

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 **June 18, 2019**

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 Craig Corzine (6:32 P.M.), this did signify a quorum and was declared.

ACCEPT COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

Chairwoman Becky Edwards asked for any corrections and to accept the May 21, 2019, County Board minutes. *It was moved by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Ray Koonce to approve said minutes of the County Board Meeting.* The motion carried.

PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OR PROCLAMATIONS

O2019CB005 Annual Prevailing Wage Ordinance

A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Donna Hibbetts to adopt O2019CB005 Annual Prevailing Wage Ordinance. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Molly Alaria, Timothy Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Chad Michel, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, (16) aye; (0) nay; The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairwoman Edwards called for public comments. Len Corzine addressed the Board requesting an update on the wind turbine discussions and if a timeline was available. Chairwoman Edwards advised Mr. Corzine that the topic of wind turbines would be part of the discussion later in the meeting.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. The June Prevailing Wage Report has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
2. The May 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 May 31st, 2019, have been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
4. The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund report for May 2019 has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
5. The May 2019, Motor Fuel Tax Allotment Transaction Reports, dated June 4, 2019, were received for both the County and the Road Districts.
6. The Christian County April 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. A letter was received from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency titled "Public Notice, Proposed Renewal of the Clean Air Act Permit Program Permit, Ahlstrom-Munksjö Filtration, LLC in Taylorville. Public comments may be submitted through July 11, 2019. The letter with contact information has been placed on file in the Clerk's Office.
8. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency sent a notice of a permit application for the Five Oaks Recycling and Disposal Facility. The description of the project is "Update to closure and post closure estimates." A copy of the notice is on file in the Clerk's office.
9. The approved Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement for Section 99-11113-00-BR was received from the Illinois Department of Transportation and was placed on file in the Clerk's office.

10. The Illinois Department of Transportation sent the approval of R2019HY002 appropriating Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the salary and expenses of the County Engineer. The executed Resolution is 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 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 Linda Curtin to accept & file the committee reports as printed. The motion carried.

HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING AND WELFARE COMMITTEE—None

EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL/LIQUOR COMMITTEE –None

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE-May 29, 2019-Summary read by Becky Edwards

The Committee of the Whole met on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Courtroom A, on the third floor of the Christian County Courthouse, Taylorville, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was an Informational forum relative to Wind Energy Conversion Systems in Christian County. There was a quorum and public comments.

COMPANIES PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THEIR COMPANY AND ANSWER QUESTIONS

Invenergy Inc.-Rose City Wind—John Callaway and Trade Wind Energy-Rolling Farms—Jeff Hammond all spoke to the crowd about their companies and what their needs were to the zoning ordinance, the positive side for property taxes and jobs, the advantages to the schools—revenues brought to the county. Some key topics and discussion from both board members and the public were jobs-wind technicians, wildlife, sound, shadow flicker, farm income, number of turbines in an area, tower diameter, no government funds- all private companies, and studies and standards to name a few for the three hour meeting.

ASSESSMENTS

County Supervisor of Assessments Chad Coady showed charts and examples of the benefits and assessment values in the areas.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several members of the public spoke on various topics and concerns or positive comments: setbacks, health taxes, surveys, contracts of companies and benefits to bring work to the county.

Chairwoman Becky Edwards thanked all for coming and sharing their information for the board members to consider as to the action and options they may take on the topic of wind conversion systems for Christian County.

The Chairwoman adjourned the meeting at 9:07 pm.

[The court reporter copy is available via email from the County Clerk's Office. Printed copies will have a fee.]

DISCUSSION

Chairwoman Edwards opened the discussion with providing additional information regarding the potential impact on property taxes in the four townships where the wind farm would be located. Supervisor of Assessments Chad Coady explained the new information about the tax impact on the four townships. Assessments would increase significantly with the siting of the proposed turbines and the tax rates would likely drop if the taxing body levies are not increased. Chad also discussed the depreciation and the complexity due to many variables through the thirty year lifespan.

