

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2013 MEETING

The committee chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm at the Livingston County Historic Courthouse, 112 W. Madison St., Pontiac, Illinois and roll call was taken.

Present: Bob Young, Bill Flott, Mike Ingles, Earl Rients, Bill Peterson, Ron Kestner, and Paul Ritter.

Absent: None

Others

Present: County Board Chair Marty Fannin, County Board (non-committee) member Mark Runyon, County Planning Commission Representative Chuck Schopp, Livingston County Finance Resource Specialist June Slagel, Liv Com 911 Manager of Communications Randy Wittenberg, and Dennis Haab representing the Livingston County Farm Bureau.

Committee Chair Young noted the agenda. Paul Ritter then moved, seconded by Bill Peterson, that the agenda for this meeting be approved as outlined by the committee chair. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Minutes of the October 8, 2013 committee meeting were referred to the committee. Bill Flott moved, seconded by Paul Ritter, that these meeting minutes be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Solid Waste/Landfill Issues:

A monthly synopsis of landfill information and correspondence was presented to the committee members. The monthly information synopsis relating to Livingston Landfill focused on report copies pertaining to groundwater testing, clean air act reports, and closure/post closure estimates. In regard to the Streator Area Landfill a groundwater report was mentioned. Hoosier Energy is preparing to celebrate their startup of the commercial operation of their upgrade of the Livingston Landfill gas to energy facility. Host agreement information was also presented to the committee. Host fee amounts being paid appear to remain steady over the last few months.

Wind Energy Update:

The committee was informed that wind energy projects for Livingston County continue to be dormant. At this point is being assumed that any future wind development in the county will not take place prior to 2015. The status of the existing wind energy projects was discussed, and comments were made about other potential wind energy projects in other Illinois counties.

Comprehensive Plan Review:

After discussing the intent and needs of reviewing the comprehensive plan, the committee concluded that the larger communities located within Livingston County should be contacted about their interest in considering a joint comprehensive plan update. Inquiring about interest in such a review through the cooperation of the county mayoral council was discussed.

ETSB Report:

Randy Wittenberg, 911 manager of communications, addressed the committee. Mr. Wittenberg related as to how he has been working with June Slagel in budget for his department, and that the budget is on target for this year. Mr. Wittenberg then remarked about a IVCC class for telecommunicators. Mr. Wittenberg then repeated many of his comments from last month about a need to discuss and implement more long range funding issues, including user fees, supporting the increase of cell phone surcharges and the potential of unpopular tax increases. A meeting has been set to meet with the users of LivCom to discuss user fees. Mr. Wittenberg commented how he has contacted local legislators to support any potential new state wide funding proposals, such as increasing cellular phone 911 fees. Mr. Wittenberg then mentioned that he is also researching the availability of grants, which could assist in funding the updating of equipment. They continue to evaluate existing and proposed technology relating to communications systems including texting, and new mapping systems. A need to replace aging equipment now and to have a program to replace equipment in the future was then discussed. Mr. Ingles then commented on 911/ETSB organization was then reviewed, to give the committee members a better understanding of these operations, which led to a committee discussion.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee:

Committee Chair Young congratulated and remarked about the Pontiac FFA Chapter being named the National FFA Organization Model of Excellence Winner. A discussion as of the county board acknowledging this achievement then took place. Mr. Young further commented on his beliefs that the county board should consider a recognizing the accomplishments of high school individuals or groups that achieve extraordinary aspirations.

Public Comment:

Copies of a letter that Judy Campbell had provided the committee were distributed to the committee members. This letter was written by William Mulvaney the superintendent of Armstrong Schools. This letter mentioned an increase of complaints from students, which live in areas that have had wind energy development.

Review and Approval of Bills - None

Then Ron Kestner moved, seconded by Bill Flott, that this meeting be adjourned. This motion was approved unanimously.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Charles T. Schopp, Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission