

Sharon K. Williams, District 1
Junior Watkins, District 2
Lynn Scott Pearson, District 3
Chairperson-Andrew A. Rand, District 4
Rachael Parker District 5
G. Allen Mayer, District 6
James C. Dillon, District 7
Phillip Salzer, District 8
Michael Phelan, District 9



Andrew A. Rand - Chairperson
R. Steve Sonnemaker, County Clerk

Vice-Chairperson -Stephen M. Morris, District 10
Mary Ardapple, District 11
Robert Baietto, District 12
James T. Fennell, District 13
Brian Elsasser, District 14
Carol Trumpe, District 15
Brad Harding, District 16
Thomas H. O'Neill, III, District 17
Paul Rosenbohm, District 18

**PEORIA COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES - AMENDED
Thursday, February 12, 2015
6:00 PM**

Chillicothe Public Library • 430 N. Bradley Street • Chillicothe, Illinois 61523

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CALL TO ORDER

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL BY THE COUNTY CLERK

Attendance was taken with the Roll Call-Pro voting system, and the following members of the Board were present: Ardapple, Baietto, Dillon, Elsasser, Fennell, Harding, Mayer, Morris, O'Neill, Parker, Pearson, Phelan, Rand, Rosenbohm, Salzer, Trumpe, Watkins and Williams.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approval of January 8, 2015 County Board Minutes
- Approval of January 8, 2015 County Board Executive Session Minutes

Baietto moved for approval of the minutes, O'Neill seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

II. PRESENTATIONS & RECOGNITION

- A musical arrangement in celebration of "National Sing-up Day" March 18, 2015

The arrangements were performed by the IVC High School Chorale.

- Overview of Peoria County Economic Development

A video about Chillicothe was played. Chillicothe Mayer Doug Crew was introduced and spoke to the Board. Fennell provided information on various districts, attractions and amenities of Chillicothe.

Mr. Rothert spoke regarding economic development. He addressed the issues the recession had on the County and said the need for economic development is present with the desires of



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everyone to have ample economic opportunities. He said today the economy seems to be at a point of recovering. He defined economic development as helping businesses and communities grow stronger and prosper. He provided previous examples of economic development. He said the current projects that have been worked on over the last year have included: an Asian carp processing plant, light manufacturing, retail, medical marijuana cultivation, business retention meetings with over 100 business, comprehensive planning grants for communities, creating the Data Center of Excellence, enterprise zone applications for various locations, the Buy Local Campaign, outreach to rural communities for stakeholder input, launching the Minority Contractor Development Initiative, launching the Greater Peoria SourceLink website, maintaining great relations with external partners, applying for various grants including the Promise Zone designation and the Seeds 2 Success Food Summit. He said they've been able to foster an ecosystem that is centered on innovation and entrepreneurship, where a lot of economic development happens. He said in moving forward, while continuing to be focused on current programs, the other three focuses include: 1. Rural Development: capitalizing more effectively on assets unique to each community, including by partnering with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation; 2. A Grow From Within Strategy: expansion of existing businesses as a way to create jobs; 3. Access to Capital Needs: using the Keystone funds for economic development and business development loans through the County's micro loan, gap loan and macro loan programs. He said the County is ready, willing and open to help communities and businesses grow.

Baietto said the Havana plant now is possibly going up in Beardstown. He doesn't understand that, most of the carp comes right out of this community and up and the river. He said it's a great opportunity and he hopes Chillicothe really gets serious about looking for a place. He said we need it here.

Chairman Rand recognized members of team Peoria County and thanked them for making the meeting possible. Chairman Rand presented Salzer with his twenty year pin.

