

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD

AT A MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY ILLINOIS, BEGUN AND HELD AT THE TAYLORVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA IN TAYLORVILLE, ILLINOIS, ON **January 21, 2020**

ATTEST: MICHAEL C. GIANASI, COUNTY CLERK

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.

ROLL CALL

The roll call by County Clerk Michael Gianasi showing all members present except Ray Koonce and Vicki McMahan did signify a quorum and was declared.

ACCEPT COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

Chairwoman Becky Edwards asked for any corrections and to accept the December 17, 2019, County Board minutes. *It was moved by Linda Curtin and seconded by Clark Pearce to approve said minutes of the County Board Meeting.* The motion carried.

PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OR PROCLAMATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairwoman Edwards called for public comments. She announced that a date in February is forthcoming for a meeting between the county and the Protect Christian County, LLC, group. Due to the replacement of the county's legal counsel, the meeting had been delayed. Chairwoman Edwards also announced that the County Board is neither pro nor con to the public comments. Many citizens were present in the room and several topics were discussed:

Clint Epley representing Protect Christian County, LLC: Following up on their request for a public hearing regarding the moratorium filed four months ago.

Don Kroski, Mayor of Pana: Spoke in support of green energy; increase in revenue to schools from wind farms; projected population decrease and increase in senior citizens will increase property taxes.

Lonni Curry, resident of Prairieton Township: Discussed the FEMA floodplain development restrictions and the impact of wind farm construction in the area; requested an ordinance to prevent future floodplain development.

Suzanne Dooley, resident of Nokomis: Asked if board members had visited the wind farm areas and talked with the people; consider everything and not just the income.

Nancy Handegan, attorney for many drainage districts: Commissioners are concerned about the wind turbines being placed in areas with drainage districts and wanted to be contacted.

Anthony Wehmhoff, resident of Owaneco: Neighbors are considering wind turbines and his house has an old shale line well; turbines create ground vibrations that can crack foundations; the ordinance has 1,500 ft. and General Electric recommends 1,640 ft. separation; who is liable for damages?

Michelle Pavan, representing Invenergy: proposing a 235 Megawatt wind project representing a \$300 million direct investment and \$1.5 million in new tax revenue annually to the taxing districts; hundreds of new jobs during construction and new operational jobs; responsible developer already approved for solar farm development in Christian County;

Charles DeClerck asked Michelle Pavan about whether other areas were receiving the tax dollars she talked about. She answered it was an estimate based on the tax rates and assessments for the proposed project area.

Jeff Nolen, resident of Stonington: Questioned the proposed impact on the taxes; interested more in the costs; would people not move here because of the sight of the wind turbines?; wants facts and good numbers presented, not estimates.

Chairwoman Becky Edwards responded that the wind companies are performing the required studies, but Jeff wanted the county board to provide the studies and stick to them. Becky stated that the Supervisor of Assessments has provided information to the county board and it is based on documents from the State of Illinois. Jeff continued that there are costs involved in getting the \$1.5 million dollars.

Terri Nolen, grandmother to Elijah Nolen: people are affected differently by wind turbines; who protects those that don't want them?; it is the job of the board to protect the citizens of the community.

Robin King, resident of Prairieton Township: Is there evidence of what has really happened at other locations of wind turbines? Did they get all of the money and all of the benefits?; did the community receive the benefits that were promised?; wind turbines do have an impact on the environment.

Charles DeClerck asked why no one has been at a county board meeting who has a turbine on their property?

Jeff Hammond, representing Tradewind Energy: The closest project is Macon County and two others in Logan County; he will provide contact information of residents in these wind farm areas; Illinois is the 7th largest wind producing state in the country; McLean County has three projects and just approved two more; their revenues are shown on their website; the Army Corps of Engineers controls wetlands development and special permits are required if those areas are not avoided; no peer reviewed science that wind turbines produce harmful health effects; flashing lights can cause epileptic seizures but the turbines do not turn at that rate; studies have shown the property values do not decrease.

Daniel Nolen, resident of Assumption: He should not have to move to avoid the project; zoning code does not allow for the county board to ignore the code if millions of dollars are involved; this is a zoning problem; multiple turbines together could produce a flash causing a seizure.

Gwen Podeschi, resident of Taylorville: she has a former co-worker that installed a 70' high wind turbine about 150' from the house; it has been there for 11 years and she has saved 1/3 to 1/2 of her electric bill during that time; shadow flicker occurs on her property part of one day a year; she does hear some vibration when the leaves are on the trees; she will share the information she has with anyone.

