

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF June 16, 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.

Pastor Charles Ambrose presented the invocation. James Carley led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The clerk called roll with the following **present:** John L. Vietti, Jason Bunting, Michael L. Kirkton, Gina Manker, Joel J. Barickman, Vicki Allen, Marty Fannin, Tim Shafer, 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:** Joseph D. Steichen, Scott Mennenga and Ronald L. Kestner

Also Present: County Clerk-Kristy Masching, Executive Director-Alina Hartley, County Highway Engineer-Clay Metcalf, Finance Director-Diane Schwahn, Human Resource Director-Ginger Harris, Zoning Administrator-Chuck Schopp, Kathleen Boles-Assistant State’s Attorney, Michael Haerr-Veterans Assistance Administrator and IT Director-Jon Sear

AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Arbogast called for approval of the April 14, 2022 meeting minutes. *Motion by Ritter, second by Manker to approve the April 14, 2022 meeting minutes.* **MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

APPEARANCES

N/A

PRESENTATION

N/A

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Bills
- B. Appointments
 - a. **David Sparrow** – appointment to the Gridley Fire Protection District, for a three year term commencing the ending April 30, 2025. (Succeeding David L. Roth)
 - b. **Christine Johnson** – appointment to the Livingston County Mental Health 377 Board, for a three year term commencing June 2022 through May, 2025.
 - c. **Rose Smith** – reappointment to the Livingston County Mental Health 708 Board, for a four year term commencing June 2022 through May, 2026.
 - d. **Debbie Studnicki** – reappointment to the Livingston County Mental Health 708 Board, for a four year term commencing June 2022 through May, 2026.
 - e. **Joel Barickman** – appointment to the Livingston County Regional Planning Commission.
 - f. **James Patten** – reappointment to the Livingston County Board of Review, for a two year term commencing June 1, 2022 and ending May 31, 2024.

Motion by Fannin, second by Ritter for approval of the Consent Agenda. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Allen, Fannin, Shafer, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon **Absent:** Steichen, Mennenga and Kestner

FINANCE

Resolution (#2022-06-28): Amending the Livingston County Salary Schedule – Committee Chair Tim Shafer stated that the Administrative Staff had presented an amended Salary Schedule which if approved, would take effect December 1, 2022. This was in response to the lack of success in filling open positions within the county departments over a period of time. The county has been unable to compete with the private and public sector with regards to compensation levels for comparable jobs. The new salary schedule would allow for more discretion and raise the compensation level to be offered. *Motion by Shafer, second by Kirkton to approve the Amended Salary Schedule.* Discussion followed. Board member Seth Welch voiced his concerns and questions regarding the proposed amended salary schedule. He noted the following: an updated salary schedule had been approved two years ago with 92 of 143 impacted employees having wages above the mid-range; the Board had been working through several costly capital improvement projects; the county was facing potential threats to our top external sources of revenue due to state meddling (prison and landfill); the County is prone to more unknowns than have ever been faced before; higher inflation; and the impact this would have on union negotiations. He agreed that there were problems, but he did not agree that the salary schedule or resolution on the table was the answer to those problems. He felt that there was no harm in putting off voting on the amended schedule for one more month for further discussion. *Motion by Welch, second by Ambrose to table this item until next month's board meeting, in order to discuss and review further.* Discussion resumed with board members voicing their opinions on the matter. Human Resources Director Ginger Harris answered questions and presented further insight into how the Administrative Team arrived at the proposed schedule. Harris noted the following. The salary schedule at the bottom of the scale would have a larger percentage increase than those at the top of the scale. The county employees at the bottom of the scale were the ones they were trying to keep above the minimum per capita for county members. Harris stated that the proposals put into place were what they felt was needed in order to ensure that the county was competitive in their salaries for like positions within other counties and businesses. It was noted that the county departments could give salary increases as long as they were within the budget approved by the County Board. Hartley noted that they had looked at other counties, looked at comparable jobs within Livingston County; and looked at comparable jobs elsewhere. Hartley reported that the CPI increased 7% last year, and the county had decreased their tax rate over the past few years. Hartley stated that employees are the county's greatest asset and when the county can't retain or recruit them then it costs the county money. Bunting stated that some of the changes were due to government mandates such as the impending minimum wage increase to \$15 which is scheduled to take place over the next couple of years. He also noted that the county is having trouble competing in the public as well as the private sector. At this time, Chair Arbogast asked that a correction be made to Welch's motion. She explained that if he wanted to address the salary schedule next month he would need to "postpone" rather than "table" the motion. Welch stated that he wanted to continue the motion next month, so he would change the motion to state *"Motion by Welch, second by Ambrose to postpone the amended salary schedule discussion until next month's committee meeting.* Chair Arbogast stated that a "yes" vote would be to postpone until next month. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.**
Ayes: Manker, Barickman, Allen, Welch, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Earing, Vitzthum and Runyon **Nays:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Fannin, Shafer, Carley, Weller, Blackard, Arbogast, Wilkey **Absent:** Steichen, Mennenga and Kestner