III. CITIZENS' REMARKS

Rick Fox, representing the Central Illinois Healthy Community Alliance, addressed the Board. He said the growing alliance includes the Global Warming Solutions Group, Peoria Families Against Toxic Waste, League of Women Voters, NAACP Peoria Chapter, Interfaith Alliance, Sierra Club, Respiratory Health Alliance, Bradley and ICC environmental groups, Peoria Rivers Network and the Council at Pimiteoui. He said they continue to have grave concerns about the fifty year old Edwards Coal Plant in Bartonville. He said tonight he'd like to focus around the issues of coal ash. Rules on safe disposal of ash are decades behind other wastes. He said because of the sheer volume of coal combustion waste, it was not politically possible at the time that these rules were implemented to have the same level of protections for this waste that's in place to protect ground water by requiring lined landfills. The amount of coal combustion waste around the country is just about equal to the amount of waste from municipal waste. He said it's fundamentally unfair that this industry has not had to play by the same rules as the communities that are sending garbage to landfills. Nationally and at Edwards, coal combustion waste is just placed into unlined ponds, pits and piles. It's known to contain arsenic, mercury, lead and selenium. In some cases, the levels of contaminants exceed or approach the definition for hazardous waste. The Edwards plant has an 89-acre unlined pit, which is right behind the levy of the Illinois River. The U.S. EPA has found that living near a wet coal ash pond can be more harmful to your health than smoking a pack of cigarettes every day. He said fortunately, new rules from the federal and state government will be finalized soon. He said he would like the economic development team to work to develop clean



energy jobs in our community. He requested that the Board weigh in with the Illinois Pollution Control Board before the rules are finalized. He would like the County to make sure that inundation zone maps are included in case there is a coal ash spill. He would also like to see ground water and surface water testing done around the facility. He also commented on the fact that Ameren effectively gave away the plant at no cost to Dynegy.

Morris said that himself, Pearson and Mr. Fox are on the Landfill Committee. He said there's a bit of irony how much time some of the organizations spent trying to keep this stuff out of the landfill, but now there's talk about whether it's the safest place for it. He said the Landfill Committee has been talking about it for the better part of a year. Now rules are starting to come down from the EPA. The County has to know what happens if they want to put it in our landfill. It's something the Board will need to decide in the coming months. Harding asked to have it arranged for someone from Dynegy to come to get both sides of the story and get up to speed as quickly as possible.

Kiersten Sheets, representing the Global Warming Solutions Group, addressed the Board. She recognized the Community Alliance members in the audience. She said she's here to talk about a potential disaster. The coal ash pond is very close to the river. Other communities have had to deal with contamination of their ground water, including the Vermilion River. She said over 587 million gallons of coal could fill this unlined pond. It has a significant hazard level and the contaminated well potential is also high. She said her group doesn't look to Dynegy to pay for any potential disasters that may happen with the coal ash pond. Dynegy has stated to the State that they are a poor company and probably would not be able to handle the financial hardships of it breaking and going into the Illinois River. She asked that the County consider making a resolution to weigh in to the Pollution Control Board and support strong coal ash safeguards. She said there needs to be financial assurances for communities to deal with the financial hardship of a disaster from a coal ash leak. The organization is seeking to keep the State rule provisions stronger than the federal provisions, in addition to requiring inundation zone maps to be created in relation to the location of the coal ash pond.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- C1.** The Treasurer report consisting of the Bank and CD's Portfolio for the month of December 2014 and Revenue & Expenditure Reports for the month of November 2014.
- C2.** A resolution (item 1 - surrender) from your Ways and Means Committee recommending that the County Board Chairman be authorized and directed to execute deed of said property to the highest bidder, and be authorized to cancel the appropriate Certificates of Purchase. This resolution shall be effective ninety days from February 12, 2015 and any transaction between the parties involved not occurring within this period shall be null and void.
- C3.** A resolution from your Health, Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending approval of an appropriation of grant funds in the amount of \$8,260.00 from Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for the Family Violence Coordinating Council to provide training and technical support per the attached resolution.
- C4.** A resolution from your Land Use and Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of the lowest responsible bid from Phoenix Properties, Inc. for the rehabilitation of a property located at 2014 S.



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Winston through the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP).

