

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD**

AT A MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY ILLINOIS, BEGUN AND HELD AT THE COURTHOUSE IN TAYLORVILLE, ILLINOIS, ON **April 16, 2019**

*ATTEST: MICHAEL C. GIANASI, COUNTY CLERK*

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The following proceeding had and entered at large upon the records of said Board, which is done accordingly in the following words and figures to wit;

Chairwoman Becky Edwards called the board to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Gerald McPhillips of Grace Baptist Church gave the invocation. Pastor McPhillips also led a moment of silence for former County Board Member Jack R. Pearce, Jr., who passed away on April 2, 2019.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call by County Clerk Michael Gianasi showing all members present except Chad Michel, this did signify a quorum and was declared.

**ACCEPT COUNTY BOARD MINUTES**

Chairwoman Becky Edwards asked for any corrections and to accept the March 19, 2019, County Board minutes. *It was moved by Donna Hibbetts and seconded by Linda Curtin to approve said minutes of the County Board Meeting.* The motion carried.

**PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OR PROCLAMATIONS**

Any and all will be addressed at the committee report.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairwoman Edwards opened the public comment period by stating that the County has a great deal of homework to do on the topic of wind turbines in Christian County before any decisions are made. She also stated that future meetings of all parties involved, property owners and wind turbine companies, would be scheduled. For the group present, Chairwoman Edwards requested speakers who had not already spoken at the previous meeting be provided the opportunity. Mr. Joseph Tillman, licensed Professional Engineer and renewable energy instructor, addressed the Board. Mr. Tillman discussed his experience designing and working inside wind turbines. He went on to discuss environmental costs involved in building a tower, including the CO<sub>2</sub> produced when steel, concrete, etc., is created. The setback requirement of 1.1 times the tower height was mentioned. Statistics showing future growth in wind and solar energy collection were addressed. Board member Hibbetts requested additional information and Chairwoman Edwards would email everything received from Mr. Tillman to the Board members. Member Wells asked Mr. Tillman to clarify the setback in terms of feet related to tower height and rotor diameter. Board Member McMahan also asked about setback distance. Chairwoman Edwards reiterated that a meeting would occur to discuss wind turbines.

**READING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

The following communications were presented and read and placed on file in the Clerk's Office.

1. The April Prevailing Wage Report has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office and is available for inspection. Eleven trades were updated since the March board meeting.
2. The March 2019, Public Defender's Report has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office and is available for inspection.
3. The Treasurer's Reports for the period ending on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, have been placed on file in the Clerk's Office and are available for inspection.
4. The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund report for March 2019 has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office and is available for inspection.
5. The March 2019, Motor Fuel Tax Allotment Transaction Reports, dated April 2, 2019, were received for both the County and the Road Districts.
6. The Christian County February PCOM report was received from the C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation. The letter and attached report have been placed on file in the Clerk's Office and are available for inspection.
7. The City of Taylorville sent a Notice to Remediate in regards to a property located at 829 W. Waco Street in Taylorville. The notice is on file in the Clerk's office.

8. A letter from the Illinois Department of Transportation was received notifying the County that a Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement between the County and WHKS & Co. Engineering was approved. The agreement is connected to the improvement of Section 18-15120-00-BR. The letter and additional information are on file in the Clerk's office.

#### **APPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AS READ**

Chairwoman Becky Edwards called for a *motion by Molly Alaria and was seconded by Tim Carlson to accept the communications as read.* The motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **ACCEPT & FILE COMMITTEE REPORTS AS PRINTED**

*A motion was made by Dale Livingston and was seconded by Tim Carlson to accept & file the committee reports as printed.* The motion carried.

#### **HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING AND WELFARE COMMITTEE—April 10, 2019-Minutes read by Phil Schneider**

- **COURTHOUSE UPDATES**

Zach Hicks reported:

- The final area of the air conditioning project was being completed and then the ceiling tiles on the third floor could be replaced.
- He has found two more leaks in the courthouse roof and has called Bill Kennedy.
- The outside Ameren lighting upgrade has been completed and the incentive money received.
- The change out of lightbulbs in the courthouse is almost completed.

Cliff Frye reported:

- Two of the four footings have been formed. When coordination with staff, weather and courthouse business coincides, the concrete will be poured.

- **LACTATION ROOM/AREA TO BECOME AVAILABLE**

According to the State statute by June 1, 2019, the court systems must have available a private room/area, not in a restroom, for the purpose of mothers to express milk. Chief Deputy Bruce Engeling reported that a client/attorney room next to the elevator on the third floor will be the designated room. An arm chair is needed and signage designating the location. This notice will also be posted in all offices as this location will also be available to employees for the same purpose.

