

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF August 12, 2021 MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD

OPENING

County Board Vice-Chair Jason Bunting (in the absence of 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 Victor Randall presented the invocation. John Slagel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The clerk called roll with the following **present:** John L. Vietti, Jason Bunting, Gina Manker, Joel J. Barickman, John Slagel, Marty Fannin, Tim Shafer, Ronald L. Kestner, Seth Welch, James A. Carley, Robert F. Weller, Paul A. Ritter, William Mays, Steven Lovell, Linda Ambrose, James Blackard, Gerald Earing, John Vitzthum, Bill Wilkey and Mark Runyon **Absent:** Michael L. Kirkton, Joseph D. Steichen, Scott Mennenga and Kathy Arbogast

Also Present: County Clerk-Kristy Masching, Executive Director-Alina Hartley, GLCEDC CEO-Adam Dontz, Human Resources Director-Ginger Harris, Treasurer-Nikki Meier, Public Health Administrator Jackie Dever, State's Attorney Randy Yedinak, Sheriff-Tony Childress, Assistant Planning Director-Jesse King, Jail Superintendent-Stu Inman and IT Director-Jon Sear

AGENDA

Vice-Chair Bunting called for approval of the agenda as presented. *Motion by Fannin, second by Ritter to approve the agenda as presented.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chair Bunting called for approval of the June 17, 2021 Reapportionment Hearing and June 17, 2021 Regular Session County Board meeting minutes. *Motion by Slagel, second by Manker to approve the June 17, 2021 Reapportionment Hearing and June 17, 2021 Regular Session meeting minutes.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

PRESENTATION

COVID Update: Jackie Dever, Public Health Administrator – Ms. Dever stated that in the past seven days there has been a 42% increase in cases within the county. Our region, Region 2 is at a 5.2% of positivity increase with our county at 3.2%, with the goal to keep it less than 8%. Our vaccination rate is at 40.13%, with first dose vaccinations increasing. The Pfizer vaccine is the only vaccine available for children 12 and older. Booster doses have been FDA approved but still needs to go through CDC before final approval is given. Dever stated that masking is mandated for the schools and was told it will be enforced. She has been working closely with all the Superintendents regarding the free testing available to all schools. Dever noted that 80% of the positive cases are the Delta variant which has a transmission rate double what other strains have been. Dever stated that her department would start next week tracking the number of vaccinated people who contracted COVID, as well as whether it was happening with all three brands of vaccines or was prevalent with one brand. Discussion followed with Dever responding to the various questions regarding the school districts, vaccine information and Jail and PCC status.

APPEARANCES

N/A

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Bills

Motion by Fannin, second by Earing for approval of the Consent Agenda. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Shafer, Kestner, Welch, Carley,

Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None
Absent: Kirkton, Steichen, Mennenga and Arbogast

FINANCE

Resolution (#2021-08-25): Approving GLCEDC Grant Request (Cantarero Pallets) – Committee Vice-Chair John Slagel reported that the committee had approved a GLCEDC grant for Cantarero Pallets, Inc. This business builds pallets and will be located in Dwight in the former LSC (Donnelly) building. They are requesting \$125,000 and will create at least twenty-five new jobs and hope to expand to seventy-five jobs. *Motion by Slagel, second by Weller to approve Resolution (#2021-08-25): GLCEDC Grant Request for Cantarero Pallets of \$125,000.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Shafer, Kestner, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum and Wilkey **Nays:** Runyon **Absent:** Kirkton, Steichen, Mennenga and Arbogast

Resolution (#2021-08-26) Authorizing Transfer of Deed (PIN#02-02-07-152-003) – Slagel reported that this was for a transfer of deed for delinquent taxes on the property. *Motion by Slagel, second by Earing to approve the resolution authorizing transfer of deed (PIN#02-02-07-152-003).* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Shafer, Kestner, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** Kirkton, Steichen, Mennenga and Arbogast

Circuit Clerk Semi-Annual Report - Circuit Clerk LeAnn Dixon was present to answer any questions the members had regarding her semi-annual report for the first half of FY 2021. *Motion by Slagel, second by Fannin to approve the Circuit Clerk's Semi-Annual Report for the first half of FY 2021.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Shafer, Kestner, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** Kirkton, Steichen, Mennenga and Arbogast

