

**HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/
ENVIRONMENTAL/WELFARE/ZONING
COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 13, 2020**

Present: Phil Schneider, Chairman
Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Dale Livingston

Present by Call In: --

Absent: Craig Corzine

Others present: Cliff Frye, Bill Kennedy, Jan Bland, Frank Mathon, Vince Harris, Michael Gianasi in attendance. Via freeconferencecall.com/phone: Charles Smedley and others.

The meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee was called for on Tuesday, October 13, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Frank Mathon, the benefactor of the Courthouse fountain wanted to share some history as to the meaning of the "Tall Crane and Bittern Fountain". Around 1906, shortly after this courthouse was first built, a fountain was donated by the local Women's Club. Sometime during World War II in the 40's, it was removed for whatever reasons leaving the circle of concrete that held the water. From an old postcard of that fountain, Taylorville Tourism President Carol Alexander found the company that had the original plans of the casing mold. With little coaxing, Mayor Frank Mathon donated the money to resurrect it back to the grounds in November 2006. He did this in the memory of his parents, grandparents and great grandparents. Mr. Mathon recalls his father's memories of accompanying his grandfather to the courthouse to be an interpreter from French to English. All of Frank and his wife's immigrant relatives have been impacted by Taylorville and Christian County. It was his desire to honor all immigrants who found their way to Christian County. Recently, he noticed there were condition problems with the fountain. His request and desire is that the fountain be refurbished or replaced with an exact replica. He stated the fountain is a treasure and it needs to be refurbished.

Charles Smedley echoed that it needs to be refurbished as the fountain is a show piece at the Courthouse and finding the funds is important.

HIGHWAY BUSINESS

Cliff Frye presented a professional services proposal from Hurst-Rosche, Inc., Hillsboro, IL to complete soil borings for the bridge projects approved in August. The total estimate is \$17,578 but will be billed based on actual depths drilled. The costs for these services are split 50-50 with the Townships. A motion was made by Charles DeClerck and seconded by Dale Livingston to accept the proposal from Hurst-Rosche, Inc. A roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried.

Cliff Frye indicated that MFT funds can be used for the construction of a building for servicing, maintenance or storage of vehicles or equipment. Combining MFT with the insurance money from the building damaged by the 2018 tornado, we can upgrade the proposed replacement building to a steel framed structure and add facilities such as a lift for vehicle maintenance. This will provide a more functional building. Cliff will keep the committee informed as he gets more information from IDOT on the process using MFT funds.

All of our current projects under design are progressing. Cliff is pushing to get the Bear Creek Road recycling project on IDOT's January bid letting.

COURTHOUSE AND JAIL UPDATES-Bill Kennedy

- Courthouse boiler: It has passed the pressure test and the inspector is due here Thursday, October 15.
- Jail boiler: No inspection until 2021.
- Still looking for storage space to clear out boxes in the basement.
- Nothing yet for board room acoustics. TV and mount has arrived. He will work on mounting on the wall.
- The elevator phone is not working.
- A structural engineer is still being sought to approve ROE floor supports in order to move forward with south entrance support.

Fountain: The Mexico foundry has not yet returned a call to discuss the fountain. In review; the fountain sandblasting and repainting is still being researched with options of removal and refurbish, look to recast in its entirety, or have it recast in aluminum. Mr. Mathon was requesting either the refurbish or to recast the fountain as long as the original pattern was maintained. Committee Chair Phil Schneider noted that the goal is to do just that and not to change the fountain or to rid of it.

- The leveling of the court reporters office on third floor was a success. The area was a smaller room so the process may not be valid for a larger area. He still wants to try another room-county board room or the circuit clerk's room.
- In a request for projects in the budget, Mr. Kennedy again repeated the wait for structural approval at the south entrance; to remove out of compliance equipment of the new air conditioning units and to repair the original or former air conditioning equipment; repair and reinstall the watch dog controls.

ANIMAL CONTROL/ZONING UPDATES-Vince Harris

- The Zoning Board of Appeals has sent a special use ordinance for a Solar Farm to the board this month.
- In November the ZBA will resume again to add text amendments to the Zoning and Animal Codes: hobby breeders, number of dogs/kennel license, drainage, personal solar panels, and others that will be presented at the December meeting.
- The Department of Agriculture veterinarian, Dr. Sloan and others will meet to discuss ordinances and policies.
- Currently the shelter has 15 dogs, 26 cats and 12 kittens ready on the 31st.
- On the 24th there will be a BARK a BOO drive thru for Crispy Crème donuts and pictures with your pet.

10/13/2020

CEMETERIES

As referred from the Executive Committee, Chairman Schneider reviewed the three cemeteries with only one, Thomas Anderson Cemetery that had active burials and a board of trustees. He felt there was not action to be taken at this time.

COVID TESTING

Will take place on Friday, October 16 and Sunday, October 18 between 9-5 for drive through testing at the Taylorville Fire Department.

A motion was made by Charles DeClerck and seconded by Dale Livingston to adjourn. A roll call vote polled all ayes. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Schneider, Chairman-
Buildings/Highway/Environmental/Zoning/Welfare
Committee
10/13/2020