

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE RECONVENED MARCH 6, 2023 MEETING TO MARCH 8, 2023

Committee Chair Gerald Earing called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mike Haag, Paul Ritter, Gerald Earing, Rebekah Fehr, Steven Lovell, and Jack Vietti

Absent: Joel Barickman

Also Present: Zoning & Planning Administrator Jesse King, Administrative Assistant Patricia Merlino and Attorney Andrew Keyt (Heyl Royster)

Business:

Zoning Ordinance Amendments for WECS & Solar – Required under HB4412 Public Act 102-1123

Andrew Keyt reviewed the changes that were made from the last meeting. Keyt stated that he added the LaSalle-Sinclair factors to the ordinances and explained that one of the factors is consistency with the comprehensive plan. Keyt also explained that it prevents it from being an “all or nothing” standard where a case fails just because it doesn’t meet one of the factors.

Discussion took place regarding whether or not they should require EcoCAT renewals for wind/solar projects on an annual basis to ensure that the environment remains protected after the projects are developed. IDNR notified the committee that they would be able to do it if they had availability or they would assign it to another group. It was the Committees consensus that renewals be based on complaints received to the Zoning Office, instead of annually. King expressed concern on how his office was supposed to enforce these regulations if an EcoCAT study came back showing conflicts with local wildlife and the Committee agreed that they should require a wind turbine to be shut down if it is determined to be affecting wildlife through an EcoCAT study or violating the noise standards through a sound study.

Motion by Ritter, second by Haag to recommend approval of the wind and solar ordinances with the discussed changes. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

Resolution Opposing Public Act 102-1123

The Committee reviewed a resolution opposing Public Act 102-1123.

Motion by Ritter, second by Fehr to recommend approval of the Resolution Opposing Public Act 102-1123. **Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

Review and Approval of Bills

Discussion took place regarding a bill from Deigan & Associates in the amount of \$1,578.25. Motion by Ritter, second by Vietti to approve the bills as submitted. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

Public Comment:

The floor was open for public comment.

Adjournment:

Motion by Vietti, second by Haag to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Jesse J. King, Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission