



Lee County Board Meeting Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Aug 24, 2023 at 6:00 PM CDT

Old Lee County Courthouse, 3rd Fl Boardroom, 112 E. 2nd. St, Dixon, IL 61021

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Olson called the regular session of the Lee County Board to order August 24, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at the Old County Courthouse, 3rd Floor Boardroom in Dixon.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairman Olson led the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Invocation - Father John Evans - St. Patrick's Church in Dixon

Chairman Olson introduced Father Evans from St. Patrick's Church in Dixon to lead the Board in an invocation.

IV. Roll Call:

Clerk Petersen called to roll. Members physically present were Chairman Olson, members: Akre, Bivins, Book, Freil, Gascoigne, Hudson, Kitson, Koppien, Naylor, Robertson, Schielein, Shippert, Skrogstad, White, Wilson and Zeman. Absent: Pearson. Via Zoom: Mimini arrived at 6:07 p.m. One seat vacant.

V. Announcements:

A. Please mute or turn off cell phones

B. Quarterly Employee Spotlight Recognition

Lesley Dever and Mike Wilcox from Probation presented this month's quarterly employee spotlight which was given to Jodi Monk a 16-year veteran of the Lee County Probation Department.

C. Announcement of Danielle Allen's resignation from District 2

Chairman Olson made the announcement that Danielle Allen turned in her resignation on Monday August 14th.

VI. Approval of Board Minutes: July 20, 2023 Regular County Board Meeting

There were no revisions to the minutes; stand as read.

VII. Monthly Resolutions: (Joseph Meyer)

A. Resolution: Joseph Meyer Parcel #13-21-11-408-009 Woodhaven Lakes Unit 25 Phase 2 Lot 145 (roll call)

Motion to approve Resolution #2023-08-001, Joseph Meyer Resolution Parcel #13-21-11-408-009. **Moved** by Mr. Schielein. **Second** by Ms. Naylor.

Roll Call vote is called:

YES: Hudson, Kitson, Koppien, Mimini, Naylor, Robertson, Schielein, Shippert, Skrogstad, White, Wilson, Zeman, Akre, Bivins, Book, Freil, Gascoigne and Olson.

NO: None

ABSENT: Pearson

One seat vacant

Motion carried by roll call vote.

VIII. Zoning and Planning

- A. Petition 23-PC-74, Petition to amend the text of Lee County Code 10-4: Ag-1 Rural/Agricultural District (Held over in July)

Ms. Henkel spoke on behalf of this petition. Highlights:

- Will allow skilled trades, such as electricians, plumbers, and HVAC techs to operate a business in the Ag-1 Rural/Agricultural District as an accessory use so long as a special used permit is obtained.
- Allows only one employee on site all day.

Motion to approve Ordinance #2023-08-002 and amend the text of Lee County Code 10-4: Ag-1 Rural/Agricultural District per Petition 23-PC-74.

Moved by Mr. Freil. **Second** by Mr. Kitson. **Motion carried** unanimously by voice vote.

- B. Petition 23-P-1606, Amboy IL Solar 1 LLC, PPN# 06-09-12-400-003, Special Use for a Community Solar Energy System-Franklin Grove Township (Tabled in June)

Motion to take Petition 23-P-1606 off the table. Moved by Mr. Schielein.

Second by Ms. Naylor. **Motion carried** unanimously by voice vote. Ms. Henkel gave the board an update on Petition 23-P-1606. Highlights

- Report was received from the State Historic Preservation Office
- Findings: recommended three conditions which would address the state's concerns. 1. Proposed vegetative screen be extended by 200 feet to be sufficiently wide and sufficiently dense. 2. That it would provide visual screening from the understory to about 30 feet high at maturity. 3. The site and planting plans be submitted to the state historic preservation office for further review and comment.
- Report includes the conditions from the ZBA (letters A through J) and the State Historic Preservation (letters K through M)
- Paragraph N has been included to ensure that Lee County receives any additional reviews and or comments from the state with regards to the screening.

- Copy of acknowledgment of third party with regards to this project was emailed out. This agreement is between the petitioner and the owner of the Whitney Mansion.

Motion to approve Resolution #2023-08-003 Petition 23-P-1606 Amboy IL Solar 1 LLC with the conditions that have been added and explained by Ms. Henkel the Renewable Energy Coordinator and set forth by the State Historic Preservation Office (items K-L-M-N). **Moved** by Mr. Kitson. **Second** by Mr. Koppien. Discussion, Ms. Shippert questioned whether the tie vote that came out of the ZBA should be interpreted as a recommendation from the ZBA. State's Attorney Boonstra stated that a tie vote means neither a vote to recommend nor not to recommend. Ms. Shippert proceeded to state comments about the county's ability to vote for or against these kinds of ordinances in the future. Mr. Kitson stated that this project and the present ordinance that the county has in place is a 400-foot setback from the foundation. If this project were to reapply the setback would be reduced to 150 feet under the new state ordinance and the county would have no say.

