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

**AND WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**March 11, 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, Erin Domonousky, Lucas Domonousky, and Elizabeth Hile in attendance.

The meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee was called to order on Monday, March 11, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COURTHOUSE LAWN REQUESTS

Erin Domonousky representing Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault presented a request for use of the courthouse lawn for the month of April in support of Turn our Town Teal Event. They will decorate the lawn on April 1st with teal ribbons and take down the ribbons at the end of the event. A certificate of insurance listing the county as an additional insured was provided.

Motion by Ray Koonce and second by Mike Specha to recommend to the full Board to approve the application for use of the courthouse lawn from Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault for the month of April 2024. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

ZONING BUSINESS

Director’s Report

Blake Tarr highlighted zoning updates to include the revenue for the month of February, number of permit applications, onsite inspections, etc. as well as information from the engineering consultant on the Skyline Solar Project. He also highlighted items on the agenda for the March ZBA meeting.

Chairman Sharp is hopeful that we are moving in a direction to where projects will be shovel ready when they come to the full Board versus continual return for amendments.

SOLID WASTE BUSINESS

Director’s Report

Shawn Hammers highlighted information on his monthly report to include inspection information, award of the grant submitted for the Solid Waste Management Plan and information on various laws passed.

HIGHWAY BUSINESS

Sourcewell Purchases; Request to Purchase Wheel Loader and Request to Purchase Tandem Trucks

Cliff Frye informed the committee that new tandem trucks order today have approximately a two year lead time.  He suggested we purchase a new wheel loader this year and place an order for tandem trucks.  A discussion was had regarding purchasing through Sourcewell, a joint purchasing cooperative, or going out for individual sealed bids.

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and second by Mike Specha to table the equipment purchases until the State’s Attorney’s office can review purchases by Sourcewell.  Roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Preliminary Engineering Agreement for Bridge Inspections

Cliff Frye presented a preliminary engineering agreement with HLR, Inc., consulting engineers for NBIS bridge inspections due in the 2024 cycle at a cost not to exceed $93,200.  There are approximately 160 inspections due this year.

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and second by David Buckles to recommend to the full board to approve and authorize the County Board Chairman to execute the preliminary engineering agreement with HLR, Inc. with a cost not to exceed $93,200.00. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Hickory Point Solar Energy Center Road Use Agreement

Cliff Frye presented a revised Road Use Agreement (RUA) with Hickory Point Solar Farm.  The original RUA was executed in 2019.  However, Hickory Point requested and received a revised special use permit reflecting the changes in their proposed footprint.  Updated RUA’s are needed to reflect these changes.

Motion by Ray Koonce and second by Mike Specha to table approval of the revised RUA until the State’s Attorney’s office reviews it.  A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Other Matters

The Highway Department purchases Highway Marking Paint and Rock Salt through the State of Illinois Joint purchase program administered by CMS.  In order to get in on the rock salt solicitation for 2024, Cliff has to submit our quantity requisition by April 7th.  CMS is now requiring a certificate of authority showing the person entering the requisition is authorized to do so on behalf of the agency.  Chairman Sharp will place this item on the March 20, 2024 County Board agenda as action could not be taken.

Project Updates

Preliminary or Final plans have been submitted for various projects using Federal and State funds.  ROW is in the process of being acquired and these projects will be let out for bid as soon as the ROW and plans are clear.  The bridge projects are in the following Townships: Bear Creek, King, May, Mosquito, Pana and Taylorville.  We also have a roadway realignment project using Rebuild Illinois Bond Funds on the Township line between Assumption and Locust Townships on 900 North Road.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Dwanna Kelmel highlighted monthly departmental information. Chairman Sharp advised he recently met with Dwanna about department operations and work load. He advised the committee that Dwanna was instructed to handle calls during normal working hours and no weekends until we get a better understanding of our responsibility in the incorporated versus unincorporated areas. The shelter is at full capacity. Feral cats and associated problems are frequent calls at the shelter. The shelter does not take feral cats. The Chairman also reported the truck that the Board approved for the department isn’t conducive for handling animals and many times Dwanna is using her own personal vehicle.

COURTHOUSE AND BUILDING BUSINESS

HVAC and Window Project Update

Ron Brown, Maintenance Supervisor advised all windows in the courthouse have been installed with the exception of the windows with AC units. Those windows won’t be completed until the HVAC system is installed and working.

HVAC lines are being ran on the 3rd floor first because of the courtrooms. After the 3rd floor work is done the 2nd floor followed by the 1st floor work will be completed. The working is coming along.

Work approved for the steeple repair is approximately 1 to 2 weeks out.

Jail Update

Chairman Sharp indicated there isn’t a lot of new information. Hurst Rosche are working on the bid packet for the roof.

Historic Courthouse Maintenance/Modification/Alteration Standards Policy

No discussion.

Other Courthouse Business

Some information/quotes on keyless entry was provided.

Motion by Ray Koonce and second by Thomas Snyder, Jr. to move this item on to the full Board for discussion and/or motions. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Former Health Department Building

Chairman Sharp indicated that Dr. Anderson has advised there is nothing remaining in the building that is needed. This item will be placed on next month’s agenda for making decisions about possible use of the former Health Department building by the county or selling the property.

OTHER MATTERS

Chairman Sharp advised the committee that Solid Waste will be moving to the former ROE office next week. The current LSW building was purchased with tipping funds for $110,000.00. Shawn is willing to reduce the reimbursement by $14,000.00 which was the cost of the roof repair. The tipping fee fund will need to be reimbursed approximately $96,000.00. This item will be placed on the full Board agenda.

None of the $2,000.00 funds that were transferred for water testing within a half mile radius of the Ameren excavation site has been used. The question of possibly expanding reimbursement to soil testing within the same radius of the site has been raised. Question was posed about using the funds for environmental testing. This item will also be placed on the full Board agenda.

A reminder was provided that the full Board meeting next week is on Wednesday the 20th instead of Tuesday.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Snyder, Jr. Chairman

Buildings/Highway/Environmental/Zoning

Welfare Committee

03/11/2024