- **HIGHWAY BUSINESS**

Cliff Frye reported:

- **PANA BRIDGE #21 ENGINEERING AGREEMENT**

A preliminary engineering agreement with Greene & Bradford, Inc. to update the plans for Pana Bridge #21 was presented. The structure was originally designed in 2006 but was shelved due to a lack of State funding. A change in the law for tax cap counties now allows State funding for Pana Township and the plans need to be brought up to current standards. The contract is on an actual cost plus basis with a not to exceed amount of \$30,000. The Township Bridge Program will pay 80% of the final cost. *A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Dale Livingston to approve the agreement with Greene & Bradford and authorize the County Board Chairman to execute the agreement.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, and Becky Edwards, (15) aye; (0) nay; (1) absent; Chad Michel absent. The motion carried.

- **ASSUMPTION BRIDGE #17**

The contractor has started construction of Assumption Bridge #17. The project should be completed within two months.

- NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
Melissa Jones, Chair of the Christian County Taskforce for the National Day of Prayer has requested to use the north side of the courthouse lawn at noon on Thursday, May 2 to hold a prayer observance for approximately one hour. A second request is for Sunday, September 8 to hold a Bible Blitz on the courthouse lawn for the 100 participants to encircle the courthouse during the afternoon. *A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Matt Wells to grant the requests.* The motion carried.
- CHRISTIAN COUNTY ORDINANCE 2008 REGULATING THE SITING OF WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS THAT IS ON FILE  
Committee Chairman Phil Schneider asked for public comments prior to the committee's review of the 2008 ordinance.

The following are public comments and opinions:

George Hiler-has concerns of the negative impact of the towers to family, real estate property values, health and cast shadows, how it might affect other areas, and public safety.

Len Corzine-His theme was about the legacy of his family farm and the good quality of the land for crops and livestock. His desire is "to leave the land better than he found it". Towers hinder the tillage planting, tiles could be affected, and homes will stop being built in the area of the towers.

Ted Hartke presented a video about his experience with a tower too close to his home and sleep deprivation which affected his family.

Nancy Handegan representing the Christian County Farm Bureau noted that the Farm Bureau does not take a stand on the wind energy towers. Their role is in hopes that neighbors do not pit themselves against one another. They suggest that the ordinance protect the land and for landowners to be aware of the agreements.

Phil Hartke—He commented on his son's presentation noting the personality changes in his family.

Kurt Corzine—His comments were the passion he has about his land and the noise.

Charlie DeClerck asked "what will the Board do about this". Chairwoman Becky Edwards' response was "We will evaluate all aspects of the towers, the needs of the landowners and the county". The current ordinance needs to be reviewed.

Current zoning officer Vince Harris and former zoning officer Brett Rahar commented about the setbacks being outdated from the new towers and also the height of the towers in the ordinance. It was noted that there are currently temporary meteorological towers recording wind data—no permits are required. Additionally, many land use agreements have been recorded. The completion of any of these projects has two to four years before construction of the towers. Additional information and speakers will be invited to future meetings to give the board members further information before making changes in the current ordinance.

Chairwoman Edwards reiterated to the room that a Committee of the Whole meeting would be forthcoming to discuss wind turbines in Christian County. The entire Board will be present and when scheduled it will be published for all to attend.

EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL/LIQUOR COMMITTEE –April 10, 2019-Minutes read by Donna Hibbetts.

- LIQUOR LICENSE REQUESTS  
Phil Corzine and his wife attended the committee meeting to explain a new business venture of which they are pursuing. Currently, they have a frozen cut meat business located in the rural Assumption area on their homestead property. It is zoned commercial and inspected by the county health department. Until the recent fire at the 1905 Brewery

in Assumption, of which he was part owner, he was the brewer of a local label beer. It is the Corzine's intention to brew at home and to add the product to the meat business. The business is not open full time, generally only on Saturday 9-1. When the brewery portion is added to the business, the hours could be one or two days on the weekends generally during daytime hours. The request for a license is to be a one to two barrel brewer and to sell it as package liquor. Often in this type of business, the customer would sample the beer before the purchase. Mr. Corzine noted that this is not intended to be a bar nor would he have late hours as it is located at his home property. There was unanimous discussion for approval for this venture, however prior to approving the request Zoning Director Vince Harris advised the committee that Mr. Corzine has requested a special use in zoning as his property, although zoned commercial (meat package sales), the code does not list any alcohol sales. He was going to schedule a Zoning Board of Appeals hearing as soon as possible for the special use approval. *A motion was made by Donna Hibbetts and seconded by Mike McClure to direct States Attorney Havera to draft a Brewery Class Liquor License classification to present to the Board contingent upon the Zoning Board of Appeals Special Use decision.* The motion carried.

