

**HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING
AND WELFARE COMMITTEE
March 8, 2022**

Present: Dale Livingston, Chuck Smedley, Bev Graham, Mike Specha, Thomas Snyder, Jr.
Absent: None
Others present: Matt Wells, Venise McWard, Linda Curtin, Bryan Sharp, Jacque Willison, Bruce Kettelkamp, Cliff Frye, Vince Harris, Tom Latonis, Don Hayes, Jay Germann, Larry Saxe, Skip Miller, Bruce Brockelsby, Steve Brockelsby, Phil Bliler, Mike Bliler, Gary Fulk, and Elizabeth Hile in attendance.

Special Note – due to the number of County Board members present, Chairman Wells contacted States Attorney Wes Poggenpohl to ensure the County was not in violation of the OMA. The States Attorney advised we were not out of compliance and could proceed with the meeting.

The meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee was called to order on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Christian County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was County building issues, highway business and any other matters properly brought before the Committee. Roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were several individuals from the public who spoke on the carbon capture and storage project.

- Concerns were raised that too many things are given up and there are too many unknowns about this project that may impact a life time and future generations to come.
- Comments were made about “what if” in the future the group wanting to start this project sells out and the possibility it’s sold to a foreign owned company where agreements may not be upheld.
- Concerns were raised about first responders, do they have equipment needed and would they have the proper education and training in the event of an emergency.
- Question was asked benefit(s) the County would receive from this project.
- Question was asked about the time frame for making decisions regarding this project.
- Concerns about what this project may do to our county and will people want to come to our community with carbon fields in the area.
- Comment about fees being too low for everything today and importance in taking a long hard look going forward.

Committee Chairman Livingston noted this is all new and uncharted territory. Chairman Wells advised the audience that he felt there are two (2) issues (a) pipelines and (b) storage field. He advised the County cannot pass an ordinance to stop someone from doing something only how and what needs to be done. He feels some type of ordinance will be needed if this project does come about. Chairman Wells noted that he didn’t feel anyone on the County Board likes or feels eminent domain is fair.

Bryan Sharp commented that he was in hopes that there would be some discussion as to why the proposed fee structure was tabled by the ZBA.

The audience was advised where they could find meeting notices, which includes the ZBA meetings, on the County’s website as well as offered contact information for individuals interested in getting opinions on this matter and other groups and meetings were information is being provided.

ANDERSON CEMETERY ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Larry Saxe provided the required annual Anderson Cemetery report which included financial information regarding operation costs, grave purchases and burials for 2021 with notation of grave and cremation opening increase of \$100 for holidays and weekends.

REGULATING CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE ORDINANCE

This is a draft ordinance should the carbon capture and storage the project happen. It's a starting point as there is no ordinance out there addressing the issue.

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and by Mike Specha to table to the April meeting. Roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

TEXT AMENDMENT 1-3-17

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and seconded by Chuck Smedley to table. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

TRADITION ENERGY

Tradition Energy researches costs for electricity providers on behalf of the County. The consultant provided a spreadsheet with options.

Motion by Mike Specha and seconded by Thomas Snyder, Jr. to recommend to the full Board the 60 month contract option. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

TAYLORVILLE SQUARE RENOVATIONS

The Committee reviewed the downtown renovation map provided by the City of Taylorville. Initial concerns noted were bathroom facilities on the court house lawn and reduction of parking spaces.

Motion by Bev Graham and seconded by Dale Livingston to reject bathroom facilities on the court house lawn. Bev withdrew her motion.

Mike Specha advised that he has an upcoming meeting with Mayor Barry and will see if he can get more information and will report back to the Committee.

Motion by Mike Specha and seconded by Bev Graham to table. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE

Vince Harris advised that he is working on a report for the full Board. He advised the secretary has accepted a new position and her last working day is March 25, 2022.

Bev Graham asked if the State has been coming for inspection training. Vince advised that the State has provided notice that they will be training him but has yet to provide training dates.

HIGHWAY BUSINESS

Cliff Frye advised that he met with Don Hayes from the Anderson Cemetery Board last fall and they agreed to wait until weather broke to begin work. The original plans for the roads have changed and they will be meeting again in the next couple of weeks.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Vince provided an update on the current animal counts/status at animal control. He also provided financial information for animal control/zoning.

2021	70 dogs 123 cats	-\$1,112.07 for the year
2020	121 dogs 192 cats	+\$1,479.71 for the year
2019	144 dogs 179 cats	\$34,567.40 (2019/2020 money received for solar farms)
2018	70 dogs 138 cats	-\$71,004.58
2017	No info avail	-\$185,332.00
2016	No info avail	-\$191,138.00
2015	No info avail	-\$187,303.00

Zoning department – Ten (10) building permits were issued. Two (2) of which were for residential solar and one was for a grain bin.

Indicated money for the cat room is \$24,212.79 with Friends of, \$26,000.00 from an anonymous donor and \$25,000.00 will come from another trust which is given \$13,000.00 a year from this trust.

ZBA report – highlighted the proposed text amendment for meteorological towers going before the ZBA this month.

Draft County Municipal Agreement for Animal Control

Last month the Board approved a rate change from \$25.00 per hour to \$50.00 per hour. No further recommendations were made until Vince Harris could consult with Dwanna Kelmel about being about to meet the needs of the contract should a municipality in the County should sign a contract.

Motion by Dale Livingston and seconded by Mike Specha to table. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

COURT HOUSE AND BUILDING BUSINESS

None

OTHER MATTERS

Bev Graham mentioned we lost a tree on the court house lawn. Chairman Wells advised yes we did from the storm this weekend. More than half of the tree top was lost and the tree was removed with the assistance of the City of Taylorville.

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and seconded by Mike Specha to adjourn. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Livingston
Buildings/Highway/Environmental/Zoning
Welfare Chairman
03/08/2022