Resolution (#2022-06-29): Setting the Salary of the Livingston County Sheriff - Shafer stated that the State of Illinois passed legislation in April (P.A. 102-0699) which would calculate what each Sheriff's salary would be in each county. With the passage of this resolution, the County would be in compliance with the law. *Motion by Shafer, second by Welch to approve Resolution #2022-06-29: Setting the Salary of the Livingston County Sheriff in accordance to Public Act 102-0699.* Discussion followed. Weller reminded the board of a nation-wide movement which would do away with an elected Sheriff position and make it an appointed position by the Governor. Weller noted that the only elected law enforcement officer left in this country was the parish or County Sheriff. Weller felt that with the implementation of the new law, the State was moving towards making the Sheriff's position a state or Governor appointed position. The new legislation mandated that the Sheriff's salary be no less than 80% of the State's Attorney's salary, with the State furnishing 66 2/3% of the total annual salary to be paid. This will go into effect as of December 1, 2022. It was also noted that the Sheriff's position also receives a \$6,500 stipend from the State. When asked what would happen if the law that implemented this legislation was overturned by a future General Assembly, Assistant State's Attorney Kathleen Boles responded

that if the law was repealed then the Board would act appropriately under those circumstances (she also noted that she'd have research more case law).

Hartley commented that the County Board previously approved a resolution establishing the salary; that resolution is referenced within this document. Hartley stated that this resolution includes a severability paragraph in case any portion becomes unconstitutional or becomes invalid. It was also confirmed that if the State didn't pay their portion then the County had to cover the full amount. It was pointed out that even if all voted "no" as a protest, the law would still go into effect. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Allen, Fannin, Shafer, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** Mays **Absent:** Steichen, Mennenga and Kestner

HIGHWAY

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

- a) **Resolution (#2022-06-30):** Accepting Low Bid Highway Maintenance Building – Vissering Construction
- b) **Resolution (#2022-06-31):** Outlining Highway Maintenance Building Contract & Expenditure Approvals
- c) **Letting Result:** Various Township Aggregate Surface Sections, June 2, 2022 Letting
- d) **Engineering Agreement & Resolution (#2022-06-32):** Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick (HLR) – Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement for design of a superstructure replacement of SN 053-3047 on CH 28, 2390N, 1050E, and Section 20-00121-02-BR. Also, an Appropriating Resolution for this project - County Matching Tax funds for design engineering and construction costs.
- e) **Bridge Petition & Engineering Agreement:** Nevada Rd. District, Sect No. 22-16113-02-BR, Proposed SN 053-4242 (2900N, 2260E), – Hampton Lenzini & Renwick (HLR), TBP Program FY25/FY26. Design for Replacement of Existing Bridge 053-3132.
- f) **Bridge Petition & Engineering Agreement:** Odell/Owego Rd. District, Sect No. 22-18118-01-BR/22-19139-00-BR, Proposed SN 053-4243 (2100N, 2399E), – Hampton Lenzini & Renwick (HLR), TBP Program FY26/FY27. Design for Replacement of Existing Bridge 053-3232.