Chuck Smedley, resident of Pana: Has anyone asked the company representatives if they or their families live in the footprint of a wind farm?; want straight answers from those who live there; you must look at the people affected and they are being discriminated against since they cannot protect themselves.

Barb Miller, resident of Locust Township: Her minister from Iowa has family that lives in one and they have no problem with it; the minimum salary is now \$40,000/year; not many want to go into teaching, but this will help fund the teachers.

George Hiler, resident of Assumption: Asked about the height of the turbines to be installed; Jeff Hammond responded that up to 660' depending on the board's final recommendation; Michelle Pavan concurred with the answer provided by Jeff Hammond; (JH) the final height won't be known until the studies are complete and the applications submitted; What was the height in 2008 for the Tradewinds project?; (JH) 500', newer technology allows for taller, more efficient turbines; (JH) taller turbines are quieter

Lonni Curry: asked for more information on the floodplain as mentioned by Jeff Hammond during his discussion.

Chairwoman Edwards recommended all of the questions be collected for the upcoming meeting with Len Corzine.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. The January Prevailing Wage Report has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
2. The December 2019, Public Defender's Report has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
3. The Treasurer's Reports for the period ending on December 31st, 2019, have been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
4. The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund report for December 2019 has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
5. The December 2019, Motor Fuel Tax Allotment Transaction Reports, dated January 6, 2020, were received for both the County and the Road Districts.
6. The Christian County November 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.
7. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources sent a letter regarding the decision to release the reclamation guaranty bonds for a portion of the RLE Pawnee Properties, Permit No. 405. A copy of the letter and bond release decision are on file in the Clerk's office.
8. A letter was received from NewWave Communications describing upcoming rate changes. The letter and rate schedule are on file on the Clerk's office.

APPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AS READ

Chairwoman Becky Edwards called for a *motion by Brian Wilbur and was seconded by Dale Livingston to accept the communications as read.* The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACCEPT & FILE COMMITTEE REPORTS AS PRINTED

A motion was made by Mike McClure 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-January 14, 2020-Minutes read by Phil Schneider

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

ANIMAL CONTROL UPDATE

Director Vince Harris announced the dinner/dance upcoming fundraiser by the Friends of Christian County Animal Control. It will be Saturday, February 8 at the Kincaid American Legion. Tickets are available at \$75/couple or \$40/individual.

A new State law requires prior to the adoption of cats that they are spayed or neutered and microchipped. This will increase the costs and adoption fees will need to be adjusted as well.

COURTHOUSE BUSINESS AND REPAIRS

Basement floor sag

Zach Hicks reported that recently it was discovered the cement under the ROE Office on the east end of the first floor has begun to crumble in the basement. The sagging concrete is severe and needs attention. It is similar to the south entrance floor situation. Bill Kennedy commented this had occurred many years ago when the heavy filing system of the Circuit Clerk was too heavy for that office and again to the office at the other end of the first floor. Last week several committee members had viewed the floor situation. Chairman Phil Schneider reported that he had a Decatur company that could evaluate, design, engineer and do the work on the project which will include steel I beams. Additionally, Zach has contacted several companies who would be able to give an opinion. *A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Linda Curtin for Zach to obtain estimates for the project.*

Discussion:

Dale Livingston asked if the estimates were no charge and Phil Schneider responded that some may be and some may not be, so he wanted a motion just in case. Chairwoman Edwards asked if

the Board wanted a limit on the estimates. Phil said it would depend on how far they are coming and along those lines. Becky then commented that if they get the job, maybe they would put it in there in the first place.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, (14) aye; (0) nay; Ray Koonce, Vicki McMahon, (2) absent; The motion carried.

South door floor repair

Bill Kennedy reported from last month on the specs he had prepared. In summary, he would request one contractor to do the work with the exceptions for the tile floor replacement, repoint of foundation and the door/window removal and glazing. *A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Brian Wilbur to accept the specs from Mr. Kennedy and search for quotes for the various projects within the south door project, using local contractors if possible and to be scheduled with Zach.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, (14) aye; (0) nay; Ray Koonce, Vicki McMahon, (2) absent; The motion carried.

Ceiling and wall plaster repair

Several office areas have pieces of plaster dropping from the ceiling and walls. Zach Hicks will search for someone to quote the project.