Roll call vote is called:

YES: Kitson, Koppien, Naylor, Robertson, Schielein, Skrogstad, White, Wilson, Zeman, Book, Freil, Hudson, and Olson

NO: Mimini, Shippert, Akre, Bivins, and Gascoigne,

ABSENT: Pearson

One seat vacant

Motion carried by roll call vote.

- C. Petitions Going To the Zoning Board of Appeals: None
- D. Petitions Going To the Planning Commission: None
- E. Petitions Coming From the Zoning Board of Appeals: 1 Petition
 - 1. Petition 23-P-1615, Petitioner John Hilliker, PPN# 06-09-23-300-006, Special Use to operate business from property with one onsite employee

Motion to approve Resolution #2023-08-004 Petition 23-P-1615, Petitioner John Hilliker, PPN #06-09-23-300-006. **Moved** by Mr. Wilson.

Second by Mr. Akre.

Roll call vote is called.

YES: Koppien, Mimini, Naylor, Robertson, Schielein, Shippert, Skrogstad, White, Wilson, Zeman, Akre, Bivins, Book, Freil, Gascoigne, Hudson, and Kitson

NO: None

ABSENT: Pearson

ABSTAIN: Olson

One seat vacant.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

- F. Petitions Coming From the Planning Commission: None

IX. Administrator Monthly Update and Board Member Comments

Ms. Naylor spoke on behalf of communication she received today from our legislative liaison Scott Foyles in the Senate Caucus that pertains to House Bill 4412, the Solar and Wind Regulations. It states that if a landowner living or owning property in a rural area of a county wants to lease land to a solar facility there are almost no opportunities for a County Board to stop the project. Cities can still stop the projects within the city limits and a small zone around the city even if the neighboring residents oppose the project. There are very few add-ons that a County Board can place on the project before it's built. The solar company could sue the county if the county holds up the process. Ms. Shippert asked the question if there were any known cases filed as of yet and Ms. Naylor was not aware of any.

X. Public Comments:

None

XI. County Organization Presentations/Updates:

Carrie Folken, Executive Director, BEST Inc. spoke on behalf of some success stories from the past year. BEST Inc. administers the federally funded Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act and covers 8 counties.

XII. Reports of Standing Committees:

A. County Services Committee: Jack Skrogstad, Chair

Mr. Skrogstad gave his report. Petitions are available September 5th for circulation for up the upcoming Election.

B. Public Safety and Court Services Committee: Mike Koppien, Chair

Mr. Koppien gave his report.

C. Facilities and Maintenance Committee: Tom Wilson, Chair

Mr. Wilson gave the report, he was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Freil ran the meeting in his absence.

D. Claims Committee: Mike Zeman, Chair

Mr. Zeman gave his report, had a total of 171 Claims for the month.

E. Finance: Jim Schielein, Chair

Mr. Schielein gave his report. Highlights:

- Recently wrapped up the budget hearings.
- Department heads that requested significant changes were asked to appear before the Finance Committee.
- The results are showing the county at a deficit
- Working on closing the initial deficit gap

- Two union contracts still in negotiations
- After union negotiations are settled they will then have a proposed budget to present to the county board.
- Financial policy is in good standing

F. Executive Committee: Bob Olson, Chair

Mr. Olson stated the minutes are in the agenda packet.

XIII. Reports of Other Committees or Appointments

A. Board of Health: Katie White, Liaison

Ms. White stated there was no meeting this month. Highlights:

- DHS fiscal and administrative review held
- WIC (Women Infants & Children) state review
- CDC visit on September 8th
- Workshop on adolescent anxiety held by Karen Young a psychologist from Australia
- Uptick in Bats update
- West Nile update
- Shigella outbreak update

B. 911 Board: Keane Hudson, Liaison

Mr. Hudson stated that ETSB held a meeting on July 27th and the minutes are in the packet. ETSB is working with the county to potentially replace and repair the wall between the old Lee County Jail and the ETSB driveway.

C. Tourism: Ron Gascoigne, Liaison

Mr. Gascoigne stated the report is in the packet.

D. Tri-County Opportunities Council: Angie Shippert, Liaison

Ms. Shippert stated minutes are in the packet.

