

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12<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. Jim Blackard 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 Barickman, Linda Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Dan Myers, Mark Runyon, William Mays, Robert F. Weller, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley and Paul A. Ritter  
**Absent:** John J. Vitzthum and Steven J. Lovell

**Also Present:** Executive Director Alina Hartley, Executive Assistant Jordan Uselding, County Clerk Kristy Masching, Human Resource Director Ginger Harris, Finance Director Diane Schwahn, State’s Attorney Michael Regnier, Sheriff Ryan Bohm, Public Defender Marinna Metoyer, Jail Superintendent Lisa Draper, Veterans Assistance Commission Superintendent Michael Haerr, IT Support Tech Dakota Russell, Zoning & Planning Administrator Brittney Miller, Zoning & Planning Administrative Assistant Patricia Merlino, Attorney Nicholas Standiford (Schain Banks Law Firm), Ben Sych and Tom Ryan (New Leaf Energy)

**AGENDA**

Chair Carley called for any additions or changes to the agenda with none requested. *Motion by Manker, second by Vietti 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 September 14, 2023. *Motion by Ritter, second by Blackard to approve the minutes as submitted.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE WITH ALL AYES.**

**PRESENTATION**

**Proclamation: Domestic Violence Awareness Month:** Carley proclaimed that Livingston County will recognize and declare October 2023 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Carley gave a brief overview of domestic violence and the role Safe Journey plays in providing services and helping people within the community. *Motion by Carley, second by Ritter to approve the proclamation.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE WITH ALL AYES.**

**APPEARANCES**

N/A

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Bills
- B. Acknowledgement of Receipt - Decennial Report on Local Government Efficiency
  - a. Round Grove Township
  - b. Reddick Community Fire Protection District

*Motion by Earing, second by Weller for approval of the Consent Agenda.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE. Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Rebekah Fehr, Gina Manker, Joel Barickman, Linda

Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Dan Myers, Mark Runyon, William Mays, Robert F. Weller, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley and Paul A. Ritter **Absent:** John J. Vitzthum and Steven J. Lovell

### AGRICULTURE & ZONING

**Resolution (#2023-10-58): Zoning Case SU-10-23 – North Road Solar 1, LLC:** Miller reported this is a proposed special use to develop a 5 MW solar farm on approximately 26.5 acres of a 117.83-acre tract located in an RA, Rural Residence, District in unincorporated Pontiac. Miller noted the subject property is located near Caterpillar, Pontiac Golf Course and the 4-H park. Miller mentioned the case was unanimously recommended for approval by the RPC and ZBA. The Agriculture & Zoning Committee recommended approval at the October 2023 meeting with six ayes and one nay. *Motion by Earing, second by Ritter to approve Zoning Case SU-10-23 – North Road Solar 1, LLC.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Gina Manker, Joel Barickman, Dan Myers, Robert F. Weller, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** Rebekah Fehr, Linda Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Mark Runyon and William Mays **Absent:** John J. Vitzthum and Steven J. Lovell

**Resolution (#2023-10-59): Zoning Case SU-8-23 – Esmen Solar 1, LLC:** Miller reported this is a proposed special use to develop a 5 MW solar farm on approximately 33 acres of a 40.37-acre tract located in an AG, Agricultural, District in section 29 of Esmen Township. Miller stated the subject property is located near the Landfill and Enbridge, noting that the Planning Commission found that the proximity to these facilities made it a good fit for the area uses. Miller mentioned the case was unanimously recommended for approval by the RPC, ZBA and the Agriculture & Zoning Committee. *Motion by Haag, second by Vietti to approve Zoning Case SU-8-23 – Esmen Solar 1, LLC.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Joel Barickman, Dan Myers, Robert F. Weller, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** Rebekah Fehr, Gina Manker, Linda Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Mark Runyon and William Mays **Absent:** John J. Vitzthum and Steven J. Lovell

**Resolution (#2023-10-60): Zoning Case SU-9-23 – Esmen Solar 2, LLC:** Miller reported this is a proposed special use to develop a 4.99 MW solar farm on approximately 32.9 acres of a 40.3-acre tract located in Section 29 of Esmen Township in unincorporated Pontiac. Miller mentioned the case was unanimously recommended for approval by the RPC and ZBA, and the Agriculture & Zoning Committee voted for approval with six ayes and one nay. *Motion by Haag, second by Weller to approve Zoning Case SU-9-23 – Esmen Solar 2, LLC.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Joel Barickman, Dan Myers, Robert F. Weller, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley and Paul A. Ritter **Nays:** Rebekah Fehr, Gina Manker, Linda Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Mark Runyon and William Mays **Absent:** John J. Vitzthum and Steven J. Lovell

Committee Chair Gerald Earing reported that the E-Recycling Event will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 9a.m. – 1p.m. in the old K-Mart parking lot. Earing reported that volunteers are needed, so anyone interested should contact the Regional Planning/Zoning Office.

