

Minutes of the Lee County Board Meeting
July 16, 2020

State of Illinois)
)
County of Lee)

Call to Order

Chairman Nicholson called the regular session of the Lee County Board to order on July 16, 2020 at 6:02 P.M., at the old Courthouse in Dixon.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Nicholson led the pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Chief Deputy Clerk Miller called the roll. Members physically present were Chairman Nicholson, members, Bally, Bowers, Broome, Farster, Gibler, Horstman, Kitson, Koppien, Mimini, Norberg, Olson, Palen, Shippert, Truckenbrod and Williams. Members in attendance via conference call were Allen, Deem and Wentling. Members absent were Considine, Partington, Schielein and White. One seat is vacant.

Announcements

Chairman Nicholson called for a moment of silence for Ray Harrison, former County Board Member, who passed away.

Approval of Board Minutes

The **Minutes of the June 18, 2020 Regular Board Meeting** were approved without modification.

Resolutions

On a motion by Ms. Shippert to approve the following resolutions:

Resolution #07-20-001 Joseph E. Meyer & Assoc. Tax Auction PPN #13-21-11-207-030

Resolution #07-20-002 Joseph E. Meyer & Assoc. Tax Auction PPN #19-22-07-330-008

Resolution #07-20-003 Joseph E. Meyer & Assoc. Tax Auction PPN #13-21-12-408-001

Resolution #07-20-004 Joseph E. Meyer & Assoc. Tax Auction PPN #19-22-07-351-022

Resolution #07-20-005 Joseph E. Meyer & Assoc. Tax Auction PPN #13-21-11-408-008

second by Mrs. Truckenbrod; a roll call vote is called.

YES: Truckenbrod, Wentling, Williams, Allen, Bally, Bowers, Broome, Deem, Farster, Gibler, Horstman, Kitson, Koppien, Mimini, Norberg, Olson, Palen, Shippert and Nicholson.

NO: None

ABSENT: White, Considine, Partington and Schielein.

One seat is vacant.

Motion carried by a roll call vote.

Lee County Board Meeting

July 16, 2020

Book 43 Page 37

To Zoning Board

On a motion by Mr. Koppien to **send to the Zoning Board Petition No. 20-P-1553, Petitioner Mark Koster, PPN #16-01-23-100-007, 2095 Swarts Road, Dixon. The property is presently zoned as Ag-1 Agricultural District. The petitioner desires to rezone the use of the property to C-1 Neighborhood Office and Business District for the allowance of residential and commercial construction business,** second by Mr. Deem; motion carried by a voice vote.

On a motion by Mr. Palen to **send to the Zoning Board Petition No. 20-P-1554, Eldena Solar, LLC, PPN #(see petition). The project is located in South Dixon and Nachusa Townships, presently zoned Ag-1 Agricultural District. Petitioner desires that the properties be rezoned as Ag-1 Agricultural District for Special Use for a solar facility,** second by Mr. Kitson; motion carried by a voice vote.

To Planning Commission: No Petitions

From Zoning Board

On a motion by Mr. Horstman to **approve Ordinance #07-20-006, Petition No. 20-P-1552, Petitioner Shady Oaks Wind 2, PPN# (see Zoning Office). The properties are located in Wyoming and Brooklyn Townships, presently zoned Ag-1 Agricultural District. Petitioner desires that the properties be rezoned as Special Use for 28 wind turbines, with one additional condition, to the extent that the provisions of the petition are inconsistent with the provisions of the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement regarding security for decommissioning costs that the terms of AIMA should control,** second by Mr. Bowers; motion carried by a voice vote.

From Planning Commission: No Petitions

Board Member Comments - None

Public/Visitor Comments

Karen McInnis who lives in the Village of Compton addressed the Board concerning the Shady Oaks Wind 2 petition. Ms. McInnis is concerned with the size of the rotors, property values and setbacks and community benefit funds. Ms. McInnis had a handout for the Board Members, which has been placed in the file for this meeting.

Mrs. Truckenbrod complimented Ms. McInnis for the time and dedication she has put into this with her questions and testimony at the Zoning Hearings. There is an education piece that she has provided in this.

