

**HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING
AND WELFARE COMMITTEE
August 12, 2024**

Present: Thomas Snyder, Jr., Chairman, Ray Koonce, Clint Gabriel, Mike Specha and David Buckles
Absent: None
Others present: Mary Barry, Bryan Sharp, Dwanna Kelmel, Cliff Frye, Ron Brown, Shawn Hammers, Blake Tarr, Bill Kennedy, Jim Baker, Dan Sheehan, Stephanie Brown, Lucas Domonousky, and Elizabeth Hile in attendance.

The meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee was called to order on Monday, August 12, 2024 at 6:00 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

None

CITY OF TAYLORVILLE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT REFERENCE PROPOSED STAGE, RESTROOM AND ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS

The committee discussed the proposed City of Taylorville downtown improvement project related to the proposed stage, restrooms and electrical connections to be located on the court house lawn. It was the understanding of members of the committee that the City is nearing the time where decisions on proposals need to be made.

Motion by Ray Koonce and second by Thomas Snyder, Jr. to recommend to the full Board to deny the request of adding a stage on the court house lawn as proposed by the City of Taylorville. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Ray Koonce and second by Thomas Snyder, Jr. to recommend to the full Board to deny the request of adding restrooms on the court house lawn as proposed by the City of Taylorville. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Specha and second by David Buckles for the Chairman to request from the City of Taylorville specifics about the additional request for a structure to house electrical utilities on the court house lawn and hold voting on the matter until detailed plans are known. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

BLACK DIMOND PROJECT SPECIAL USE EXTENSION

Dan Sheehan, Developer and Project Manager for Swift Current, was present to review the Black Dimond Project and special use permit extension request. The Black Dimond project is a 1600 acre 299 megawatt project with 1 land owner. Dan indicated that building permits were paid in advance of the project. The current special use permit will expire in October of this year. Due to factors beyond control, the project can't start for another 3 years and the reason for requesting an extension of the special use permit to December of 2027. Assistant State's Attorney, Mary Barry indicated the County's zoning code only allows for consideration of 1 year extensions with 4 subsequent 6 month extensions. Dan Sheehan provided a time line for the project phases.

ZONING BUSINESS

Director's Report

Blake Tarr presented the Zoning monthly report for July. He highlighted of the 32 permit applications for this month, 17 were for residential solar. Upcoming items to be heard by the ZBA was also provided.

SOLID WASTE BUSINESS

Director's Report

Shawn Hammers highlighted the July monthly report for Local Solid Waste to include positive response for the upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off scheduled for August 31st. Stephanie Brown from Chastain and Associates was present to discuss and answer any questions reference the development of the Solid Waste Plan she is working on with Shawn.

HIGHWAY BUSINESS

Speed Study Request – Wantland Drive

County Engineer Cliff Frye advised the speed study software has been installed and information will be brought to the committee next month.

Preliminary Engineering Contract – Nokomis Road Safety Improvement Grant Project

Since last month's meeting, Cliff has been able to clarify that available Rebuild Illinois (RBI) funds can be used on this project. The available RBI funds have to be allocated by July 1 of 2025. This 5.5 mile safety improvement project on County 1 is a \$4 million dollar project of which the cost to the County is approximately \$500,000. Cliff advised he will need approval on 3 different documents, which he provided, to move forward with this project.

Motion by Ray Koonce and second by Mike Specha to recommend to the full Board to approve and authorize Chairman Sharp to sign the Engineering Services Agreement with Cummins Engineering Corp. for Section Number 24-00071-06-SP. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and second by Mike Specha to recommend to the full Board to approve and authorize Chairman Sharp to sign R2024 HY 005, Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code; Section Number 24-00071-06-SP, allotting \$200,000 of MFT funds. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and second by Ray Koonce to recommend to the full Board to approve and authorize Chairman Sharp to sign Request for Expenditure/Authorization of Motor Fuel Tax Funds; Section Number 24-00071-06-SP for engineering services totally \$193,936.00. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Preliminary Engineering Agreement for County 11

Estimates for this project should be available next month. Remaining RBI funds will be used for preliminary engineering and construction on this project.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Dwanna Kelmel highlighted monthly information for July. She noted the facility is at full capacity currently and the change in hours has been great.

Animal Control Issues, Incorporated areas Memorandums of Understanding

It's anticipated that more information will be available next month.

COURTHOUSE AND BUILDING BUSINESS

HVAC Costs

Mr. Bill Kennedy reviewed the HVAC situation in the court rooms where an engineer with Henson Robinson miss calculated the capacity that would be needed. He advised there will be some expense to correct this situation and should have costs next month. He doesn't feel the additional cost will be significant.

Ongoing Project Updates

Steeple Repair – The contractor has promised to get the work completed before the 1st frost.

Siding Project - The siding project by HD has begun at the former Health Department Building.

Windows - The window project should be completed sometime yet this week.

Jail Roof – Public notice was provided. A pre-bid meeting was conducted and bids are expected to be received by August 23rd.

Chief Deputy Jim Baker provided an update on the Market Street (Administrative Office) project as well as provided an estimate cost worksheet of the project.

Electronic Locks at Court House – This project should be started and completed by the end of September.

Former Health Department Building Conversion to Records Storage Project – Additional Costs to Fill in Doors on North and East Side of the Building

Chairman Sharp would like to request the doors on the north and east side of the former Health Department Building be filled in and sided. He sees no reason to keep these doors since this building will be converted for records storage. The additional cost to complete this work was estimated by HD Exteriors to be between \$700 and \$1000 dollars. A committee member felt the Chairman could expend this money, since it was in the budget, without coming before the committee.

Motion by Mike Specha and second by Thomas Snyder, Jr. to allow Chairman Sharp up to \$1,500, in case it's needed, to fill in doors on the north and east side of the former Health Department Building and to also side those areas referring the matter to the Finance Committee to determine which line item to take the money from. A roll call vote polled 4 ayes with Ray Koonce abstaining. Motion carried.

OTHER MATTERS

Chairman Sharp advised the County has received no applications for the County Engineer position. Cliff did confirm that if the County wants to go above the State recommended salary, it would be eligible for the 50% federal fund for State fund swap. The committee discussed this issue in more detail with County Engineer Cliff Frye. Cliff advised the committee the lack of applications isn't a county issue but industry problem.

Motion was made by Thomas Snyder, Jr. 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
08/12/2024