

**HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING
AND WELFARE COMMITTEE
July 12, 2022**

Present: Dale Livingston, Chuck Smedley, Bev Graham, Mike Specha, Thomas Snyder, Jr.
Absent: None
Others present: Matt Wells, Linda Curtin, Wes Poggenpohl, Bill Kennedy, Cliff Frye, Ron Brown, Dwanna Kelmel, Rebecca Hile, Ron Brown, Pat Vogel, Patty Rykhus, Jan Schmedeke, Derek Page, Seth Thomas, Lucas Domonowsky, and Elizabeth Hile in attendance.

The meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee was called to order on Tuesday, July 12, 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

Derek Page, Mayor of Assumption spoke about the devastating accident involving local high school students where County Highway 6 intersects with US Route 51. There have been many serious accidents at that intersection with previous contact with IDOT. He is asking the County to work with IDOT. The County has full cooperation of himself, the Village of Assumption and Board as well as the community.

Rebecca Hile, a long time former volunteer at Animal Control who was on the founding Board of “Friends Of” addressed the committee. She noted that she addressed the Board last month about the improvements at Animal Control that Vince Harris made during his time there. Improvements noted were improved veterinary services, reduced euthanasia rates, improvements to the facility and outreach to the community which still continues.

She noted that Animal Control numbers are rarely reference in meeting minutes and seem to focus on the number of animals housed. She indicated she feels all the numbers, intake, adoptions and euthanasia for Animal Control should be reported monthly as a matter of public record. She noted there are 8900 members on the Animal Control facebook page and these things matter. Rebecca cited some of the animal control ordinances related to impoundment and when an animal is not claimed by an owner. She also indicated there are no ordinances for animals held for court cases and the reimbursement for their care. She would like to see checks and balances in place for the new Animal Control Director.

Patty Rykhus of Friends Of inquired if the ordinance related to AHI had been rescinded or reworded. The goal is cooperation between all parties committed to the care of animals in our county.

ZONING BUSINESS

Office Location

Committee Chairman Dale Livingston noted there have been 24 calls, walk-ins at the Solid Waste Office and that he has taken numerous zoning calls himself. Animal Control has also received zoning calls. He stated the need for getting something going on this matter.

Regarding the office location, it was noted that this was tabled from last month.

SOLID WASTE BUSINESS

Committee Chairman Dale Livingston advised everything balanced out and balancing was completed by the secretary.

HIGHWAY BUSINESS

Cliff provided supplemental resolutions required by IDOT's legal council for both the Pana Bridge #66 project Section 19-11115-00-BR and Locust Bridge #3 project Section 19-07116-00-BR. The County previously passed resolutions for these projects appropriating the 4% local share. The Joint Agreements were worded to show the Township Bridge Program funds, 16%, as local funds as has been past practice. IDOT's legal council indicated since these are shown as local funds, we need to pass the supplemental resolutions appropriating the additional 16%. The Township Bridge Funds are sent to the County directly and are used to pay 16% of the actual construction costs. Since the Pana project has been awarded, we have already received the approximately \$64,000 in Township Bridge Funds for that project.

Motion by Dale Livingston and seconded by Mike Specha to recommend review of R2022HY08, appropriating an additional \$60,000 from the County Bridge Fund for Section 19-11115-00-BR, by the States Attorney prior to the next Board meeting and if acceptable to recommend approval of R2022HY08 by the full Board. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dale Livingston and seconded by Chuck Smedley to recommend review of R2022HY09, appropriating an additional \$125,000 from the County Bridge Fund for Section 19-07116-00-BR, by the States Attorney prior to the next Board meeting and if acceptable to recommend approval of R2022HY09 by the full Board. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Project Updates

Pana Bridge #66 is scheduled to start August 8th. Locust Bridge #3 was on the June 17th IDOT letting with the bid going to Yamnitz & Associates at a cost of \$763,500. The bid was approximately 14% under estimate. A start date will be determined after IDOT completes award of the project. Start dates have been delayed this year due to problems obtaining some materials.

Cliff was asked if there was any updates on the County lot near Moweaqua. Cliff advised that Poggenpohl is reserving blocks as they are made.

ANIMAL CONTROL

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States Attorney Wes Poggenpohl referenced a meeting that occurred earlier this year in regards to the AHI ordinance. He noted he wasn't at the meeting to ask to rescind the ordinance but did provide some change suggestions. The suggestions were to section 15.02, 15.03, slight modification to 15.04 and added a new recommendation of 15.05. A copy was provided to all committee members.

Thomas Snyder, Jr. inquired if it wouldn't be better to use the language provided in the Illinois Department of Agriculture email reference 15.03 dealing with trespassing.

Patty Rykhous reference some situations where AHIs that don't reside in Christian County cross into the County.

Motion by Bev Graham and seconded by Mike Specha to recommend the suggestions be forwarded to the full Board. A roll call vote polled 4 ayes and 1 nay with Thomas Snyder, Jr. casting the nay. Motion carried.

Bev Graham asked if when passed if this ordinance can be posted at Animal Control. States Attorney Poggenpohl advised that it will be provided when they check in.

COURT HOUSE AND BUILDING BUSINESS

Tree Removal

Ron Brown noted there is a small tree by the dumpster right by the sidewalk that is dying. Maintenance staff will be able to take the tree down themselves. Regarding the trees already approved for removal, Ron has again contacted Long Tree Service about removal. Removal will likely be on a weekend. Ron also mentioned that the committee may want to look at the smaller trees around the courthouse behind the sidewalk to see what the thoughts are about trying to possibly move them to other locations on the lawn.

Motion by Dale Livingston and seconded by Chuck Smedley to recommend to the full Board to allow the maintenance staff to remove the small tree by the dumpster that is dying. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Bill Kennedy addressed the committee regarding various issues. He is still working on figuring out what to do with old records. The Supervisor of Assessment and Circuit Clerk think they are okay. The County Clerk has asked for assistance. Eventually decisions may need to be made about the piles of records in the basement, which offices they belong to and what can be done with them.

Bill mentioned the Board may want to consider replacing the other 3 courthouse doors to look like the original doors like the one done on the east side. They are modern doors made to look like originals.

The boiler is open now and ready for the repair company to make the repair needed on the leak we know we have as well as take a look at the condition of the boiler and hopefully be able to measure the thickness of the walls. Bill does not want the County to be in a situation where the boiler goes down during winter months. Based on what is found, decisions may need to be made.

Bill mentioned the upcoming HVAC project and the amount of equipment in the attic. He believes it may be appropriate to consider fire protection equipment in the attic and possibly the building.

The fountain lights are currently not working. A low voltage LED light would be ideal and they are working on getting something of this type for the fountain.

The roof leaked again with the last rain. Charles Samson will be looking at it again. The leak is felt to be in the northwest corner at the bottom of a valley.

The continuation of the first floor reinforcement project was halted as we are waiting on the electrician to do some work.

Motion by Dale Livingston and seconded by Mike Specha to recommend to the full Board to allow Bill Kennedy to look into the costs for the doors, boiler and fire detection. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Committee Chairman Livingston under Animal Control failed to mention providing a card processing service available for payments, donations, etc. The cost to individuals using this service is 3%. There is no cost to the County. A handout was provided to all members. Individuals can still pay in cash as well.

Motion by Bev Graham and seconded by Dale Livingston to forward this to the full Board. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS

Bev Graham inquired as to when advertising would be in the paper for zoning and solid waste. At this time there have been no motions for this matter.

Motion by Chuck Smedley 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
07/12/2022