

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
RULES, LEGISLATION, VETERANS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2022

Committee Chair Mike Kirkton called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse.

Present: Kirkton, Manker, Blackard, Mennenga, Welch, Vietti

Absent: Kestner

Also Present: County Board Chair Kathy Arbogast, County Board Members Linda Ambrose, Joel Barrickman and Mark Runyon, Executive Director Alina Hartley, Finance Director Diane Schwahn, HR Director Ginger Harris, Mental Health Executive Director Chris Myers, Public Health Administrator Jackie Dever, LaDonna Russell & Allyson Saxton - Grundy, Livingston, Kankakee Workforce Development Board
Lee Bunting, Debbie Ruff, & Becky Taylor – Livingston County Soil & Water.

Kirkton called for any additions or changes to the revised agenda with none requested. *Motion by Manker, second by Welch to approve the revised agenda as submitted. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.*

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the February 7, 2022 meeting. *Motion by Manker, second by Mennenga to approve the minutes as submitted. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.*

Appointment: Vermilion Valley Emergency Telephone System Board

Appointment: Dave Lowe Saunemin Fire Protection District

The Committee reviewed requests for the appointment of Alina Hartley to the Vermilion Valley Emergency Telephone System Board and Dave Lowe to the Saunemin Fire Protection District. *Motion by Blackard, second by Manker to approve the appointments as presented. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.*

Report by Grundy, Livingston, Kankakee Workforce Development Board

– LaDonna Russell & Allyson Saxton were present to review the programs offered by the Workforce Development Board. Russell & Saxton explained that the Workforce Board focuses on labor market information, community partnerships, workforce programs, worker training programs, grant writing and grant management. Discussion took place. Blackard thanked the organization for providing the EMT training through the ARPA grant awarded by the County. Blackard encouraged them to continue the program going forward.

Report by Soil & Water – Lee Bunting, Debbie Ruff and Becky Taylor were present to review the programs administered by Livingston County Soil & Water. Bunting stated that the organization was originally formed to help the USDA address soil erosion issues. Bunting stated that the group just hosted the 77th annual meeting. Bunting stated that the group doesn't have the ability to tax and relies on other funding including the funding received from the USDA and Livingston County. Becky Taylor reviewed conservation projects including the watershed project in the southeast portion of Livingston County aimed at reducing nitrate levels in the Vermilion by 25% by 2025, and the woman landowners program. Ruff reviewed the education programs administered by the organization. Discussion took place.

Report by Public Health – Public Health Administrator Jackie Dever reported that the mission of Livingston County Public Health is to ensure conditions in which people can be healthy. Dever reported that food classes will be back up and running soon. Dever stated that most programs are back to in person with the exception of the WIC program as the USDA currently requires these be done by phone. Dever reported that she will be present at the County Board meeting to review her annual report. Discussion took place.

Report by Mental Health – Chris Myers reported that she too will be present to review her annual report at the full board meeting. Myers stated that as opposed to other presenters today, Livingston County Mental Health are funders and not direct service providers. Myers stated that over 50 years ago voters approved a referendum to fund mental health services within Livingston County. Myers stated that the board funds programs such as Safe Journeys that focus on domestic violence and sexual assault. Myers stated that the board also funds psychologist and youth psychologist for mental health services, as well as prevention and awareness programs. Discussion took place.

Veterans Assistance Report – Blackard reported that the VAC has released the job posting for the superintendent position and is working to get that filled. .

The floor was opened for public comment.

Motion by Blackard, second by Mennenga to adjourn. **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL EYES.**
Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m..

Alina M. Hartley
Executive Director