Chairwoman Edwards continued by discussing the struggle for the right answer and the questions of "Do we have the right to tell people what they can do with their land?" or, more importantly "Do we have the right to tell people how they can or cannot benefit from their land?" Chairwoman Edwards discussed lack of revenue sources within the County and increasing government budgets affecting everyone. She reminded the Board that it is their duty to make a decision that would affect all taxpayers in Christian County. The floor was opened for Board discussion.

Mike McClure described his contacts with citizens, both for and against, and asked if the current (2008) Zoning Ordinance is the focus of the changes requested. He also asked if a total ban would be allowed under existing law. Becky responded that the current Zoning Ordinance needs to be updated for setbacks and tower height. Matt Wells indicated that several counties in Missouri had banned wind farms but also courts have ruled that they cannot be banned. Matt also raised his concerns about setbacks related to the increasing tower height. Craig Corzine mentioned the larger setback from a municipality. Donna Hibbetts described her trip to the site of a wind turbine in the Forsyth area. Chad Michel told the Board that the zoning ordinance adopted in 2008 was based off of an ordinance from a northern Illinois county. At that time, a search was made for the most comparable ordinance from another county to use here. Phil Schneider commented that each project could be voted on as a Special Use under a zoning ordinance written to allow project with that requirement. Ray Koonce spoke with the Chairman of the McLean County Board. The Chairman told him there is much support from county officials in that area and if the vote were today, he would vote for the wind farm again. The tax revenue is important and Ray does not want to miss any opportunity that might help our schools and roads. Chairwoman Edwards asked County Engineer Cliff Frye to speak on the topic of the roads, bridges, and what the requirements would be for the energy companies related to maintenance and repair. Negotiations are completed ahead of the project so each party knows the responsibilities during and after the completion of the project.

Mike McClure asked if he could be provided with any documentation showing actual incidents of blades detaching from a wind turbine. He also discussed a trip to a wind turbine site in McLean County where he stopped and talked with a technician working on a wind turbine. Mike asked about the stories of blades detaching, ice throws, fires, etc. The technician said that early on there were problems but he did not know of any occurrences in recent years. Chad Michel described a road in Logan County he was familiar with and how it was in much better shape after it was repaired when construction in that area was completed.

Craig Corzine reiterated that "you have to listen to the people who are affected the most." He also wanted to know the numbers of contracts signed by owners who will be living inside the footprint of the proposed wind farm. Craig also spoke to a school superintendent that indicated it would be nine years before the district would see any money from the wind farm. He also said "the people that are affected the most are not for it." He has received numerous contacts from his constituents opposing the wind farm. Phil Schneider mentioned that a 1,000 or 2,000 foot distance from his farm or home would affect him greatly. He also expressed concerns of people living in the area with the prospect of having the wind turbines close by. Charles DeClerck stated that his contacts are all opposed to the wind farm. Chad Michel explained that he was not for or against it at this time, however he had spoken to some farmers in the area of the wind farm and they were supportive of the project.

Matt Wells asked if Cliff could comment on whether ice could be thrown from a wind turbine, and he agreed that it is possible. Chairwoman Edwards asked the Board members if anyone would be interested in visiting a wind farm. One of the companies offered a van to take board members to a wind farm to see the turbines in person. Chad Coady added some additional comments on property taxes for the three townships where the proposed wind farm would be located. Donna Hibbetts asked if the signed leases were from property owners that lived in the footprint of the proposed wind farm. Since many farms are held in trusts or held in company names, Chad Coady said it would be difficult to determine. Tim Carlson mentioned that if a company representative made an offer to a land owner, he or she could choose to not accept it. Craig followed up with comments about renewable energy options other than wind. Chad Michel made some final comments on absentee land owners. Dale Livingston commented on his ability to choose how he wants to use his land within the law and without disturbing the neighboring properties to a certain degree. Matt Wells asked about the setbacks for different situations

including solar farms, cattle, crops, fences, etc. Phil reiterated that the zoning ordinance exists to protect people.

Chad Michel explained the creation of the wind farm details in the 2008 zoning ordinance with a proposed wind farm in the same area creating the need for an updated ordinance. Comments about removal and bonding of the companies were raised by Donna and Tim. Vicki McMahon asked about the length of time the companies have been in business and if there has been a change of hands.