- C5.** A resolution from your Land Use and Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of the lowest responsible re-bid from Phoenix Properties, Inc. to redo the siding at a property located at 3215 W. Farrow through the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP).
- C6.** A resolution from your County Operations and Physical Plant Committee recommending approval of a Project Labor Agreement for the Abatement and Demolition of Bel-Wood Nursing Home.
- C7.** A resolution from your County Operations and Physical Plant Committee recommending approval of an Option and Land Lease Agreement with SBA Towers V, LLC for leasing space on City/County owned property for use as a telecommunications facility.
- C8.** A resolution from your Budget Subcommittee of the Executive Committee recommending approval of an additional FY 2014 expenditure appropriation in the amount of \$1,755,000.00 in the Employee Health Fund to cover costs associated with the Voluntary Retirement Incentive.
- C9.** A resolution from your Budget Subcommittee of the Executive Committee recommending approval of an FY 2014 additional appropriation into IMRF and FICA Funds to cover unanticipated expenses related to the Voluntary Retirement Incentive.
- C10.** A resolution from your Budget Subcommittee of the Executive Committee recommending approval of an additional appropriation into the Heddington Oaks Fund for FY 2014 of additional revenues and expenditures.
- C11.** A resolution from your Budget Subcommittee of the Executive Committee recommending approval of an additional FY 2014 Appropriation in the Care & Treatment Fund due to amended Lease Agreement for 2014 N. Knoxville Avenue.
- C12.** A resolution from your Budget Subcommittee of the Executive Committee recommending approval of FY2015 Encumbrance Rollover Appropriation #1. *(Poll Vote per Rules of Order, Article V, Section C)*
- C13.** Chairman Appointments

Ardapple moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Fennell seconded. Morris asked to pull appointments of Jason Hauer to Recorder of Deeds and Lester Bergsten to the Landfill Committee Joint City/County; Harding asked to pull the appointment of Scott Sorrel to Acting County Administrator; Williams asked to pull Item C6. The Consent Agenda, except for Item C6 and the appointments of Jason Hauer, Lester Bergsten and Scott Sorrel, was approved by a roll call vote of 17 ayes and 1 nay, with Harding voting nay.



Appointment of Scott Sorrel to Acting County Administrator

Ardapple moved to approve the appointment of Scott Sorrel to Acting County Administrator and Morris seconded. Harding asked if this was for housekeeping. Mr. Atkins said that this had been done by a poll vote, which had effect because of the fact that there was not a county board meeting until now. This is ratifying the prior action back to the date of the poll vote. The appointment was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

Appointment of Lester Bergsten to the Landfill Committee Joint City/County

Chairman Rand said he had the appointment of Lester Bergsten pulled since it is a joint appointment between the City of Peoria and the County of Peoria, which requires him and Mr. Ardis to agree on a name. That conversation has not happened yet.

Appointment of Jason Hauer to Recorder of Deeds

Fennell moved to approve the appointment of Jason Hauer to Recorder of Deeds and Morris seconded. Trumpe said it is the Board's goal and necessity to appoint an individual to fill the role of recorder of deeds until that office comes to a real close November 30, 2016. The Board has two candidates that she has in mind. Ms. Livers has served as deputy recorder and has been appointed to interim recorder of deeds. Ms. Livers has displayed capability in running the affairs of the office, handling staff and helping to integrate and implementing the new computer system, which she and staff worked together to choose. At the time of the vote, the office staff was rather demoralized. Four of the eight left in order to find employment in a more permanent position. They have been understaffed while trying to meet the needs of day-to-day recording and as well as keeping up with the new computer system. Ms. Livers has helped marshal that work to be done. At the State of the County address, she was commended for her work. While completing that, the morale of the department has improved. Trumpe said she thinks Ms. Livers has the qualifications to do a good, solid job to lead that office. Trumpe stated that she knows Mr. Hauer. He is a capable individual and a respected member of the Dunlap School Board. Unfortunately, he does not have any experience or real knowledge of the office. Trumpe said she feels that the person who comes in there should be ready to go to work to fulfill the functions of the office, rather than have to learn the job over the almost two year time. It would probably be on his deputy, which would be Ms. Livers' position, to teach him the job. This takes away her time of doing the real work of the department. Trumpe does not feel it is a good investment to have that salary dedicated to someone that does not know the work. Since this is not a good expenditure of taxpayer money, she cannot support the appointment.

