

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF JULY 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD**

**OPENING**

County Board Chair James A. Carley called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse, 112 W. Madison, Pontiac, Illinois.

Pastor Ginger Harris presented the invocation. Bob Weller led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Director Alina Hartley called roll with the following members **present:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Gina Manker, 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 and Paul A. Ritter **Absent:** Rebekah Fehr, Joel Barickman and Steven J. Lovell

**Also Present:** Executive Director Alina Hartley, Executive Assistant Jordan Uselding, Human Resource Director Ginger Harris, Finance Director Diane Schwahn, Network & Computer Systems Administrator Jon Sear, Treasurer M. Nikki Meier, Sheriff Ryan Bohm, States Attorney Michael Regnier, Public Defender Marinna Metoyer, Jail Superintendent Lisa Draper, Zoning & Planning Administrator Jesse King, Assistant Planning Administrator Patricia Merlino, Highway Engineer Clay Metcalf and Attorney Seth Uphoff (Trajectory Energy Partners)

**AGENDA**

Chair Carley called for an amendment to the agenda requesting to remove appointment a. Clark Reamer – Mental Health 708 Board, noting it will be presented at a later date. *Motion by Ritter, second by Blackard to approve the agenda as amended.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE WITH ALL AYES.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Carley called for approval of the meeting minutes from June 15, 2023. *Motion by Weller, second by Fannin to approve the minutes as submitted.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE WITH ALL AYES.**

**PRESENTATION**

N/A

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Bills
- B. Appointments
  - a) Janine Boggs – Livingston County Board of Health & TB Board
  - b) Armen Groom – Livingston County Board of Health & TB Board
- C. Acceptance of Decennial Report on Local Government Efficiency
  - a) Odell Public Library
  - b) Gridley Public Library

*Motion by Blackard, second by Ritter for approval of the Consent Agenda.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Gina Manker, 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 and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** None **Absent:** Rebekah Fehr, Joel Barickman and Steven J. Lovell

**AGRICULTURE & ZONING**

**Resolution (#2023-07-39): Zoning Case ZM-1-23 – Pulliam** – King reported that the applicant is requesting a zoning map amendment to change the zoning classification of part of a parcel located in Cayuga from an R2, Low

Density Multiple Family Residence classification to an AG, Agricultural classification. King stated the applicant is seeking to make the entire parcel AG, Agricultural, as half of the parcel is already zoned as AG, to allow for the operation of an IT service business. *Motion by Manker, second by Ritter to approve Zoning Case ZU-1-22 – Pulliam.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Gina Manker, 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 and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** None **Absent:** Rebekah Fehr, Joel Barickman and Steven J. Lovell

**Resolution: Zoning Case ZU-2-23 - Morris** – King reported that the applicant is requesting to change the zoning classification of their property located in Long Point township from an AG, Agricultural classification to an I2, General Industrial classification for the purpose of pursuing a special use and a variance to operate a junkyard. Discussion took place. *Motion by Earing, second by Haag to deny Zoning Case ZU-2-23 - Morris.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Gina Manker, 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 and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** None **Absent:** Rebekah Fehr, Joel Barickman and Steven J. Lovell

**Resolution (#2023-07-40): Zoning Case SU-5-23 – Junegrass Solar** – Uphoff reported this is a 2 MW solar farm on approximately 19 acres of land located in Avoca Township. Uphoff stated there will be screening on the Western, Northern and Eastern boundaries of the property. Uphoff reported there will be annual savings for ComEd customers who subscribe to the project, as well as taxing revenues of approximately \$13,000 over the lifetime of the project; which will benefit the Prairie Central School District. Uphoff mentioned that an expert witness completed a comprehensive review and provided information on the potential toxicity that will be released into the soil and/or ground water and the results showed that the possibility of toxins leaching out is negligible. Discussion took place. *Motion by Earing, second by Haag to approve Zoning Case SU-5-23 – Junegrass Solar.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Marty Fannin, Mark Runyon, Robert F. Weller, John J. Vitzthum, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** Gina Manker, Linda Ambrose and William Mays **Abstain:** Dan Myers **Absent:** Rebekah Fehr, Joel Barickman and Steven J. Lovell

**Resolution (#2023-07-41): Zoning Case SU-6-23 – Granite Solar** – Uphoff reported this is a 5 MW solar farm of approximately 40 acres of land located in Eppards Point Township. The solar farm will be on the southern portion of an 85-acre tract of land. Uphoff stated there will be fencing and screening on the Northern, Eastern and Southern boundaries and all setbacks are met. Uphoff mentioned due to the project being larger, it will produce more energy which will result in greater tax payments and a greater annual amount of savings for ComEd customers. Discussion took place. *Motion by Blackard, second by Vietti to approve Zoning Case SU-6-23 – Granite Solar.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Marty Fannin, Dan Myers, Mark Runyon, Robert F. Weller, John J. Vitzthum, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** Gina Manker, Linda Ambrose and William Mays **Absent:** Rebekah Fehr, Joel Barickman and Steven J. Lovell