Matt Wells commented that Boone County has 2,640 feet or 5.5 times the size of the tower in their ordinance. Chairwoman Edwards responded that the amounts were sufficient to prevent wind farm development in that county. Charles DeClerck asked about how the electricity is transferred into the electrical grid. It was explained that underground wires are used to connect the wind turbines into the electrical grid.

Chairwoman Edwards asked the Board for direction and Chad Michel suggested that the modification questions involving the zoning ordinance revert to committee for more discussion. Matt Wells about setbacks from schools as well.

Chairwoman Edwards summarized the discussion by stating the matter would revert to the Highway/Buildings/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning committee for further action. Also, additional information would be collected on ice throws and lessee ownership (absentee) for the committee. She also said that Invenergy would be contacted to find out what dates would be available for transportation to a wind farm for interested board members.

AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING COMMITTEE-June 13, 2019-Minutes read by Clark Pearce.

- **CLAIMS**

A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Matt Wells to approve claims for June. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Chad Michel, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Molly Alaria, (16) aye; (0) nay; The motion carried.

- **ORDINANCE TO AMEND ENTERPRISE ZONE**

Ordinance 02019CB004 was presented to amend the Taylorville-Christian County Enterprise Zone to include or add the City of Assumption to the current EZ boundaries. *A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Matt Wells to adopt O2019CB004 to amend the Taylorville-Christian County Enterprise Zone. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Chad Michel, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, (16) aye; (0) nay; The motion carried.*

- **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT TO AMEND ENTERPRISE ZONE**

The intergovernmental agreement to amend current enterprise zone was presented for approval. This agreement will amend the agreement by including the City of Assumption into the EZ with the City of Taylorville and Christian County. *A motion was made by Clark Pearce and seconded by Matt Wells to approve the intergovernmental agreement to amend the Taylorville-Christian County Enterprise Zone. A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Donna Hibbetts, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Chad Michel, Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, (16) aye; (0) nay; The motion carried.*

- **NEW COMPUTER REQUESTED FOR CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE**

Recently, it was recommended that the aged desk computer be replaced with a new version. The actual age is not known, however, probably 10 years old. The request was to replace it and pay from contingency as the small office had not been carrying enough for a replacement cost. A motion was made and seconded by to approve the request. During discussion a request was made to get another quote to the \$1100 replacement and

warranty information. The previous motion was rescinded by both members and a motion was made to allow a purchase up to \$800 from contingency for the replacement of the computer. Chairwoman Edwards updated the Board stating the computer had a new hard drive installed and no other action was required at this time. It will be addressed during the upcoming budget submittal.

- **BUDGET HEARINGS SET**

Tuesday, July 30 and Wednesday, July 31 will be the initial budget hearings for the departments to present. Any late presentations will be on August 15 at the regular finance meeting. Tuesday, August 27 is set aside for further evaluation of all budgets. All budget hearings will begin at 6:00 pm. More information will be sent out to the departments soon.

NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

CHAIRWOMAN'S OFFICE UPDATES:

None, however, Jim Hill, Mayor of Palmer, addressed the Board regarding a problem with water crossing a road and flooding a residential property. County Engineer Cliff Frye said he has been working with Mr. Hill and will address the problem with the affected property owners.

MILEAGE AND PER DIEM REPORT:

A motion was made by Vicki McMahon and seconded by Donna Hibbetts to approve the mileage and per diem report for the month of June 2019. 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	4
Timothy Carlson	\$100.00	\$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	2
Ray Koonce	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Dale Livingston	\$100.00	\$25.00	1
Mike McClure	\$200.00	\$50.00	3
Vicki McMahon	\$200.00	\$50.00	3
Venise McWard	\$100.00	\$25.00	3
Chad Michel	\$100.00	\$25.00	2
Clark Pearce	\$100.00	\$25.00	3
Philip Schneider	\$200.00	\$50.00	2
Matt Wells	\$100.00	\$25.00	2

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS:

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, July 16, 2019 for the regular County Board meeting at 6:30 p.m. The motion carried.*