

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE June 5, 2023 MEETING

Committee Chair Gerald Earing called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Present: Paul Ritter, Gerald Earing, Michael Haag, Joel Barickman, Jack Vietti and Rebekah Fehr

Absent: Steven Lovell

Also Present: Zoning & Planning Administrator Jesse King, Assistant Administrator Patricia Merlino, Executive Director Alina Hartley, Attorney Nick Standiford, Paul Bottum and Nico Galletout

Earing called for any additions or corrections to the agenda with none requested. Motion by Ritter, second by Vietti to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the May 1, 2023 and May 23, 2023 meetings. Motion by Haag, second by Ritter to approve the minutes as presented. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

Business:

Case SU-14-22 – Allium Solar

This zoning case pertained to the review of a request for a special use to allow for a solar farm to be developed on property located in an AG, Agricultural, District in unincorporated Pontiac.

King gave an overview of the case to board members.

Bottum gave an overview of the project.

A committee member asked about drain tiles and drainage patterns and Galletout then explained the drain tile process. There was also discussion on if a drain tile was damaged what size it would be replaced with and it was determined that it would be the same size as the one that got damaged.

The new decommissioning report was discussed and Bottum explained the difference in figures from the previous report.

Motion by Earing, second by Haag to recommend approval with the committee's recommendations for Case SU-14-22 to the County Board. **Motion carried with 4 ayes, 2 nays and 1 absent on roll call vote.** Ayes: Earing, Vietti, Haag, Barickman, Nays: Ritter, Fehr, Absent: Lovell

Case SU-15-22 – Beebalm Solar

This zoning case pertained to the review of a request for a special use to allow for a solar farm to be developed on property located in an AG, Agricultural, District in unincorporated Odell.

King gave an overview of the case to board members.

Bottum gave an overview of the project.

A question was asked about vegetation buffers on the project and Bottum explained that they agreed to put additional vegetation along the south & west side of the project at the request of one of the property owners, but they weren't able to address another property owner's concerns.

Motion by Haag, second by Earing to recommend approval for Case SU-15-22 to the County Board. **Motion did not carry with 3 ayes, 3 nays and 1 absent on a roll call vote.** Ayes: Earing, Vietti, Haag Nays: Barickman, Ritter, Fehr, Absent: Lovell

Galletout asked if there was anything they could address. A couple of committee members suggested that there should be better communication with neighbors to address some of their concerns with the project.

Case ZT-5-23 – Livingston County Regional Planning Commission

This zoning case pertains to the review of a proposed text amendment to amend the Livingston County Code of Ordinances definition of a camping facility.

King gave an overview of the case to board members.

Motion by Ritter, second by Vietti to recommend approval for Case ZT-5-23 to the County Board. **Motion carried with all ayes on roll call vote.** Ayes: Earing, Vietti, Haag, Barickman, Ritter, and Fehr, Absent: Lovell

Solid Waste Update

King reported that he received a video from a board member on June 4, 2023 showing smoke coming from the landfill, and had not been directly notified by landfill staff. He then shared the e-mail he received from Julie Paramo the operations manager at the landfill in response to an inquiry of what happened.

Emergency Proclamation

This proclamation was suggested by a county board member that the county board should vote on a local disaster proclamation every 120 days. Discussion took place and no further action was taken.

Special Use Requests

Would require companies to show proof that they have the permission from the land owner to obtain a special use permit for their property before a permit can be issued. A county board member heard that companies have used this to leverage landowners into leasing their property to them. Discussion took place and no further action was taken.

Public comment was held.

Assistant Zoning Administrator Position

Hartley explained the need for an assistant zoning administrator and upon further discussion with committee members it was decided to go into executive session.

Motion by Ritter, second by Barickman to go into Executive Session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) Personnel Matters.
MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. All voted Aye; none Nay.

Executive Session began at 7:17 p.m..

Regular Session resumed at 7:30 p.m.

Action Resulting from Executive Session

Motion by Ritter, second by Barickman to recommend the Finance Committee authorize the hiring of an Assistant Zoning Administrator. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL EYES.

Patricia Merlino, Assistant Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission