

**HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING
AND WELFARE COMMITTEE
October 12, 2023**

Present: Thomas Snyder, Jr., Chairman, Mike Specha, and David Buckles
Absent: None
Others via phone: Bryan Sharp
Others present: Mary Barry, Bill Kennedy, Dwanna Kelmel, Cliff Frye, Shawn Hammers, Ron Brown, Blake Tarr, Linda Curtin, Marcia Neal, Lucas Domonousky, and Elizabeth Hile in attendance.

The meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee was called to order on Thursday, October 12, 2023 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

No public comments.

REQUEST TO USE COURT HOUSE LAWN – HALLOWEEN PARADE

Committee Chairman Snyder indicated the Mayor of Taylorville provided a request to use the south side of the Court House lawn for the Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 28th. Chairman Sharp asked if anyone was aware if food vendors would be present for confirmation of food permits and if liability insurance would be needed as he foresees these issues as things that will likely be included in a future checklist. Marcia Neal with The Chamber was present advising there would not be food vendors and she will check on the insurance issue.

Motion by Mike Specha and second by David Buckles to recommend to the full Board to allow the use of the south side of the Court House Lawn for the Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 28, 2023 starting at 5:30 p.m. 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 September, the number of permit applications, and issuance of 15 no permit notice letters as well as 2 onsite inspection. He also highlighted upcoming special use permit applications to the ZBA for a solar project in Pana Township and a proposed battery storage project. Additional ZBA items that will be heard this month include interconnection point changes from Skyline Solar who has already received a permit.

SOLID WASTE BUSINESS

BLH Contract

The current 2 year BLH Contract is up for renewal in January 2024. BLH intends to eliminate business drop off from the upcoming contract which represents about 34% of the electronics collected. With the elimination, businesses will have to pay to recycle electronics. Over the years the pounds of electronics has declined but costs paid by the County for the program have increased. The committee would like Shawn to inquire as to the justification for the increased price versus the decreased volume. Shawn was asked about possible alternative options which was discussed.

Solid Waste Director's Report

Shawn Hammers highlighted information on his September monthly report some of which included inspection information as well as the successful Tire Take Back Program resulting in 1200 tires being collected.

HIGHWAY BUSINESS

Local Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Funding

Cliff Frye received notice from IDOT that our application for Local Highway Safety Improvement Funds (HSIP) for the safety shoulder on County Highway 1 (Nokomis Road) was selected for funding. The estimated cost of the project is \$2.97 million with HSIP paying 90% up to \$2.67 million. A contract for preliminary engineering services to design the project will be forthcoming.

Updates

The plans for the Highway Department electrical upgrade project have been reviewed and sent to the consultant for some minor changes. Once the revised plans are received, they will be submitted to IDOT for approval. Cliff Frye will bring a resolution for the MFT portion of the project to the November meeting. The project will be put out for bid once the plans and funding resolution have been approved by IDOT.

The Locust Township bridge project should be wrapping up in the next two weeks. The contractor intends to move directly to the South Fork Township project awarded last month.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Dwanna Kelmel highlighted her department report which included information related to animals adopted and reclaimed, revenue and donations for the month. Member Specha asked if beginning in January of next year if she could provide not only monthly but also year to date numbers as he feels it would be helpful.

COURTHOUSE AND BUILDING BUSINESS

Policy Reference Public Access to County Vaults

Many of the vaults in the Court House contain records access by individuals at various times during the work day. An elected official who does not allow the public to access the vault without a county employee inquired if the County has a policy. Additionally, due to the height of the ceilings, ladders are used many times to access files raising liability concerns. Signing in and out was also noted as an idea. A draft policy will be presented at a future meeting.

HVAC and Window Project Update

Outside of some technical questions, the HVAC contractor is ready to go. The windows will not be done until after the HVAC system has been installed. Bill Kennedy will ensure the prototype window is being made and making sure it fits is an important part of the project.

Jail

The biggest problem currently is the roof as there is an insulation shortage. We have an estimate on the membrane roofing system but do not have a cost estimate yet on the foam option. Until those cost estimates are in no decision can be made on the roofing type. We may have to make it with the roof this winter if the estimate isn't available soon.

Boiler Update

The steam pipe work has been done and now due to a sheet metal shortage we are waiting on materials to get the flue up but we are close to firing up the new boiler. The new boiler should be set in place yet this week.

New Health Department Building and Expenditure Worksheet

Ron provided information on the renovation project related to the spreadsheet provided by Dr. Anderson. The flooring contractor will be starting tomorrow. Plumbing can be completed once the flooring is finished. There is some lighting work that remains but the project is very close to being done. There was a questions about cost overages which if the work is completed it is the understanding it would be paid for with departmental funds available.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ZONING CODE – SECTION F. DANGER TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE OF PROPERTY DAMAGE

Assistant States Attorney Mary Barry provided a review of the minimal change recommendations to the original draft which includes but not limited to moving the Condemnation section to its own section of the Zoning Code. Expansion on the type of structures covered. Added that the Zoning Administrator shall get notice of the condemnation. Included that owners who are not occupants can still be liable for violations of the ordinance. Eliminated the specific penalty section and instead tied it to the overall Zoning Penalty Code.

Motion by Mike Specha and second by David Buckles to recommend to the full Board to refer to the ZBA for consideration to approval Condemnation and penalty section clean up as presented. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS

Chairman Sharp provided information on the former Ameren site near Manners Park. Chairman Sharp recently participated in a conference call with Ameren representatives and representatives of the EPA. He has also talked to some concern citizens from the community. He would like to have an informal meeting to hear from concerned citizens and include some of the committee chairs and board members in the near future.

He also highlighted a document with cost estimates to provide consulting services to alter the current Enterprise Zone noting that he felt more discussions need to occur before further decisions are made as he was not satisfied with the information received. He advised the County in the past may not have been as active and reaffirmed with CCEDC members that there are two co-administrators to the CCEDC. Those administrators being the Mayor of the City of Taylorville and the Chairman of the Christian County Board. Economic growth in Christian County is obviously important. The Chairman will provide more information to the Board as it becomes available.

Motion by David Buckles and second by Mike Specha to adjourn. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Snyder, Jr. Chairman
Buildings/Highway/Environmental/Zoning
Welfare Committee
10/12/2023