Elevator update

Chairman Schneider read a letter from Stuard and Associates Elevator Consulting as a summary of an elevator assessment on January 10, 2020. The letter commented on the condition of the 1962 Otis elevator:

- It still uses all of its original components in the operation
- The machine controller is located on a concrete slab in the attic and is exposed to anyone that has access to the area.
- The traction drive machine looks to be in good shape for its age.
- With proper maintenance and the availability of parts, it will function as at the time of installation 58 years ago.
- Nothing was seen that needed to be done to pass an inspection.
- As long as replacement parts are still available, we don't see that the elevator HAS to be modernized.

The absolute recommendation was that a room be built around the machine to enclose it for safety and to prevent the entry of unauthorized personnel.

Many comments on the results of the visual assessment appeared to conclude an acceptable level for public usage. Other points of not so acceptable actual events were also described to the members.

- The company was accused of not servicing the elevator in the proper manner and taking the covers off the equipment allowing dust to settle. [It was noted that the covers had been off long since September and spending extra hours servicing the elevator prior to the replacement of failed or failing parts would seem to be an unnecessary expense.]
- It was referred that the elevator had been fine previously. [Also noted that fine is not having lights in and out of the elevator because there were no parts available and not fine when since prior to the change of service there were days before any service was provided and not fine when members of the public and employees were entrapped in the elevator (even for short periods of time) and not fine when the doors finally open between floors.]
- For over 10 years the elevator has had several issues. The Board has discussed it often at Finance as a long term concern. Chairwoman Becky Edwards said the Board made the "right decision when they voted to make the changes". The County planned ahead and has the funds for the project through a general obligation bond. The bond was not for daily expenses but it was for projects which would last 20 years.
- Two courthouse employees including Maintenance Supervisor Zach Hicks commented of their great concern of the safety and availability to access the second and third floors without the fear of getting stuck. All implied that they are there all day, every day. "We

live with the elevator problems and experience it. There are and have been problems for years. Something needs to be done to upgrade the old elevator.”

It was then motioned by Craig Corzine and seconded by Dale Livingston to send the OTIS modernization contract to States Attorney Havera for review if we can terminate the contract. The motion (at committee) carried.

Assistant State's Attorney Sarah Carlson read a statement from State's Attorney Mike Havera, who was not able to attend the meeting.

"The County Board voted unanimously to execute a contract for modernization of our elevator with OTIS after the September Board meeting. The contract was signed by Christian County on September 25th, 2019, and signed by OTIS Elevator Company on September 30th, 2019. The price of the modernization contract was for \$200,114, with 60% down payment in the amount of \$120,068, which was paid for by Christian County at the end of September. After the contract was signed, it was brought to the Board's attention that the elevator may not need a complete modernization and voted to hire Stuard & Associates elevator consulting group to do an inspection and render their opinion on the elevator. This inspection occurred on January 10th, 2020. They were of the opinion that the elevator could be maintained at this point-in-time in a working manner. The County Board then voted on January 14th, 2020, to have the State's Attorney's office contact OTIS Elevator Company to see if they would entertain a buyout option, and, if so, how much that would be. Efforts were made to contact OTIS Elevator on Friday, January 17th, and contact was finally made with Hannah Jordan, the account manager for OTIS, today, January 21, 2020. This was done both by phone and in email. She responded that her legal team would review it, but would not have a response by the end of business today. At this point-in-time, the only public statement that I can make is that the County Board entered into a contract with OTIS Elevator that still stands at this point. I am hopeful to have a response from OTIS this week. Their response will clarify what our options are and at what cost. It could mean a special meeting may need to be held depending on the start date of this project. I cannot say anything more with regard to our options in an open meeting as it may entail impending litigation and compromise any position of the county. Thank you."

Venise McWard asked Bill Kennedy for comments about the statement from the State's Attorney. He stated it is dependent on what the options are and we need to wait and see what OTIS says. He also said he would not expect them to "let us off-the-hook." His position has not changed and was reinforced by Tony Stuard and his inspection.

Matt Wells asked what would be done now and if a special meeting would be called. Phil Schneider responded it would depend on what the State's Attorney finds. As of right now, we have a signed contract.

Specs for clock face

Bill Kennedy has specs for the repairs (remove, replace and repair) of the (west) clock face in the clock tower. *A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Dale Livingston to accept the specs as written and to obtain quotes for the project.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, (14) aye; (0) nay; Ray Koonce, Vicki McMahan, (2) absent; The motion carried.