Morris said that Chairman Rand first asked for resumes as it related to this. Five applications were received and four were interviewed. Mr. Hauer has an impeccable resume and gave an excellent interview. Good candidates applied; to him, he was the choice. He believes the committee agrees. He supports Mr. Hauer. Morris said that there is just one nomination before the Board. It's an up or down vote on Mr. Hauer. If for some reason it would fail, it's up to Chairman Rand to make another appointment. Parker asked if there is a ruling that the Board has to have the position filled. Her concern is the County is going through training someone for a position that eventually isn't going to be there and it's an expense that the County could not possibly incur. Chairman Rand said that effective the resignation the deputy became the interim recorder of deeds and is being paid at that grade. In conversation with counsel, he has to reappoint. Williams said that as far as learning the job, with the new system, everybody is learning. It boils down to who could learn the quickest.



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Fennell said he would speak to it since he was on the committee. It's not only learning the job; it's documenting the procedures. The candidate showed strength in documentation and being able to prepare procedure manuals, as well as guides for the whole department. There was a lot of past history he had with other positions that pushed him over the top. That's why Fennell supports him. Elsasser said he too knows Mr. Hauer and considers him a friend. They've known each other for two or three years and worked a lot together. He appreciates all the hard work he does in the community and the Dunlap School District. His comments are not directed against him at all. Elsasser said when you look back at the history of the Board since he's been on the Board, there have been a lot of different appointments. He believes the county chairman has always honored the selection from either the Republican or Democratic Central Committee. That doesn't mean we need to rubberstamp everything. But the Republican Central Committee was not recommending Ms. Livers because they're trying to help her climb a political ladder. The office is undergoing a lot of changes and has had four people that have left, which is almost half the people. Elsasser said he was told about two months ago that they were pretty far behind on their filings and people had to wait. Now, under Ms. Livers' direction, they have finally caught up. There's a lot to be done. The complete transition has to take place. He believes Ms. Livers would have been a better choice. His vote is not because he doesn't want Mr. Hauer, but he has to do the right thing. He wants the Board in the future to get the message that there needs to be at least some respect for the central committees under situations like this.

O'Neill stated that he had a few appointments while he was there and never had any recommendations from the parties. He had a committee like Chairman Rand. They chose the person and voted on them. He respects Chairman Rand, the people on the committee and what they came up with.

Baietto said he's been walking the rope on this one. He opposed the process that got this to the ballot box. Obviously, the people have voted and he will abide by it. He agrees with the process that Chairman Rand has developed and there's nothing against Mr. Hauer. There's a two year slot to fill and if this slot were still on the ballot box two years from now, he'd have no objection to vote for Mr. Hauer; but it isn't. He comes back to transition and needing to break in Mr. Hauer. He's a smart man and will probably learn quickly. Ms. Livers has worked hard. She's worked with Mr. Sonnemaker in relationship to the movement of the department. She has served her time, worked hard and done a good job. With all that together, it makes good sense to let Ms Livers carry out for two years rather than add someone else to it that's going to sit there for two years and be gone. Baietto said he also heard a question was asked whether they would consider, in two years, running against the County Clerk. Baietto asked if that was asked.

Morris said he does not intend to get into every single question that was asked but he will say this. They asked all of the interviewees what interests they would have in a position that they knew was going away in twenty-two months. Some of those questions created answers as it related to people's political future. There was no mention of running against the County Clerk. There were some answers that indicated people's desires about running for other public offices. But there was nothing improper about the question, any of the answers given or their consideration. Morris said he thinks that question could be asked if they wanted but that was not the specific question asked.

