

**HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING
AND WELFARE COMMITTEE
June 14, 2022**

Present: Dale Livingston, Chuck Smedley, Bev Graham, Mike Specha, Thomas Snyder, Jr.
Absent: None
Others present: Matt Wells, Linda Curtin, Vicki McMahon, Bryan Sharp, Bill Kennedy, Cliff Frye, Ron Brown, Vince Harris, Jim Prescott, Sally Brusveen, Pat Vogel, Rhonda Wilson, Patty Rykhus, Jan Schmedeke, Lucas Domonowsky, and Elizabeth Hile in attendance.

The meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee was called to order on Tuesday, June 14, 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

Ms. Patty Rykhus, President of Friends Of which is a not for profit group spoke about the Pana dog case which dates back to January of 2022. They have been told continuously to be patient. This case involved a pack of dogs in which 1 animal had a broken and infected leg. After pressure, 4 adult dogs received rabies shots which were out of compliance. One dog has since died and was partially consumed. One dog was stolen and 1 dog now has 10 pups. The owner doesn't live at the residence and for the last two (2) weeks the owner of the property hasn't been seen. Patty is asking out of concern if someone from Animal Control or the Sheriff's office can do a check on these animals.

Ms. Jan Schmedeke spoke inquiring about the status of an ordinance that ties the hands of Humane Investigators. They still haven't heard anything as to whether or not the ordinance is staying or will be revised. Committee Chairman Livingston said that ordinance is still in effect.

COUNTY LOT MOWEAQUA PROPERTY

County Highway Engineer, Cliff Frye, presented some options as solutions for the complaints received at this stock pile lot. The complaints were related to vehicles doing doughnuts at all hours of the night.

The most expensive option is to put up a chain link fence with gates at a cost of approximately \$9,200.00 to \$10,000.00. Another option would be a solar security camera. Cliff spoke with Wareham's security and the cost of a security camera would be approximately \$2,250.00 and a pole would need to be installed. The problem with this option is that depending on location the camera might not pick up enough to be valuable. A third option would be purchase 35 concrete barrier wall blocks with gates for an estimated cost of \$2,450.00. These barrier blocks are 2' tall by 2' wide and 6' long and weigh 3500 pounds. They are made from recycled scrap concrete. Problem with this option is that currently there are not enough blocks for the project. Completing the project will depend on availability of scrap concrete to make more barrier blocks.

Motion by Mike Specha and seconded by Bev Graham to recommend to the full Board to approve installation of concrete barrier wall blocks and gates with a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00 coming out of the County Highway Fund. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

COURT HOUSE LAWN REQUEST – JULY 4TH

Chairman Wells advised that Taylorville Mayor Barry had contacted him requesting permission to use the court house lawn during the 4th of July parade.

Motion by Dale Livingston and seconded by Chuck Smedley to recommend to the full Board to allow City of Taylorville to use the court house lawn during the 4th of July parade. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

ANIMAL CONTROL SPLIT FROM SOLID WASTE AND ZONING – BUDGETS

Committee Chairman Livingston noted that someone needs to look at the budget and separate Animal Control and Zoning.

Bev Graham asked to read a memo from Treasurer Betty Asmussen. Dale advised that this will be tabled until Betty can be here to provide the information.

ZONING BUSINESS

Christian County Zoning Code 1-10-1 Zoning Administrator

Committee Chairman Livingston noted that in the Zoning Code 1-10-1 it indicates that the Zoning Administrator has a two (2) year term. He asked Chairman Wells if that was changed when the position was combined. The Chairman Wells advised that he didn't have the minutes in front of him and it depended on how that motion was made at the time. He believes that a prior chairman combined those positions in 2018 so depending on the motion in the minutes the appointment could be out of compliance.

Motion by Bev Graham and seconded by Mike Specha to recommend this go to the full Board.

During discussion, Mike Specha asked if the States Attorney should provide clarification. The appointment need is noted for Zoning but not the other jobs. When did appointment reference appear in the Zoning code? A revision date of December 15, 2020 was noted on the copy provided.

A question was raised by Vince Harris if Brett Rahar was reappointed and if a precedence had been set.

Bev Graham amended the motion and Mike Specha seconded to recommend to the full Board that the States Attorney give an opinion on the minutes and after speaking to the States Attorney to provide information to the Board as to when the term began and expired. Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha and Bev Graham all voted in favor. Dale Livingston and Chuck Smedley were opposed. Motion carried.

Chairman Wells noted that when Liz came on, it was discovered that there was not an active list of appointments and we are working on that. So in the future, everyone will know when appointments are expiring. Until such time, appointments are made as Boards notify of expirations or resignations.

Office Location

Committee Chairman Livingston advised that when Animal Control and Zoning were combined that Zoning was moved to Animal Control.

Motion was made by Dale Livingston and seconded by Mike Specha to move Zoning from Animal Control to Solid Waste.

During discussion, questions were raised about expenses, do we lease or own the solid waste building. It was felt this decision isn't something that needs to happen in a hurry.

Motion was withdrawn.