- UNION NEGOTIATIONS

Currently, the three AFSCME contracts are in negotiations. The first meeting date has been set for the Probation employees who have selected the FOP to represent them (a separate contract and provisions from the Sheriff's office). AFSCME formerly represented the Probation employees.

AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING COMMITTEE-April 11, 2019-Minutes read by Clark Pearce.

- FY 2018 AUDIT

Rich Hooper of Lively, Mathias, Hooper and Noblet presented an overview of the 2018 Audit report for the County as a whole, the County Public Health Department and the Circuit Clerk's Office (this is a separate document and not presented but is on file).

- The County's financial statements are unmodified and are presented fairly in all respects.
- The County had no material weaknesses and is in compliance.
- FY 2018 the County's audited financial statements were converted from accrual basis of accounting to the modified cash basis.
- The FY 2018 budget was not amended during the year.
- The expenditures did not exceed budgeted amounts in any major fund.
- Pages 31-34 itemize the budget and actual ending expenditures ending in the black.

Rich Hooper appeared before the Board to review and comment on the FY 2018 audit and answer questions. Member McClure asked about the employee health insurance budget line item amount and Jan Bland explained the health reimbursement program exceeded the projected amount for the year.

- CLAIMS

*A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Vicki McMahan to approve claims for April.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards and Donna Hibbetts, (15) aye; (0) nay; (1) absent; Chad Michel absent. The motion carried.

- EMAIL PROPOSAL

County Clerk Mike Gianasi was asked to update the committee on the email research. During an earlier meeting with the Chairwoman and Jeff Durbin-CTI, it was determined that the quotes were all coming in the same no matter which vendor we would use. It was determined that the first step needs to be just county wide email and storage. Only Hotmail/gmail etc. addresses would change, but all would be converted for backup and storage. Next month a decision will be made for the conversion.

- **REQUEST TO WAIVE DELINQUENT TAX FEE**

The City of Pana has acquired a property and wishes to clean it up. There are however, fees still tied to the property and the County has been asked to waive them equaling about \$900. Treasurer Betty Asmussen advised the committee this was a poor practice to begin as the fees equal revenue for the County as well as the other taxing bodies. The recording fee has to be collected and cannot be waived at all. The goal of the tax sale is for property not to set empty but be purchased for betterment and to be placed back into the tax cycle. *A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Dale Livingston to retain the delinquent tax fees.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts and Ray Koonce, (14) aye; Matt Wells, (1) nay; (1) absent; Chad Michel absent. The motion carried.

**NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**MILEAGE AND PER DIEM REPORT:**

*A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Dale Livingston to approve the mileage and per diem report for the month of April 2019.* The motion carried.

<b><u>Board Member</u></b>	<b><u>Salary</u></b>	<b><u>Rate</u></b>	<b><u># of Meetings This Month</u></b>
Molly Alaria	\$200.00	\$50.00	4
Timothy Carlson	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Craig Corzine	\$200.00	\$50.00	2
Linda Curtin	\$100.00	\$25.00	3
Charles DeClerck	\$200.00	\$50.00	2
Becky Edwards	\$846.16		
Donna Hibbetts	\$100.00	\$25.00	3
Ray Koonce	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Dale Livingston	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Mike McClure	\$200.00	\$50.00	3
Vicki McMahan	\$200.00	\$50.00	2
Venise McWard	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Chad Michel	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Clark Pearce	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Philip Schneider	\$200.00	\$50.00	2
Matt Wells	\$100.00	\$25.00	2

**APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS:**

Chairwoman Edwards received a Resolution for the reappointment of Dave Puccetti to the Taylorville Fire Protection District Board. Two others expressing interest have met with the Chairwoman. Chairwoman Edwards announced that her choice was Dave Oldham and with Mr. Oldham present, asked for him to address the Board so they could hear from him directly. Mr. Oldham described his experience with the Taylorville Fire Department and how he helped in the creation of the District. *A motion was made by Tim Carlson and seconded by Ray Koonce to appoint Dave Oldham to the Taylorville Fire Protection District Board. Term is May 2019 to May 2022.* The motion carried.

Member Koonce expressed his support for Mr. Oldham having known him for many years.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other unfinished business to come before the Board, *a motion was made by Mike McClure and seconded by Phil Schneider to adjourn until Tuesday, May 21, 2019 for the regular County Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.* The motion carried.