Cathy Ferguson-Allen, Lee County Health Department Administrator gave an update on COVID-19. Currently Lee County has 110 cases, 100 of them have recovered. Illinois is seeing an increase in cases. She is encouraging people to wash their hands, wear their masks, and watch their distance and avoiding travel to “hot spot” areas. Ms. Ferguson-Allen answered questions from the Board.

Finance: Mr. Olson gave the Finance report. The grant application for the Emergency Response Center has been placed on hold by the State. The Food Pantry fire alarm system,

sneeze guard installation at the Old Courthouse, Animal Control and LEC paving were all discussed. Janitorial/Maintenance positions were discussed as well as the 2020 Election Security. The committee is watching the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the county's finances and will be able to give a report in the next couple of months when we see how the sales tax revenues come in. LED lighting in the parking lot of the New Courts Building was approved. The committee recommended a two year program for the Old and New Courthouse for the LAN and VOIP phone upgrade. The Electric Service Provider Contract was discussed as well as approving the \$50,000. a month payment from Invenergy (Nelson plant) for permit fees. The Casselle Accounting Software for the Treasurer's Office and County Clerk's Office was approved. The budget was amended for the Lee County Highway Department and LOTS.

Transportation/Solid Waste: Ms. Shippert gave the Transportation/Solid Waste report. Mr. Cecchetti spoke to the committee concerning the speed on Lowell Park Road. Repairs are still needed on the excavator but could be less than initially indicated. On a motion by Ms. Shippert to **approve claims**, second by Mr. Farster; motion carried by a voice vote.

Properties/Planning/Zoning: Mr. Bowers gave the Properties/Planning/Zoning report. Mr. Bowers stated that Mr. Olson has already covered most of their topics through Finance. He did want to inform the Board that there might possibly be a grant for demolition of the old jail and mitigation that they will be looking into which would give them progress into the steps of construction of a new EOC.

LOTS (Lee Ogle Transportation System): Mr. Gates, LOTS Executive Director, gave the LOTS report. They are continuing to work with IDOT regarding funding for FY 20/21. As of yesterday they were able to get the application for CARES funding, which would give them additional funding for transportation. The Safety and Security plan that is coming up later in this meeting is from last November's Compliance review with IDOT. Once the County's new safety plan is approved those changes will be rolled over into this Safety and Security Plan.

Administrative Services: Mrs. Truckenbrod gave the Administrative Services report. The report is included in the packet. The IVRS Grant in the amount of \$23,335 was deposited. This reimburses the cost of the VEMACS software and the cost of new computers in the Election Department. Recording documentation has been up compared to a year ago. Mr. Sondgeroth, ROE, reported that it is an ongoing issue on school re-openings. The Administrative Committee is continuing to work through the Board Rules and hope to have something for next month. One deadline for homestead exemptions has passed, but other homestead exemptions will not be due until the end of December.

Public Safety: Mr. Koppien gave the Public Safety report. Under new business there will be two (2) resolutions appointing Trustees to the Sublette Fire Protection District.

Blackhawk Hills Regional Council: Mr. Deem reported they had their Annual Meeting last month.

911 Board: Mr. Deem advised they did not have a meeting last month. They are still working on equipment. Their next meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2020.

Tourism: Mr. Palen gave the Tourism report. Advertising has been drastically reduced and the secretary is only working a few hours a week. Tourism's share of the Hotel/Motel receipts for the month of May was \$2,089.17, this is down about \$2,000. from last year.

Lee County Board Meeting

July 16, 2020

Health Department: Mr. Olson gave the Board of Health report. They reviewed and approved the claims and discussed the COVID-19 response and challenges to the Department.

Tri-County Opportunities Council: Mr. Williams gave the Tri-County Opportunities Council report. A copy of his report is included in the packet.

United Counties Council of Illinois (UCCI): Mr. Farster gave the United Counties Council report. UCCI still not holding any meetings in person, doing meetings by Zoom.

Executive: Chairman Nicholson gave the Executive report. On a motion by Mr. Farster to **approve claims**, second by Mr. Koppien; motion carried by a voice vote.

