

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD**

**OPENING**

County Board Chair James A. Carley 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 Jan Ambrose presented the invocation. John Vitzthum led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Clerk Kristy Masching called roll with the following members **present:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Rebekah Fehr, Gina Manker, Joel J. Barickman, Linda Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Dan Myers, Mark Runyon, William Mays, Robert F. Weller, John J. Vitzthum, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley, Steven J. Lovell, and Paul A. Ritter **Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Executive Director Alina Hartley, Executive Assistant Jordan Uselding, County Clerk Kristy Mashing, Human Resource Director Ginger Harris, Finance Director Diane Schwahn, Sheriff Ryan Bohm, States Attorney Michael Regnier, Public Defender Marinna Metoyer, Jail Superintendent Lisa Draper, Jail Lieutenant Scott Harmon, IT Support Tech Dakota Russell, Assistant Planning Administrator Jesse King, Assistant Planning Administrator Patricia Merlino, Highway Engineer Clay Metcalf, Attorney Andrew Keyt (Heyl Royster), Chris Matich (Livingston Stone Company), Alex Mendelson (Turning Point Energy) and Scott Osborn (Turning Point Energy).

**AGENDA**

Chair Carley called for any additions or changes to the agenda with none requested. *Motion by Lovell, second by Ritter to approve the agenda as presented.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE WITH ALL AYES.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Carley called for approval of the meeting minutes from April 13, 2023 and April 25, 2023. *Motion by Earing, second by Blackard to approve the minutes as submitted.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE WITH ALL AYES.**

**PRESENTATION**

**Livingston County Farm Bureau – Allies in Agriculture** – Chris Bunting from the Livingston County Farm Bureau presented Livingston County with a plaque recognizing Livingston County as an ally in agriculture for adopting a resolution in support of Livingston County agriculture and its value to our local economy and the rural communities.

**APPEARANCES**

N/A

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Bills
- B. Appointments
  - a) James Davis – Regional Planning Commission
  - b) Shane Berry – Reading Community Fire Protection District
  - c) Richard Myers – Reading Community Fire Protection District
  - d) Michael Katcher – Reading Community Fire Protection District
  - e) Jack Vietti – Mental Health 708 Board
  - f) Barb Schlatter – Mental Health 708 Board
  - g) Bob McCarty – Mental Health 377 Board
  - h) John M. Rinker – Livingston County Board of Health

*Motion by Fannin, second by Haag for approval of the Consent Agenda.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Rebekah Fehr, Gina Manker, Joel J. Barickman, Linda Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Dan Myers, Mark Runyon, William Mays, Robert F. Weller, John J. Vitzthum, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley, Steven J. Lovell, and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** None

#### **AGRICULTURE & ZONING**

**Resolution (#2023-05-28): Zoning Case SU-1-23 – Livingston Stone Company** – Chris Matich reported they are looking to expand the mineral extraction site for Livingston County Stone, which produces very fine limestone agricultural products for animal feed. Matich stated they use very minimal acreage, about 8-10 acres a year, and employ 13 people. *Motion by Haag, second by Ritter to approve Zoning Case SU-1-23 – Livingston Stone Company.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Rebekah Fehr, Gina Manker, Joel J. Barickman, Linda Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Dan Myers, Mark Runyon, William Mays, Robert F. Weller, John J. Vitzthum, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley, Steven J. Lovell, and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** None

**Resolution (#2023-05-29): Zoning Case SU-19-22 – TPE IL LI77 Solar** – Alex Mendelson reported that this project is for a 4.5 MW Solar Farm located at the intersection of East 2600 North Road and 170. Mendelson stated he spoke with the local land owners and addressed their concerns by moving the project 45 feet to the East, created screening and landscape buffer to accommodate. Mendelson stated that the solar farm will increase tax revenue, noting in the first year it is expected to generate over \$30,000. *Motion by Earing, second by Lovell to approve Zoning Case SU-19-22 – TPE IL LI77 Solar.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Rebekah Fehr, Joel J. Barickman, Robert F. Weller, John J. Vitzthum, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley, Steven J. Lovell, and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** Gina Manker, Linda Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Dan Myers, Mark Runyon and William Mays

**Resolution (#2023-05-30): Zoning Case SU-20-22 – TPE IL LI18 Solar** – Scott Osborn reported that this project is for a 5 MW Solar Farm. Osborn stated there will be about 28 acres of panels on a 48-acre parcel. Osborn noted this project will not negatively impact property values. Osborn stated the tax revenue will increase from about \$6,800 to relatively \$36,000 in the first year, and 70% of the revenue will go to the local schools. *Motion by Haag, second by Vietti to approve Zoning Case SU-20-22 – TPE IL LI18 Solar.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Rebekah Fehr, Gina Manker, Joel J. Barickman, Dan Myers, Robert F. Weller, John J. Vitzthum, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley, Steven J. Lovell, and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** Linda Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Mark Runyon and William Mays