Motion was made by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and seconded by Dale Livingston to table to next month. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE BUSINESS

Delegation with IEPA

Members asked to see the Delegation agreement in order to have a discussion. Because of the length of the document a few copies were available this evening. Liz will scan and email the document to all members.

HIGHWAY BUSINESS

Cliff provided an update on two (2) bridge projects.

Pana Township Bridge #66 – This project was on IDOT’s April 29th bid letting. The successful bidder was from Depew & Owen Builders of Centralia at a cost of \$399,988.00.

Locust Township Bridge #3, located on Velma Road, is on IDOT’s June 17th letting. Both bridge projects are federal projects.

ANIMAL CONTROL

State Statute Animal Control Act – 510 ILCS 5

Committee Chairman Livingston advised that he received an inquiry as to why monies are not placed in the Animal Control Fund as noted in 510 ILCS 5/7 Chapter 8 page 357.

Motion by Bev Graham and seconded by Mike Specha to refer this matter to Finance to give Betty time to review the statute and provide a short synopsis in regard to the question asked. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Draft County Municipal Agreement for Animal Control

Dale advised that he found out that an agreement is not needed for Animal Control to go if they get a call.

Chairman Wells advised that he again has received a phone call from a city in the county inquiring about the status to provide assistance. The Committee reviewed the last change to the proposed agreement which was increasing the hourly rate to \$50.00. It was also noted better language for item #2 would be changing the working from “to at least eight (8) hours” to “not to exceed eight (8) hours”.

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and seconded by Mike Specha to send this back to the full Board for discussion with wording changes to #2 to read “not to exceed” eight (8) hours. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

COURT HOUSE AND BUILDING BUSINESS

Bill Kennedy addressed the Committee regarding the need for space for records from various offices. He feels the basement at the old CIPS (Solid Waste) building has the space and is a good option. He would like to continue to move on this project by talking to the applicable office holders to find out how many feet of shelving they feel will be needed. Right now there are piles of records in various locations to include the basement of the court house. There are a couple of caveats to this plan. 1. The records have to be secure for the States Attorney’s records and Public Defenders records. 2. Has to have 24 hour access.

Motion by Dale Livingston and seconded by Thomas Snyder, Jr. to recommend to the full Board to allow Bill Kennedy to continue looking into the records storage solution. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Bill also updated the Committee on the Window and Air ARPA fund project. They are in the “design” stage and it’s coming together nicely. A combination of replacing the windows before the air conditioning may result in the units going on the existing slab instead of the need to build another slab. Bill notes this is a huge benefit.

Yet this week the boiler could be inspected along with repairing a leak. The boiler has been mistreated the last few years and while there is a new bottom on it, corrosion at the joints inside the box has reoccurred. This repair has been done the last couple of years. This time Bill has asked for an assessment to be done as to whether or not this will be a reoccurring problem and if there should be consideration to replace the boiler versus the risk of an outage during the winter. More information will be provided.

Fountain will have water in it tomorrow.

There was a recent roof leak at the lower end of the copper valley. There was an actual gash where something went through it and it was repaired with a foam material that held up until now. Charles Samson came in right away and made the repair at a cost of \$250.00.

Bev Graham asked if the file cabinet and other issues were resolved in the States Attorney’s office. Bill advised they had been.

Tree Removal

Ron Brown, Maintenance Supervisor, advised the Committee that two (2) trees on the court house lawn need removed. A tree on the south side lost a large branch during a storm on May 25th and a tree on the east side that is half dead. He received 4 estimates. 1 estimate wasn’t valid as they did not carry insurance. All qualifying bids include removal of two (2) trees down to the stumps with cleanup of debris. A bid from Noblet’s came in at \$2500.00. Long Tree Service was \$2,400.00 and Capital Tree was \$3,300.00.

Motion by Dale Livingston and seconded by Mike Specha to refer to Finance tree removal bid from Long Tree Service for \$2,400.00. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS

Ron Brown, Maintenance Supervisor who has only been with the County for just over one (1) month was complimented for his quick attention when contacted for help. Additionally the large branch that fell covering most of the south entrance on May 25th, Ron came in after the 8:00 p.m. storm for cleanup and when employees arrived at 8:00 a.m. you would have never know anything even happened. The debris was totally cleaned up and not even a leaf was seen in the yard. He was also completed for all the painting that has been done.

Bev Graham asked if the Treasure could now address the budget agenda item from earlier tonight.

Betty presented and reviewed a document regarding the history of the Animal Control/Zoning budget. She was directed by a previous chairperson to combine the Animal Control and Zoning budget because only three (3) expense line items that were used by Zoning. Even then those three (3) expense line items were maintained separately. While it appears the budgets are combined, Zoning has always maintained those three (3) separate expense line items.

Going forward with this next fiscal cycle because this has become a technicality and for transparency Zoning will now be 001-021.

Committee Chairman Livingston asked Betty about the question he was asked regarding state statute 510 ILCS 5/7 Chapter 8 page 357 regarding to deposits in the Animal Control Fund. Betty advised that the Animal Control Fund is in the General Fund.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Livingston
Buildings/Highway/Environmental/Zoning
Welfare Chairman
06/14/2022