

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 5, 2021 MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm at the Livingston County Historic Courthouse, 112 W. Madison St., Pontiac, Illinois and roll call was taken.

Present: Jason Bunting (attended by phone), Paul Ritter, Gerald Earing, Steve Lovell, Scott Mennenga  
Tim Shafer and John Slagel.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Additional County Representatives included: County Board chair Kathy Arbogast(Zoom), Non committee County Board Members Linda Ambrose. County Executive Director Alina Hartley, County Network Computer Systems Administrator Jon Sear, and zoning case representatives Joseph Horn and Scott Cobble.

For the approval of the agenda for this October 5, 2021 meeting, Gerald Earing moved, seconded by Steven Lovell, that this agenda be approved as amended. This motion was approved by a roll call vote; Bunting-Yes, Ritter-Yes, Earing-Yes, Killian-Yes, Lovell-Yes, Mennenga-Yes, Shafer-Yes, Slagel-Yes.

Then reference was made pertaining to the minutes of the September 7, 2021 committee meeting. John Slagel moved, seconded by Gerald Earing, that these meetings minutes be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a roll call vote; Bunting-Yes, Ritter-Yes, Earing-Yes, Lovell-Yes, Mennenga-Yes, Shafer-Yes, Slagel-Yes.

Business:

Review of the Flanagan/Enbridge Solar Farm Special Use Proposal:

This is a proposal pertaining to the review of a which is referred to as Livingston County Zoning Case SU-11-21. The zoning administrator reviewed a report for this zoning case, and he commented about points of interest discussed at the Livingston County Regional Planning Commission meeting and at the Zoning Board of Appeals public hearing for this zoning case. These comments mentioned that this would be a 10 MW Solar energy project on 90 acres of Enbridge owned property, with tracking solar panels being installed on this site. The energy provide by this solar project would be used directly by Enbridge providing about 15% of their energy needs. Planned fencing which is to comply with the county regulations was remarked about. This site will have no lighting. The need for inverters and transformers was noted, with them having a slight humming noise that will not be heard outside of the foot print for the site. Vegetation management was mentioned, with information provided in the application referencing the use low growth clover as part of the vegetation. Since this is an industrial area a living screen along Route 23 will not be part of this project. This solar farm will be monitored off site. This solar project is being independently funded by Enbridge. No one presented any testimony in opposition to this project at either the Livingston County Regional Planning Commission meeting or at the Zoning Board of Appeals public hearing for his zoning case. At the conclusion of their respective hearings both the Livingston County regional Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals made unanimous recommendations of approval of Livingston County Zoning Case SU-11-21, Flanagan/Enbridge Solar Project.

Joseph Horn, a project engineer for Infrastructure and Energy Alternatives and Scott Cobble, supervisor for the Enbridge Flanagan area, were present at this meeting for comments and to answer questions. The committee inquired as to if a native grass or pollinating seed mixture would be used as part of the vegetation at this site. Joseph Horn replied that an engineered seed mix is being considered, and the work on this engineered seed mix will be done once this project is approved for construction. A discussion on native seed mixes, pollinators and clover took place. They plan on maintaining this site similar as to how they maintain their adjoining Enbridge oil transportation site.

John Slagel then moved, seconded by Steven Lovell, that this committee recommend to the county board as a whole the approval of Livingston County Zoning Case SU-11-21, Flanagan/Enbridge Solar Project. This motion was approved by a roll call vote; Bunting-Yes, Ritter-Yes, Earing-Yes, Lovell-Yes, Mennenga-Yes, Shafer-Yes, Slagel-Yes.

#### Solid Waste Update:

Printed copies monthly synopsis document reviews were presented to and reviewed with the committee members. These reports and discussion on these reports for Livingston Landfill focused on reports regarding the landfill gas system, NPDES reports, water well testing and an application for a permit extension relating to the Livingston Landfill. Monthly host fee information was also provided to the committee.

#### Electronic Recycling Update:

It was confirmed that the county will proceed with conducting an electronic recycling event in Dwight on November 6<sup>th</sup>, with details to be confirmed in the next few days.

#### Board Action - Zutat – Chatsworth

It was related that final county board action on the Zutat zoning map amendment will take place this month completing the approval action on this zoning case. This committee's previous recommendation for approval stands as the committee action on this zoning case.

#### Other Issues to Come Before the Committee:

The committee was informed about the Livingston County Public Health Department's tire collection program. This program allows for four tires per household vehicle to be disposed, with the person dropping them off unloading them. Large tires of any kind are not accepted. Appointments are required, which can be scheduled by calling the health department.

Mentioned was made that the state's New Energy Bill has been approved and signed. This may allow for more action on solar farms in the county.

It was noted that the county had received its certificate of accreditation from IEMA.

The committee agreed to allow for the planning administrator to pursue an agreement with Deigan and Associates for landfill monitoring and technical reviews agreement for 2022.

#### Public Comment:

It was related that legal counsel will be present at next month's meeting of this committee to discuss the recent court ruling on Pontiac Flying Services.

Review and Approval of Bills:

An invoice with a total amount of \$953.50 from Deigan and Associates, LLC for Professional Services for the period from August 9, 2021 to September 10, 2021 relating to landfill monitoring and technical reviews of Republic/Allied Waste's Livingston and Streator Area Landfills, for environmental/solid waste landfill consulting service was presented to the committee. John Slagel moved, seconded by Steven Lovell, that this committee approve the processing of this invoice. This motion was then approved by roll call vote. Bunting-Yes, Ritter-Yes, Earing-Yes, Lovell-Yes, Mennenga-Yes, Shafer-Yes, Slagel-Yes.

Adjournment:

Steven Lovell moved, seconded by Scott Mennenga, that this meeting be adjourned. This motion was approved by a roll call vote; Bunting-Yes, Ritter, Earing-Yes, Lovell-Yes, Mennenga-Yes, Shafer-Yes, Slagel-Yes.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

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Charles T. Schopp, Administrator  
Livingston County Regional  
Planning Commission