Leaks in the slate roof

There are still some leaks from various areas of the roof. A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Linda Curtin to contact the installer of the slate roof for them to access the issues. The motion carried. No action taken at the Board meeting.

Stone on south balcony

Zach Hicks mentioned that a limestone piece was loose and needed attention on the south balcony. He will follow-up with that project.

EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL/LIQUOR COMMITTEE-January 14, 2020-Minutes read by Matt Wells

LIQUOR LICENSE APPROVAL TABLED

The applicant was unable to attend due to illness. A motion was made by Molly Alaria and seconded by Brian Wilbur to table the review until the next meeting with the applicant in attendance. The motion carried.

PUBLIC DEFENDER CONTRACTS APPROVED

As required by the State, action by the County Board is necessary to approve the contracts of the full time Public Defender in order to be reimbursed. A full time public defender's salary is 90% of the county's state's attorney. *A contract was presented to approve the temporary assignment of Greg Grigsby as Public Defender from 12/16/2019 through 1/20/2020 and a motion was made by Matt Wells and seconded by Dale Livingston.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, (14) aye; (0) nay; Ray Koonce, Vicki McMahon, (2) absent; The motion carried.

Greg Grigsby was also assigned a contract as a conflict public defender. No action necessary as this is in the annual budget.

Effective 1/21/2020 a contract was submitted as the appointment of a full time public defender with the regular contract as an employee with benefits and the salary of 90% of the County's States Attorney (for the portion reimbursed by the State). *A motion was made by Matt Wells and seconded by Molly Alaria to approve the contract for Tiffany Senger as Public Defender.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, (14) aye; (0) nay; Ray Koonce, Vicki McMahon, (2) absent; The motion carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

Matt Wells noted that at the next Executive Committee meeting, he would request discussion on the topic of reducing the size of the County Board membership.

AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING COMMITTEE-January 16, 2020-Minutes read by Clark Pearce.

CLAIMS

A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Phil Schneider to approve the claims as presented for January. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, (14) aye; (0) nay; Ray Koonce, Vicki McMahon, (2) absent; The motion carried.

BUILDING REFERRALS

There were no referrals from the Building Committee as quotes are being obtained.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

An intergovernmental agreement was presented to the Committee to authorize the County's court system to utilize the City of Taylorville's facilities as a temporary lease for emergency or planned need. *A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Brian Wilbur to approve the agreement with the City of Taylorville for a \$1.00 lease and adopt O2020CB001.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Venise McWard, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, (14) aye; (0) nay; Ray Koonce, Vicki McMahon, (2) absent; The motion carried.

INVESTMENT POLICY FROM THE TREASURER

A document was submitted for review and information to the Board of the policy of the Treasurer to invest funds with respect of the safety, liquidity and yield. No action is required.

WECS COUNSEL

Chairwoman Edwards reported that Ben Jacobi from O'Halloran Kosoff Geitner & Cook has been retained as the counsel and advisor for WECS. State's Attorney Havera explained his

decision to recommend and appoint Attorney Jacobi for the special interest task. He has experience with wind and is an associate of the legal group who represents our liability carrier.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Clint Epley of Pana requested that there be a follow-up on the moratorium document and to be done at the February Zoning Board of Appeals meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

MILEAGE AND PER DIEM REPORT:

A motion was made by Dale Livingston and seconded by Brian Wilbur to approve the mileage and per diem report for the month of January 2020. The motion carried.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u># of Meetings This Month</u>
Molly Alaria	\$200.00	\$50.00	2
Timothy Carlson	\$200.00	\$25.00	2
Craig Corzine	\$200.00	\$50.00	2
Linda Curtin	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Charles DeClerck	\$200.00	\$50.00	2
Becky Edwards	\$846.16		
Donna Hibbetts	\$100.00	\$25.00	1
Ray Koonce	\$100.00	\$25.00	1
Dale Livingston	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Mike McClure	\$200.00	\$50.00	3
Vicki McMahan	\$200.00	\$50.00	1
Venise McWard	\$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
Brian Wilbur	\$100.00	\$25.00	2

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS:

None

CHAIRWOMAN'S OFFICE UPDATES:

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other unfinished business to come before the Board, a *motion was made by Mike McClure and seconded by Molly Alaria to adjourn until **Tuesday, February 18, 2020** for the regular County Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.* The motion carried.