

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF January 13, 2022 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.

Ginger Harris presented the invocation. Bill Wilkey led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The clerk called roll with the following **present:** John L. Vietti, Jason Bunting (Zoom), Michael L. Kirkton, Gina Manker (Zoom), John Slagel, Tim Shafer, Marty Fannin (via Zoom at 6:09 p.m.), Scott Mennenga, Ronald L. Kestner (Zoom), Seth Welch, James A. Carley, Bob Weller, Paul A. Ritter, William Mays, Steven Lovell, Linda Ambrose, James Blackard, Gerald Earing, John Vitzthum, Kathy Arbogast, Bill Wilkey and Mark Runyon  
**Absent:** Joel J. Barickman, Marty Fannin (present via Zoom at 6:09 p.m.) and Joseph D. Steichen

**Also Present:** County Clerk-Kristy Masching, Executive Director-Alina Hartley, County Highway Engineer-Clay Metcalf (Zoom), Human Resources Director-Ginger Harris, Finance Director-Diane Schwahn (Zoom), State's Attorney Randy Yedinak and IT Director-Jon Sear

**AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Arbogast called for approval of the October 14, 2021, November 10, 2021 and December 16, 2021 County Board County Board meeting minutes. *Motion by Ritter, second by Carley to approve the October 14, 2021, November 10, 2021 and December 16, 2021 County Board meeting minutes.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Slagel, Shafer, Mennenga, Kestner, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** Barickman, Fannin and Steichen

**PRESENTATION**

**Proclamation: School Choice Week (Resolution #2022-01-01)** – Chair Kathy Arbogast presented and read the proclamation which proclaimed the week of January 23 – 29, 2022 as School Choice Week. School Choice Week is celebrated across the country by students, parents, educators, schools and organizations to raise awareness of the need for effective educational options including public and nonpublic schools and home schooling.

Discussion took place on what group was promoting this proclamation. It was thought to be an organization in itself endorsing everyone's right to choose their child's type of education between public, private and home school settings. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Slagel, Fannin, Shafer, Mennenga, Kestner, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Abstain:** Mays **Absent:** Barickman and Steichen

**APPEARANCES**

**EDF Renewables** – Scott Wentzell, the Project Development Manager with EDF Renewables provided information regarding their intent to file for a special use permit with the county on a wind energy project which will be located in the townships of Broughton, Sullivan, Union and part of Round Grove. They have also developed wind energy projects in Ford and Iroquois counties. This project would be for a 255 megawatt development consisting of 75-80 turbines along with an additional 11 alternate locations which would provide some construction flexibility. They anticipate monetary benefits of \$104 million in local property tax revenue of which \$66 million would be diverted to local school districts and \$150 million in lease payments to land owners over the 40 year life of the project. During the construction phase, over 400 new local construction jobs would be generated. The project, once operating would support approximately 33 new jobs in the community. Wentzell noted that they estimate that the project would offset approximately 690,000 tons of carbon. Wentzell stated that

EDF would be hosting an informational open house on February 8 from 4:30-7:00 p.m. in Cullom at the Tri-Point High School for residents to learn more about this project.

### CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Bills
- B. Appointments

- a. **Brad Johnson (Resolution #2022-01-02)** – Appointment to the Long Point Community Fire Protection District, to complete the unexpired term of Dean Wilhelm, which ends the first Monday in May 2022.

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

### HIGHWAY

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

- a) **Bridge Petition:** Broughton Road District – Scour Remediation at SN 053-3172 @ 2600N, 3210E Road. Estimated Cost = \$5,000. Section 21-04000-01-AB

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

Lovell noted the following items: they are in the process of preparing plans for the new building; architect is working with the mechanical and electrical tradesmen; and, there is a Winter Operations Policy regarding items such as snow removal available on the county website.

### FINANCE

**Resolution (#2022-01-03): Working Cash fund Transfer to Tort Judgement** – Committee Chair Shafer explained that the sizeable insurance premium to CIRMA was due this time of the year. Since the Tort Judgement Fund didn't have enough funds to cover the premium at this time, the transfer from the Working Cash Fund transfer was necessary. Shafer noted that this transfer had taken place the last three years due to a cash flow deficiency and would be repaid back after the next distribution of taxes. It was noted that the invoice due date was not able to be changed with this company. *Motion by Shafer, second by Wilkey to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Working Cash Fund Transfer to the Tort Judgement Fund.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Slagel, Fannin, Shafer, Mennenga, Kestner, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon  
**Nays:** None **Absent:** Barickman and Steichen

### AG & ZONING

Committee Chair Bunting noted that the EDF Renewables Wind Energy Project would go through the ZBA process, including public hearings. The ZBA met on Thursday, January 6 and approved moving forward with the text amendment for the addition of airports and rock quarries to the list of special use permits which includes wind energy, solar energy and cannabis.

### RULES, LEGISLATION, VETERANS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Mike Kirkton stated that their committee met for the first time last week. They discussed what their standard operating procedure within the committee would be and their focus for the year.

**SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE**

Committee Chair Jim Carley reported that former Animal Control Officer Jared Meinart had been rehired for that position. The federal inmate population remains steady.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Committee Chair Marty Fannin reported that they discussed the jail camera replacement project and the fact that it came up short on funding due to unforeseen circumstances with the placement of the cameras and what that cost was going to be. They were able to re-allocate funding to cover all but \$2,691 of the project cost. He feels that at the end of the year there will be some surplus in the fund to cover this amount as well.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY**

Committee Chair John Vitzthum noted the following items pertaining to the new Public Health building: hoping to be moved into the new building by February 14 (Valentine’s Day); looking into building or warehouse to temporarily store excess furniture until an auction is held; and Achieve Learning Center is interested in renting space in old IHR building.

**EXECUTIVE**

No report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rebekah Fehr of Fairbury updated the Board that HB4452 was introduced yesterday which would affect the county’s right to zone.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

N/A

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m., on motion by Blackard, second by Fannin.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Slagel, Fannin, Kestner, Welch, Carley, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** Steichen, Shafer, Mennenga and Weller

**Kathy Arbogast, Chair**

Attest:

*Kristy A. Masching*  
County Clerk