

## AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF THE APRIL 5, 2022 MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm at the Livingston County Historic Courthouse, 112 W. Madison St., Pontiac, Illinois and roll call was taken.

Present: Jason Bunting, Paul Ritter, Gerald Earing, Steve Lovell, Scott Mennenga and Tim Shafer.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Additional County Representatives included: Non committee County Board Members Linda Ambrose, Joel Barickman, Jim Blackard, and Seth Welch along with County Executive Director Alina Hartley, County Public Health Department Administrator, Jackie Dever, State's Attorney Randy Yedinak and Pontiac Township High School Students Moily Masching, Ashlyn Bernard and Georgie Dinardi, along with several interested citizens.

For the approval of the agenda for this April 5, 2022 meeting the committee chair remarked that a revised version of the agenda has been presented. Then Tim Shafer moved, seconded by Paul Ritter, that this agenda be approved as revised. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Then reference was made pertaining to the minutes of the March 8, 2022 committee meeting. Paul Ritter moved, seconded by Scott Mennenga, that these meeting minutes be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Business:

Pontiac 90 I55 Cleanup Project Presentation:

Paul Ritter presented some of his Environmental Science class students to make a presentation on their class's project pertaining to the litter found along I 55. Pontiac Township High School Students Molly Masching, Ashlyn Bernard and Georgie Dinardi, introduced themselves and began their presentation. The young ladies explained that this project was centered on litter on the Interstate 55 corridor in Livingston County between Chenoa and Odell. The Illinois Department of Transportation cooperated in this project by collecting 20 bags of litter/trash along this I 55 corridor area. The students then sorted and analyzed the litter/trash. With the assistance of the high school math department a statistical analysis of the litter/trash was also done. Findings of this project are that more litter and trash was found between Pontiac and Odell north of the Route 23 intersection, and that the majority of the litter /trash found was plastic products. The young ladies making the presentation then presented concepts as to how to reduce the litter/trash along this I 55 corridor area.

These concepts included the improvement of strapping on the trash trucks going to the Livingston Landfill, and improving the covers that cover the trash on these trash hauling trucks.

Paul Ritter then remarked Republic Services/Livingston Landfill is aware of are cooperative regarding this project.

#### Airport Setback Discussion:

Committee Chair Bunting started this meeting's discussion on airport setbacks relating that he would allow for public comments during this discussion. Mr. Bunting then reviewed the relatively recent past actions of this committee and the county board by amending the zoning regulations, that now reflect that the county board will make the final decision on airport special use cases. The committee chair acknowledged the current 100 foot setback distance for airports in relating that this setback may be appropriate for small private grass landing strips, while recognizing different types of airports can be presented for review in which setback distances will need to be considered. Therefore, it may well be best to leave the regulation as they are, to allow latitude in making decisions regarding the potentially different types of airport proposals. Mr. Schopp remarked about some of the copies of information relating to this subject included in the committee packets for this meeting, as a follow up to past discussions and requests for more information on this matter. Reviewing compatibility of proposals was also mentioned. Livingston County State's Attorney Randy Yedinak commented that he has reviewed legal issues regarding airports. He related that the current county airport setback requirements are valid, and that rational reasoning would be needed to amend these setback requirements. Mr. Yedinak remarked about the special use review process, and he had researched setback distances from other counties, that included a 7500 foot area regarding the height of structures, in Stephenson county. Mr. Yedinak related that the setback distances could be revised, though they should not be decreased. Considerations in different area uses such as residential, agriculture, industrial etc. may be discussed as part of any further review on this issue. Any considered changes should be reasonable, not arbitrary decisions.

A question as to if a special use permit could be transferred. Discussion took place pertaining to this issue. Mr. Yedinak that he will need to research further as to special uses being transferred. Interested citizen Jim Adams commented that he has two landing strips that have been approved, and that in the future he would like to transfer this property to his children. And, as his son and grandchildren are pilots he would like for his special uses allowed for airports to transfer to his family so that they can use these sites as he has in the past. Dialogue then took place as to how special use permits could be allowed to transfer as long as the specific special use remained the same. Remarks were made as to need to review any conditions placed on the approval of any special use. Mr. Earing related that the regulations for airports should be left as they are. Interested citizen Chris Peterson then remarked about the need to know how a special use would transfer since airport developments are established in place. Discussion continued in the different types of airports and special uses, and as how the special uses may be transferred. Mr. Yedinak commented that he would like further research how special uses may be transferred.

Interested citizen Ben Schneider remarked about how he may want a registered airstrip on his property in the future. He would like to place the airstrip closer than 100 feet from the lot line. Mr. Schneider explained that he owns a 4 acre building site and an adjoining 20 acre tillable acreage site. He would like the airstrip on his 20 acre site close the the lot line separating it from his residential site. Mention was made on a need for special hearings with possibly a variance being an option in reviewing such proposal, realizing that the adjoining property owner would be the same owner as the subject property in such a proposal.

The discussion continued about change in property use, variances, definitions, special uses and the review of special uses. The committee agreed to leave the county regulations for airports as they are for now. With the committee requesting the State's Attorney to provide them with more information on the transfer of special use approvals.

Recessing the meeting:

With business items left on the committee agenda, committee Chair Bunting noted the time, with this committee meeting beginning to encroach on the County Board Finance Committee that was scheduled to begin at 6:00 pm. The committee chair asked that the committee consider recessing this meeting. Discussion took place as to what time and date to recess this meeting.

Then Paul Ritter moved, seconded by Steve Lovell, that this meeting be recessed to 4:30 pm on April 14, 2022. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

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Charles T. Schopp, Administrator  
Livingston County Regional  
Planning Commission