County Officers Reports, Request for Deposit of Funds, Orders Paid in Vacation

On a motion by Mr. Kitson to **approve County Officers Reports, Request for Deposit of Funds and Orders Paid in Vacation**, second by Mrs. Truckenbrod; motion carried by a voice vote.

Old Business – None

New Business

On a motion by Ms. Shippert to **approve various County Bridge Repair Projects**, second by Mr. Broome; motion carried by a voice vote.

On a motion by Mr. Olson to **approve the Treasurer's Quarterly Report**, second by Mr. Kitson; motion carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Bowers explained the Phase I – Phone upgrades. There has been an ongoing problem with the phone system and the local area network. They had been ask to look into solving the phone system and Phase I is what will be handled in 2020. As the FY 20/21 budget is being worked on they will budget for the remainder of the project in 2021.

State's Attorney Boonstra advised that the new jail and Sheriff's office has used Ficek he is of the opinion that they will be able to sole source the same company for both the Old and New Courts Building.

Circuit Clerk Denise McCaffrey explained that the phone system has not been working in her office. It has gotten remarkably worse this past week and she feels that it is essential that the phone system gets fixed.

Mr. Olson indicated that the Finance Committee had approved \$225,735.00 in order to cover the I-fiber that needs to be run.

On a motion by Mr. Bowers to **approve Phase I (2020) New Courts Building and Old Courthouse Phone Upgrades in the amount of \$225,735.00**, second by Mr. Williams; motion carried by a voice vote. Mr. Deem abstained from this vote.

On a motion by Mr. Olson to **approve Casselle Accounting Software Purchase**, second by Mr. Mimini; motion carried by a voice vote.

Mr. Bowers explained that there is a sheet from Rock River Energy Services Company. This is a competitive bid from Rock River Energy that will save the County about \$16,000.00 a year.

Mr. Mike Mudge, with Rock River Energy addressed the Board and explained the electrical aggregation. Mr. Mudge acknowledged Mr. Henkel who had saved the County a lot of money with the electrical aggregation in the past. Mr. Mudge explained the handout and the supplier rates.

On a motion by Mr. Bowers to **approve Direct Energy at a rate of .06163 for three (3) years as Lee County's Electric Service Provider**, second by Mr. Bally; motion carried by a voice vote.

On a motion by Mr. Norberg to **approve #07-20-007 Lee-Ogle Transportation System Safety and Security Plan**, second by Mr. Williams; motion carried by a voice vote.

Appointments

On a motion by Mr. Koppien to approve the following two (2) resolutions:
Resolution #07-20-008 appointing Douglas E. Erbes as a Trustee of the Sublette Fire Protection District to fulfill the remaining 3-year of Robert E. Jones, effective May 4, 2020 and expiring the first Monday in May 2022.

Resolution #07-20-009 appointing Keith Klein as a Trustee of the Sublette Fire Protection District to fulfill the 3-year term effective May 4, 2020 and expiring May 1, 2023, second by Mrs. Truckenbrod; motion carried by a voice vote.

Executive Session - None

Mileage and Per Diem

On a motion by Mr. Palen to **approve Mileage and Per Diem**, second by Mr. Deem; motion carried by a voice vote.

All Bills and Appropriation

On a motion by Mr. Gibler to **approve All Bills and Appropriations**, second by Mr. Broome; a roll call vote is called.

YES: Wentling, Williams, Allen, Bally, Bowers, Broome, Deem, Farster, Gibler, Horstman, Kitson, Koppien, Mimini, Norberg, Olson, Palen, Shippert, Truckenbrod and Nicholson.

NO: None.

ABSENT: White, Considine, Partington and Schielein.

One seat is vacant.

Motion carried by a roll call vote.

Chairman Nicholson thanked all for attending this meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Kitson to **adjourn this meeting until August 20, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.**, second by Mr. Farster; motion carried by a voice vote.

Adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

Attest: Cathy Myers
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Lee County Board

John Nicholson
Chairman Lee County Board

Lee County Board Meeting

July 16, 2020

Book 43 Page 41