### FINANCE

**Presentation of FY 2024 Budget, Capital Requests & Levies:** Fannin reported that the format of the budget was changed in 2019 to improve the transparency and communication with the public. Schwahn provided a brief summary of the highlights of FY 2024 budget. *Motion by Fannin, second by Fehr to place the FY 2024 Budget, Capital Requests & Levies on display.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Rebekah Fehr, Gina Manker, Joel Barickman, Linda Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Dan Myers, Mark Runyon, William Mays, Robert F. Weller, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley and Paul A. Ritter **Absent:** John J. Vitzthum and Steven J. Lovell

**Resolution (#2023-10-61): Authorizing Transfer of Excess Property:** Fannin reported that the County is donating a couple vehicles that are no longer in service to the Livingston County Career Center for the high school students to work on in the auto shop. *Motion by Ritter, second by Manker for approval and authorization of the transfer of excess property.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Rebekah Fehr, Gina Manker, Joel Barickman, Linda Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Dan Myers, Mark Runyon, William Mays, Robert F. Weller, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley and Paul A. Ritter **Absent:** John J. Vitzthum and Steven J. Lovell

#### **PUBLIC PROPERTY**

**Lease Agreement: Livingston Manor Farm – Strachan:** Earing reported that the highest bid for the one-year lease agreement at the farm ground was Daniel Strachan. *Motion by Barickman, second by Ritter to approve the lease agreement at Livingston Manor Farm between Livingston County and Strachan.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Gina Manker, Joel Barickman, Linda Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Dan Myers, Mark Runyon, William Mays, Robert F. Weller, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley and Paul A. Ritter **Abstain:** Rebekah Fehr **Absent:** John J. Vitzthum and Steven J. Lovell

**Resolution (#2023-10-62): Authorizing Change Orders – LJC ADA Project:** Earing reported that they need to move electrical panels at the Law & Justice Center in order to allow enough space to meet ADA specifications, which will require additional funds. *Motion by Earing, second by Ambrose for approval of the change order request at the Law & Justice Center for the ADA Project.* **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** John L. Vietti, Michael Haag, Rebekah Fehr, Gina Manker, Joel Barickman, Linda Ambrose, Marty Fannin, Dan Myers, Mark Runyon, William Mays, Robert F. Weller, Jim Blackard, Gerald L. Earing, Seth L. Welch, James A. Carley and Paul A. Ritter **Absent:** John J. Vitzthum and Steven J. Lovell

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Resolution (#2023-10-63): Amending Personnel Policies:** Harris reported that the personnel policy was amended to reflect the expansion of several state laws and to correct the language to be more diverse. *Motion by Ritter, second by Earing for the approval of amending the personnel policy.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

Committee Chair James A. Carley reported that there will be two special meetings on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Carley stated at 4:00p.m. there will be a special Ag & Zoning Meeting to discuss the Battery Energy Storage Ordinance and at 5:00p.m. there will be a special Board Meeting to discuss the Roof Project at the Historic Courthouse and Executive Session to hear about some issues at the Law & Justice Center.

#### **SHERIFF, JAIL & LICENSE**

Committee Chair Robert Weller reported that the SJL Committee met as scheduled, where monthly reports were given and Ron Baker gave a quarterly report from the Probation Department. Weller stated that the Jail Door Project is 99.99% finished.

Ritter reported that the P2D2 Program obtained two new boxes for drug disposal and there is an upcoming drug disposal take back day on October 28<sup>th</sup> at Walmart.

#### **HIGHWAY**

Committee Vice-Chair Mark Runyon reported that the Highway Committee did not meet this month.

#### **INFORMATION and TECHNOLOGY**

Committee Vice-Chair William Mays reported that the committee discussed that Spillman moved over to the new server with minor issues, server upgrades are being performed and the jail door system is nearly done.

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

Committee Chair Jack Vietti reported that the Veterans Lunch will be held on November 12 at noon at the Pontiac Elks Club.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Fehr announced that the Hope Center of Livingston County will be hosting a fundraising banquet on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at the First Baptist Church in Fairbury. Fehr stated that there is no cost to get in, but donations are encouraged.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The floor was open for public comment.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m. on motion by Vietti, second by Mays.* **MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE.**

**James A. Carley, Chair**

Attest:

*Jordan E. Uselding*

Executive Assistant

On behalf of County Clerk, Kristy Masching