E. Blackhawk Hills Regional Council/Lee-Ogle Enterprise Zone: Angie Shippert , Liaison

Ms. Shippert talked about the attachment in the packet about Economic Resiliency in Northwest Illinois during the Covid-19 Pandemic. In the agenda packet are some proposed map amendments to the Lee-Ogle Enterprise Zone and recommendations for the addition of land as well as a few areas of removal. The Invest in Illinois Act allows an increase in acreage from 9,600 acres to 12,800 acres. In September there is a potential that there will be a public hearing on the map amendments and then in October the County Board could be voting on the changes.

F. Lee County Industrial Development Association (LCIDA): Reed Akre, Liaison

Mr. Akre stated there was a meeting on August 9th and touched on updates with Dixon Gateway development and the Bonnell groundbreaking is scheduled at the industrial park at the end of the month.

G. Counties of Illinois Risk Management (CIRMA): Mike Zeman

Mr. Zeman stated that CIRMA is obligated 60 to 90 days after the end of the fiscal year to give the county a report on their findings for the year.

H. United Counties Council of Illinois (UCCI): Tom Kitson. Liaison

Mr. Kitson had no report.

I. Illinois Association of County Board Members (IACBM): Mike Koppien

Mr. Koppien had no report. Ms. Ryerson spoke about the upcoming conference for Illinois County Officials held in November.

XIV. Unfinished Business: None

XV. New Business:

A. Discover Dixon - Lee County Agreement - Tourism Services

Motion to approve the Lee County Agreement with Discover Dixon for Tourism Services. **Moved** by Mr. Gascoigne. **Second** by Mr. Bivins. Mr. Kitson stated that the agreement is in the packet, stating that the committee has been working on this agreement since April and the agreement is similar to the agreement Discover Dixon has with the City of Dixon. The present agreement will expire at the end of November this year. **Motion carried** unanimously by voice vote.

B. Resolution: Intergovernmental Agreement Between South Dixon Township and Lee County regarding the use of a Salt Storage Shed located on South Dixon Twp Property

Motion to approve Resolution #2023-08-005 Intergovernmental Agreement Between South Dixon Township and Lee County. **Motion** by Mr. Wilson. **Second** by Mr. Akre. Mr. Skrogstad explained this Intergovernmental Agreement was between Lee County and South Dixon Township. The goal is to share the salt storage shed. **Motion carried** unanimously by voice vote.

C. Battery Energy Storage Systems Moratorium Extension

Motion to approve Resolution #2023-08-006 Battery Energy Storage Systems Moratorium Extension. **Moved** by Ms. Naylor. **Second** by Mr. Hudson. **Motion carried** unanimously by voice vote.

D. Lee County Facilities - Bids for Purchase of Bulk Electricity

Motion to approve the bid for purchase of Bulk Electricity. **Moved** by Mr. Wilson with the recommendation that the county goes with Dynegy Energy for

a 4 Year Contract for \$138,511.87 at a rate of 0.06871. **Second** by Mr. Kitson. **Motion carried** unanimously by voice vote.

E. Hiring New Administrator

Motion to approve permission for the Executive Committee to hire a new Administrator. **Moved** by Mr. Kitson. **Second** by Mr. Wilson. **Motion carried** unanimously by voice vote.

XVI. Appointments: None

None

XVII. Executive Session:

None

XVIII. Approval of County Officers Reports/Quarterly Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve the County Officers Reports/Quarterly Treasurer's Report. **Moved** by Mr. Koppien. **Second** by Mr. Kitson. **Motion carried** unanimously by voice vote.

XIX. Approval of Monthly Revenue Report, Claims Paid, Claims Paid in Vacation, and Payroll Paid (Roll Call Vote)

Motion to approve the Monthly Revenue Report, Claims Paid, Claims Paid in Vacation, and Payroll Paid. **Moved** by Mr. Freil. **Second** by Ms. Naylor.

Roll call vote is called.

YES: Naylor, Robertson, Schielein, Shippert, Skrogstad, White, Wilson, Zeman, Akre, Bivins, Book, Freil, Gascoigne, Hudson, Kitson, Koppien, and Olson.

NO: None

ABSENT: Mimini and Pearson

One seat vacant.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

XX. Approval of Board Member Mileage and Per Diem

Motion to approve Board Member Mileage and Per Diem. **Moved** by Mr. Freil. **Second** by Mr. Bivins. **Motion carried** unanimously by voice vote.

XXI. Motion to Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn. **Moved** by Mr. Hudson. **Second** by Mr. Freil. **Motion carried** unanimously by voice vote.

Adjourned at 7:01 P.M.

Bob Olson Chairman Lee County Board

Attest: Nancy Petersen Ex-Officio Clerk of the Lee County Board