**HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING**

**AND WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**January 8 2024**

Present: Thomas Snyder, Jr., Chairman, Mike Specha, Ray Koonce, Clint Gabriel and David Buckles

Absent: None

Others present: Mary Barry, Bryan Sharp, Dwanna Kelmel, Cliff Frye, Ron Brown, Shawn Hammers, Blake Tarr, Kelly Masterson, Lorrie Foor, Lucas Domonousky, and Elizabeth Hile in attendance.

The meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee was called to order on Monday, January 8, 2024 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.

Committee Chair Snyder asked the committee if item number 11 on the agenda could be moved to number 4.

Motion by Mike Specha and second by Ray Koonce to move agenda item number 11 up to agenda item number 4. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

POSSIBLE FUNDING FOR WATER TESTING IN CHRISTIAN COUNTY

Committee Chair Snyder commented that the Christian County Health Department needs funding to provide water test kits and test processing costs for areas near the Ameren excavation site.

Committee member Specha left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Motion by Ray Koonce and second by David Buckles to approve an amount not to exceed $2,000.00 to the Christian County Health Department for water testing kits and cost for test processing samples pending approval by Finance and Board recommendation.

During discussion the committee felt a radius of the excavation site needed to be established.

Motion was amended by Ray Koonce and second by Thomas Snyder, Jr. to approve an amount not to exceed $2,000.00 to the Christian County Health Department for water testing kits and cost to process test samples within a half mile radius of the Ameren excavation site pending approval by Finance and Board recommendation. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Committee Chair asked the committee to consider moving agenda item number 14 up to agenda item number 5.

Motion by Ray Koonce and second by David Buckles to move agenda item number 14 up to agenda item number 5. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS

Kelly Masterson representing My Community My Family a non-profit organization presented information related to the Ameren excavation site and vapor intrusion.

ANDERSON CEMETERY ANNUAL REPORT

Chairman Sharp noted that they will be presenting at the February meeting.

NUISANCE ORDAINANCE REFERRED FROM EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Shawn Hammers noted he would like to recommend tabling this item.

Motion by Thomas Synder, Jr. and second by Ray Koonce to table. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

ZONING BUSINESS

Director’s Report

Blake Tarr highlighted zoning updates to include the revenue for the month of December, number of permit applications, and onsite inspections. He reminded the committee there would be no ZBA meeting in January. In February the ZBA will be addressing the continuation of the North Pana Solar project and a site plan change/update for the South Fork Solar Project which is north of South Fork Dirt Riders.

At the end of the year, Blake received notice from the Illinois Department of Agriculture that the County was out of compliance for a noxious weed plan. Upon discussion with Department of Ag, the County has been out of compliance for some time. He will be working to get the County back into compliance.

Authorization for 3rd Party Engineering Review

Blake also advised the committee there is a project he will be asking a 3rd party engineering firm to review. These fees were provided for in the FY24 Budget and it is an expense that will be reimbursed by the project developers. No action is needed.

SOLID WASTE BUSINESS

Director’s Report

Shawn Hammers highlighted information on his monthly report to include inspection information, hauler data and pounds recycled from 1994 – 2014 which falls within previous Solid Waste Plan period and the need to develop a highlight on a new Solid Waste Plan which he continues to look into and working on.

HIGHWAY BUSINESS

Cliff advised there is no new business to discuss.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Dwanna Kelmel highlighted her department report which included information related to animals adopted and reclaimed, revenue and donations. She also provided information on a new Public Act effective January 1, 2024 which provides for one free adoption every two years for cats and dogs to Veterans with proper identification.

COURTHOUSE AND BUILDING BUSINESS

HVAC and Window Project Update

Ron Brown, Maintenance Supervisor advised the window replacement will start the week of January 15, 2024 on the 1st floor of the courthouse. The container parked outside the building is to store windows, etc. for this project. He and Bill will be meeting with the HVAC contractor on Thursday regarding project timelines, etc.

Jail Update

There is a meeting next Wednesday with Hurst-Rosche to keep this project moving.

Historic Courthouse Maintenance/Modification/Alteration Standards Policy

Mr. Bill Kennedy presented a draft copy of Christian County Historic Courthouse General Architectural/Mechanical Work Specifications to be used and/or referred to in contracts. He would like to recommend the County’s Assistant States Attorney, Mary Barry review the document and provide additional language regarding compliance or lack thereof. This item will remain on the agenda for February.

Other Courthouse Business

Ryan Electric will be moving the old generator from the previous Health Department Building to the new Health Department Building soon.

Ron advised he has been in contact with three (3) contractors to obtain estimates on the plaster work in the former ROE office. Ron has received 1 estimate to date and would like to keep trying to obtain cost estimates.

On the steeple repair, Two Guys Tuck-pointing have been notified and they will start the project when the weather changes.

Star Electric has been contacted to run the conduit from the elevator room to the steeple prior to installation of the fire/smoke detection system project.

SAFETY GRANT

Elected officials and departments were asked to provide items they would like purchased with the County’s safety grant money this year which is just over $5,900.00. They list of items will be brought to committee next month for review and approval.

ILLINOIS EPA GRANT PROGRAM

Chairman Sharp will follow up with Mr. Kennedy to see if this might be worth applying for on the county level.

Motion by Ray Koonce and second by David Puccetti to adjourn. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Snyder, Jr. Chairman

Buildings/Highway/Environmental/Zoning

Welfare Committee

01/08/2024