Motion by Lovell, second by Blackard to approve Highway Action Items a. and b. with one roll call vote.

MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes: Vietti, Bunting, Manker, Barickman, Allen, Fannin, Shafer, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** Kirkton and Mays **Absent:** Steichen, Mennenga and Kestner

Motion by Lovell, second by Weller to approve the Highway Action Items c. - f. with one roll call vote.

MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes: Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Allen, Fannin, Shafer, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** Steichen, Mennenga and Kestner

AG & ZONING

Resolution (#2022-06-33): Allies in Agriculture - Committee Chair Jason Bunting explained that the Livingston County Farm Bureau Board of Directors had brought forth this resolution at their last meeting. The Ag and Zoning Committee had recommended forwarding this resolution to the full Board. By approving this resolution, the Board would be acknowledging and showing their support for agriculture within our county and country. Bunting then read the resolution. *Motion by Bunting, second by Earing to approve Resolution (#2022-06-33): Allies in Agriculture. MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.*

EXECUTIVE

Resolution (#2022-06-34): Approving Travel Expenses - Chair Kathy Arbogast stated that the resolution was for approval of travel expenses which were incurred when Hartley attended the Fiber Connect Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. This was very beneficial since the county is participating in the Connect Illinois Broadband Planning Program. Since the conference hotel was booked by the time it was determined Harley

should attend, she had to look elsewhere for lodging. The lodging she was able to find exceeded the current travel policy reimbursement rate of \$130 per night and therefore, required board approval. *Motion by Arbogast, second by Ritter for approval of the revised Travel Expenses.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** Vietti, Bunting, Kirkton, Manker, Barickman, Allen, Fannin, Shafer, Welch, Carley, Weller, Ritter, Mays, Lovell, Ambrose, Blackard, Earing, Vitzthum, Arbogast, Wilkey and Runyon **Nays:** None **Absent:** Steichen, Mennenga and Kestner

PUBLIC PROPERTY

Committee Chair John Vitzthum reported that they were working out a few more items at the Public Health Department. A walk-through with the architect has been scheduled. ComEd needed to move some electrical components out of the old H&E Building before demolition could commence. Vitzthum stated that Don Verdun announced that he will be retiring.

RULES, LEGISLATION, VETERANS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Mike Kirkton stated that they met with Mid-Central Community Action who presented an overview of the services they provide to Livingston County residents. Tom Bailey was also in attendance to provide his VAC report. Kirkton also introduced Mike Haerr who would be assuming the position of superintendent upon Tom Bailey's retirement. Haerr presented information on his background and future goals as it relates to the VAC. Kirkton also noted that they had presented Tom Bailey with his twenty year certificate of dedicated service to the veterans of Livingston County as the VAC Superintendent. Kirkton also noted that the committee would be taking a sabbatical during July but would be back for their August meeting.

SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE

Chair Jim Carley reported that all was running smoothly at the Sheriff's Department under the guidance of Sheriff Hamilton, Superintendent Draper and their leadership team.

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

Committee Chair Fannin reported that they didn't meet during committee week. Fannin did present information on the Broadband Accelerate Program which the county is a participant in. Fannin stated that they were working with local governments, schools and businesses for help in distributing a survey to all of the residents of the county. It was a short survey and included a speed test. Data gathered from this survey would be presented to federal and state entities as to why we need grant funding for broadband.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Clerk Masching asked for help in recruiting more people to serve as judges of election for the June 28 General Primary election. Masching also asked that any changes to per diem sheets be turned in no later than 10:00 a.m. Friday morning.

Board Member Seth Welch thanked Assessor Shelly Renken for speaking at the Fairbury Area Chamber of Commerce regarding the upcoming Commercial Property Assessments by Vanguard.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The floor was open for public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m., on motion by Fannin, second by Mays. **THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES ON VOICE VOTE**

Kathy Arbogast, Chair

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching

County Clerk

CB Reg Sesn 061622.A