**Resolution (#2023-07-42): Pontiac Solar I & II – Decommissioning plan** – King reported that Pontiac Solar I & II were approved back in 2018 and they are now ready to move forward with building. In order for them to obtain a building permit for their 2 MW solar farm project, they must seek approval of their final decommissioning plan, known as Livingston County Zoning Case SU-11-18. *Motion by Ritter, second by Haag to approve Pontiac Solar I & II – Decommissioning Plan.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Gina Manker, 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 and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** None **Absent:** Rebekah Fehr, Joel Barickman and Steven J. Lovell

## HIGHWAY

- a. **Letting Results** – July 6, 2023 Letting
- b. **Bridge Petition** - Bridge Petition & Engineering Agreement: Eppards Point Rd. District, Sect. No. 23-08125-02-BR, (located at 1000N, 1600E) – Hutchison Engineering, Inc. Design for existing concrete box culvert, existing bridge 053-5533
- c. **Quarterly Report** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY23

*Motion by Runyon, second by Ritter for approval of the highway action items with one roll call vote. MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:* John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Gina Manker, 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 and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** None **Absent:** Rebekah Fehr, Joel Barickman and Steven J. Lovell

## FINANCE

**Resolution (#2023-07-43): Public Defender Salary** – Fannin reported this is a yearly process to increase the Public Defender’s salary to ensure it is meeting 90% of the compensation of the State’s Attorney’s salary. *Motion by Earing, second by Blackard to approve the resolution adjusting the Public Defender’s salary. MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:* John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Gina Manker, 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 and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** None **Absent:** Rebekah Fehr, Joel Barickman and Steven J. Lovell

**County Clerk Semi-Annual Report** – Fannin reported a copy of the County Clerk’s Semi-Annual Report was provided. *Motion by Manker, second by Welch to approve the County Clerk’s Semi-Annual Report. MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:* John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Gina Manker, 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 and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** None **Absent:** Rebekah Fehr, Joel Barickman and Steven J. Lovell

**Proposal: Mack & Associates FY 2023 Audit** – Fannin reported this is a 1-year contract to enter into an agreement with Mack & Associates for auditing services. Fannin noted the county has been working with Mack & Associates for the past 10 years, but wants to stay ahead of the game so they will be looking into all of their options for the upcoming years. *Motion by Fannin, second by Earing to approve the proposal with Mack & Associates for auditing services for FY 2023. MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:* John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Gina Manker, 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 and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** None **Absent:** Rebekah Fehr, Joel Barickman and Steven J. Lovell

**Resolution (#2023-07-44): Application & Administrative Services Agreement – CDBG Coronavirus Business Resiliency Program** – Hartley reported this is a grant opportunity offered through the State of Illinois under the Community Development Block Grant Program. This would be for businesses who have Covid related expenses, mostly for any equipment that was purchased. Hartley stated this resolution is to contract with the North Central Illinois Council of Governments for their services in preparing the CDBG Coronavirus Business Resiliency Program Grant Application. *Motion by Fannin, second by Haag to approve the Application & Administrative Services Agreement in regards to the CDBG Coronavirus Business Resiliency Program. MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:* John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Gina Manker, 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 and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** None **Absent:** Rebekah Fehr, Joel Barickman and Steven J. Lovell

**SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE**

**Resolution (#2023-07-45): 2024 Holiday Schedule** – Weller reported this is the same schedule as last year, granting 13 paid holidays. *Motion by Fannin, second by Ritter to approve the 2024 Holiday Schedule.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

Committee Chair Robert F. Weller reported that the committee reviewed a firework display permit for Long Point Community Foundation, had discussion regarding the county’s fireworks ordinance, approved a special event request for the Prairie Dirt Classic Vendor Fair and went over the monthly reports. Weller stated there was a presentation from Advanced Correctional Healthcare regarding our healthcare services over at the jail.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY**

**Authorization to Release RFP: Solar Development Livingston Manor** – Vitzthum reported the Public Property Committee discussed the possibility of putting a solar farm where the old county nursing home use to be. Vitzthum inquired if the other board members are in favor of releasing an RFP for the solar development of Livingston Manor. It was the consensus of the board to proceed with releasing the RFP. *Motion by Vitzthum, second by Earing to authorize the release of the RFP.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Dan Myers, Robert F. Weller, John J. Vitzthum, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, James A. Carley and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** Gina Manker, Linda Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Mark Runyon, William Mays and Seth L. Welch **Absent:** Rebekah Fehr, Joel Barickman and Steven J. Lovell

Committee Chair John Vitzthum reported that the parking lot at the Public Health Building is completed.

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

Vietti reported that the committee met tonight before the Board Meeting and had 2 appointments recommended for approval, both for the Board of Health and TB Board.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

Committee Chair James A. Carley reported that he could not be present at the committee meeting this month, but Vice-Chair Steven Lovell did a great job filling in. Carley stated he would like to thank all staff at the Courthouse that keep things running smoothly and financially sound.

**INFORMATION and TECHNOLOGY**

Committee Chair Gina Manker reported that the Committee did not meet this month, but they did receive the virtual servers earlier than expected. Manker noted that Jon Sear will begin working on the servers.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The floor was open for public comment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 7:27 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