County Clerk Semi-Annual Report – County Clerk Kristy Masching was present to answer any questions the members had regarding her semi-annual report. *Motion by Slagel, second by Wilkey to approve the County Clerk's Semi-Annual Report for the first half of FY 2021.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Shafer, Kestner, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** Kirkton, Steichen, Mennenga and Arbogast

Slagel noted that they spent a lengthy discussion reviewing the FY 2022 capital requests. He noted that some requests didn't get financing, some were moved to department budgets and for some, other options were found. The remaining items which needed to be done totaled about \$2.9 million. He thanked Alina Hartley and Diane Schwahn for their hard work.

HIGHWAY

Committee Chair Steve Lovell noted that there were no action items tonight. He did provide the following items of interest: emergency bid ditch reconstruction to take place on CH36; sold truck for \$13,500; have striping contract to do but can't get paint; 90% of seal coating work completed on county highways, with 80% of Fairbury blacktop completed; arrival of new truck moved back to March from November.

AG & ZONING

Graymont Condemnation Request - Committee Chair Jason Bunting introduced Jesse King, Assistant Zoning Administrator who provided information from the attorneys on behalf of Rooks Creek Township for a property condemnation request. The property they are requesting to have condemned is located at 302 North Main Street in Graymont and is cited as being a danger to the public. The property consists of a vacant, dilapidated old house and garage on a 0.1 acre corner lot which had become severely overgrown with trees and vegetation. King explained that Rooks Creek Township was fulfilling their statutory obligation to the county as to whether the county would want to get involved with the condemnation request or let the township take control of the

condemnation process. King reviewed the pictures and paperwork he had provided to the Board members in their packets. He stated that the three options available to the County to vote upon were: 1) vote to not take action and let Rooks Creek Township move forward with the condemnation process; 2) get involved and take control of the condemnation proceedings including all costs associated with the process which could include costs for demolition; cleaning up the property; and, any litigation or court proceedings for ownership which could evolve in the process; or, 3) take no action and after sixty days, Rooks Creek would statutorily have the right to move forward with the condemnation and all costs incurred. Discussion followed. King also stated that he had reviewed the information with State's Attorney Randy Yedinak. Yedinak believed that it would be in the county's best interest not to get involved in real estate litigation and legal matters. The Ag & Zoning Committee recommended that the County Board vote not to get involved in this matter. It was noted that a "yes" vote would mean that the County was voting not to take action on the request and allow the process to move forward without County participation. *Motion by Fannin, second by Ritter that the County Board take no action on the Rooks Creek Township request for condemnation of the Graymont property.* **MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE WITH ALL AYES.**

PUBLIC PROPERTY

Resolution (#2021-08-27): Authorizing Lease Agreement and Building Updates Children's Advocacy Center - Committee Chair John Vitzthum presented the resolution authorizing the lease agreement with the Children's Advocacy Center. Discussion followed regarding the reasoning as to why the building wasn't torn down instead of leasing out to another entity with less rent being generated. The concern was that the building would become a money pit since we were receiving less rent and spending \$46,530 on improvements to the building for the entity. Vitzthum noted that the ad-hoc committee had lengthy discussions regarding the options for the building including its demolition. Their decision was based on the good condition the building was in as well as the option for the county to utilize it for storage of materials for the new building since the new building wasn't available. Hartley stated that the County would begin using the north half starting the following Monday for the new Health Department building items. The Children's Advocacy Center would be using part of the south end of the building. *Motion by Vitzthum, second by Weller to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Lease Agreement and Building Updates with the Children's Advocacy Center.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Shafer, Kestner, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum and Runyon **Nays:** Mays and Wilkey **Absent:** Kirkton, Steichen, Mennenga and Arbogast