**Resolution (#2023-05-31): Zoning Case ZT-3-23 – Zoning Text Amend. Com. Solar Energy Facilities** – Attorney Andrew Keyt reported that the State of Illinois has revised how citing Solar projects is done, requiring Counties to adopt certain criteria in their ordinance. Keyt reported that this is the final step in the process with the draft amendments having been reviewed by the Ag & Zoning Committee, the Planning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals and then the Ag & Zoning Committee for a final time. Discussion took place regarding the Boards displeasure with the State of Illinois limiting the ability to zone locally based on the needs of the community. *Motion by Haag, second by Vitzthum to approve Zoning Case ZT-3-23 – Zoning Text Amendment Commercial Solar Energy Facilities.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Rebekah Fehr, Gina Manker, Joel J. Barickman, Linda Ambrose, Dan Myers, Mark Runyon, William Mays, Robert F. Weller, John J. Vitzthum, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley, Steven J. Lovell, and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** Marty Fannin

**Resolution (#2023-05-32): Zoning Case ZT-4-23 – Zoning Text Amend. Com. Wind Energy Facilities** – Attorney Andrew Keyt reported again that the State of Illinois revised how citing Wind projects is done, requiring Counties to adopt certain criteria in their ordinance. *Motion by Haag, second by Vitzthum to approve Zoning Case*

ZT-4-23 – Zoning Text Amendment Commercial Wind Energy Facilities. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** Ayes: John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Rebekah Fehr, Gina Manker, Joel J. Barickman, Linda Ambrose, Dan Myers, Mark Runyon, William Mays, Robert F. Weller, John J. Vitzthum, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley, Steven J. Lovell, and Paul A. Ritter Nays: Marty Fannin

### HIGHWAY

- a. **Letting Results:** April 27, 2023 Letting
- b. **Bridge Petition:** Township line of Nevada & Sunbury Rd. Dist. – Replace SN 4553 @ 3124N, 1800E. Est. Cost = \$50,000 Sect. 23-16000-00-AB & 23-28000-00-AB
- c. **Bridge Petition:** Owego Road Dist. – Replace existing culverts with 2-60” ERS x 48’ long Precoated CMP’s @ 1930N, 2300E Road, Est. Cost = \$20,000. Sect. 23-19000-00-AB

*Motion by Lovell, second by Fehr for approval of the highway action items with one roll call vote.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** Ayes: John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Rebekah Fehr, Gina Manker, Joel J. Barickman, Linda Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Dan Myers, Mark Runyon, William Mays, Robert F. Weller, John J. Vitzthum, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley, Steven J. Lovell, and Paul A. Ritter Nays: None

Committee Chair Steven Lovell reported that that the new building is moving along nicely, as there were plumbers, heating contractors, electricians, doormen and Vissering all on site getting work done.

### FINANCE

**Resolution (#2023-05-33): Transferring Management and Remaining Appropriations for Bookkeeping –** Fannin reported that this resolution transfers the management and remaining appropriations of Bookkeeping from the County Clerk’s responsibility to the Finance Department to help things run smoothly. *Motion by Fannin, second by Earing to approve the resolution transferring management and remaining appropriations for Bookkeeping.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** Ayes: John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Rebekah Fehr, Gina Manker, Joel J. Barickman, Linda Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Dan Myers, Mark Runyon, William Mays, Robert F. Weller, John J. Vitzthum, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley, Steven J. Lovell, and Paul A. Ritter Nays: None

Committee Chair Marty Fannin announced that Livingston County was awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the FY 2023 budget. Fannin congratulated Diane Schwahn, the Finance Department and the Administrative Team for all of their hard work.

### SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE

Committee Chair Robert F. Weller reported that Sheriff Bohm presented the monthly reports at the Committee meeting and noted the billings are staying steady at just under \$300,000 per month. Weller reported that Superintendent Draper has started an anger management group, a substance abuse group and a women’s group for inmates to attend. Weller mentioned that he had the privilege of joining Sheriff Bohm, Superintendent Draper and Lieutenant Harmon to watch two of our new correctional officer’s graduate from the training academy.

### INFORMATION and TECHNOLOGY

Committee Chair Gina Manker reported that the Committee did not meet this month, but will be meeting in June. Manker reported that Jon Sear has ordered the Virtual Server upgrades.

### PUBLIC PROPERTY

Committee Chair John Vitzthum reported that they are on Phase II of the parking lot at the Public Health Building and are working on the drive-thru facility still. Discussion took place regarding the usage of the drive-thru facility.

**RULES, LEGISLATION, VETERANS, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Committee Chair Jack Vietti stated that the Committee met before tonight's Board Meeting and had multiple appointments recommended for approval.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

Committee Chair James A. Carley reported that the County's Facebook page is up and running. Alina Hartley advised the Board that the new page is called "Livingston County, Illinois" for everyone to follow and to unfollow the old page. Carley reported that one new squad car was totaled on the way back from being outfitted. Carley stated that the solar/wind text amendments have been very challenging and he appreciates everyone being respectful throughout the process.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The floor was open for public comment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. on motion by Fannin, second by Ritter.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

**James A. Carley, Chair**

Attest:

Jordan E. Uselding

Executive Assistant, On behalf of County Clerk, Kristy Masching