed to the property manager and that there has been a timeline established for cleanup of the property under threat of increased fines if not cleaned up.

Public Comment: None

Review and Approval of Bills:

One bill in the amount of \$1,106 was noted by the committee chair to be paid to Deigan & Associates for environmental consulting work done for the county.

John Slagel moved, seconded by Steven Lovell, that the bill presented be paid. The motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

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 6:32 p.m..

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