Intergovernmental Agreement: Pontiac Fire Department Training - Committee Chair John Vitzthum stated that the PFD was requesting that they be allowed to use the Health & Education Building for training purposes prior to being demolished. Hartley noted that the IGA outlines the liability and puts it back on the City of Pontiac. She also stated that the Sheriff's Department will be conducting training at the H&E building first but doesn't need an IGA since it's our own liability. It was also noted that Hartley will be working with the city on the training schedule so that we will not experience any costs or delays. *Motion by Vitzthum, second by Blackard to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Pontiac and Livingston County permitting the Pontiac Fire Department use of the Health & Education Building for training purposes prior to demolition.* **MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE WITH ALL AYES.**

Vitzthum also noted the following items pertaining to the new Public Health building: some of the back ordered siding came in; still waiting on ComEd to install generator; due to lack of power in the building, having trouble drying out the floors; and luckily the electricians are able to continue their work; and the parking lot work, scheduled for this week was delayed due to the wet weather.

SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE

Vice-Chair Robert Weller (in the absence of Committee Chair Jim Carley at their meeting) reported the following: they heard the Animal Control, Pro-Active and Sheriff's Semi-Annual reports, with the housing report not available at that time; approved a Class B raffle/poker run application; and approved the bills. *Motion by Kestner, second by Ritter to approve the Sheriff's Semi-Annual Report.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Shafer, Kestner, Welch, Carley,

Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** Mays and Wilkey **Absent:** Kirkton, Steichen, Mennenga and Arbogast

ELECTION, RULES AND LEGISLATIVE

Vice-Committee Chair Gina Manker reported that their committee started review of the changes needed or desired for the Standing Rules. Discussion included the number of committees needed with the down-sizing of the board, whether some committees should be combined, eliminated or rename some. They will continue review of these issues at their September meeting.

PERSONNEL

Didn't have a meeting.

VETERAN'S ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Committee Chair Ron Kestner reported that they met and reviewed the FY 2022 budget requests. Kestner noted that the budget requests were slightly higher than last year's requests due to the inclusion of \$35,000 for a new van. Tom Bailey informed the committee that he was keeping the used Chevy 4x4 vehicle, too.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Committee Chair Marty Fannin reported that the bulk of their discussion centered on switching the county's anti-virus software from Symantec to Crowd-Strike's premiere plan.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Alina Hartley stated that discussion took place on the following: the issues contributing to delays at the Public Health Building; storage of the furniture for the new building as a result of the delays and committee reports.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

John Slagel reported on their July meeting. Executive Director-DiAnne Witsman announced that she would be retiring next year. They developed a succession plan which is being carried out. Slagel noted that there were still a few non-paying tenants taking advantage of the government moratorium on evictions. They are still working on the Chatsworth disposition and are looking for some ground or a new project to plan out with the hope that they can get HUD approval to move forward without the Village of Chatsworth's approval.

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

John Slagel noted that during his Finance Committee report he forgot to include that the Finance Committee had authorized the release of the county's RFP for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

Jail Superintendent Stewart Inman reported that the Governor had issued \$25 million to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for distribution to Illinois counties who house prisoners for DOC. He noted that their department was the first to submit their paperwork requesting reimbursement at a little over \$237,000 at our daily rate of \$71 a day. Stewart also announced that he would be retiring in March after serving in the corrections system for forty years. He expressed his appreciation to the Board for their collaboration with the Sheriff's Department in building up the jail and housing programs. Inman also announced that Lisa Draper had been selected for a national outstanding achievement award as the 2020-21 Correctional Officer of the Year.

Jim Blackard, a County Board Member expressed his concerns regarding the status of EMS services within the county, especially the lack of ambulance services available for the western half of our county. He noted that ambulance service for the western half of the county will have to come from outside of the county. Blackard noted another concern he had was if Covid vaccinations were mandated, there would be a large loss of volunteers and professionals who serve in the EMS fields. Blackard stated that he would like to avoid a public health crisis.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

5ILCS 120/2 (c)(11) – Pending Litigation – *Motion by Ritter second by Fannin to go into executive session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(11) – Pending Litigation.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Shafer, Kestner, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** Kirkton, Steichen, Mennenga and Arbogast

A short recess was taken at 7:20 p.m. Executive Session began at 7:25 p.m. Regular Session Resumed at 7:30 p.m.

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

N/A

ANNOUNCEMENTS

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m., on motion by Fannin, second by Ritter. **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

Kathy Arbogast, Chair

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching
County Clerk