Harding said when he found out Mr. Hauer was Chairman Rand's selection, he truly came to a position where he appreciated the process that the Chairman went through to select the



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person most qualified. He believes that there have been past and current board members that do serve that were recommended by the political central committees. He believes that has been a history for the Board. While not rubberstamping, they have put great weight on what the central committees recommend. He doesn't have a problem with this either. He truly appreciated hearing about the selection before reading about it. He too was told that at least one of the interviewees was directly asked: would you be interested in running against or consider running against the County Clerk in the future. When that was a part of the questioning process, he felt that that was problematic. He's had the privilege of working with Mr. Hauer as a volunteer at the republican headquarters. He has gotten to know him, his credentials and his commitment to his family, Dunlap School system, the party and to public service. He has learned that Mr. Hauer is a talented young man with great convictions. He starts a project and sees it through. He lacks no qualities or qualifications to assume a leadership role. Harding stated that by appointing Mr. Hauer, there will be a recorder of deeds and a deputy recorder of deeds. If appointing the current interim recorder of deeds, he was told the County would not be paying for an assistant. That was a cost savings that Ms. Livers was bringing to the table with her application. After hearing what he felt was a truly political question come into the process, he has a qualm with the process that was used in the selection. He will also vote no because he believes it was contaminated by that question. While he and the County Clerk are of different political parties, he supports Mr. Sonnemaker and would hate to see a county clerk's office without Mr. Sonnemaker there. Maybe a deferral would be something to consider to get to the bottom of this.

Morris said one of the basic requirements is that the individual is a republican. Of course they checked that they were all republicans. He had checked with Mr. Atkins. This isn't a protected job interview. They could ask any question they want to ask. They could have asked what religion if they wanted to. They didn't since it wouldn't be appropriate; but they could have if they wanted to. He doesn't know what facts were checked as to what they could and couldn't ask. They didn't ask any inappropriate questions. They wrote them all down, each took turns and each asked the same questions of every single candidate. There's one person in the room that understands this process better than anybody else because there's only one person in the room that originally got on the Board by being appointed. Morris said that was him. The Central Committee gave his name to O'Neill as recommendation. Nothing suggests that it's a requirement that the Board take the name from the central committee. Morris said Elsasser had lobbied against his appointment, so don't act like Chairman Rand has done something so odd here. He said it's disingenuous for Elsasser to say the Chairman has to take the appointment of the central committee. He said Trumpe had said this is our choice and lobbied O'Neill for him.

Chairman Rand said that as the person who initiated the process, this has been unusual. With deference to some people he respects greatly, including Trumpe, Baietto, Harding and Elsasser, the people of the County elected to sunset this office, overwhelmingly. He would attach the word mandate. While his interests in openness and transparency has been jammed up by people's views of a source, he's guessing the person that didn't get the nod, that some questions get asked in a way that makes somebody uncomfortable. Chairman Rand said that what's really unusual is it's his job to do his best to select the most appropriate person for this circumstance. This circumstance is more unique than simply replacing a member of the Board. The Board is going to create an individual whose job is to transfer a very important basic function of the County from where it is now to where it needs to be in perpetuity. That's a really different process than just picking the one that's running the job now. It's really what's the end game here. Chairman Rand said he had the occasion to discuss this before the meeting with the Clerk, sensing that there might be some sensitivity by the folks that think



he's just supposed to rubberstamp what they want instead of following the process he invited everyone to participate in. He said he apologized for not asking Mr. Sonnemaker what he thought about a person. But Mr. Sonnemaker said it was the Chairman's process and he looks forward to working with the individual that is appointed. He would do everything he could to help him. Chairman Rand called the question. The appointment was approved by a roll call vote of 13 ayes and 5 nays, with Baietto, Elsasser, Harding, Rosenbohm and Trumpe voting Nay.

C6. Project Labor Agreement for the Abatement and Demolition of Bel-Wood Nursing Home

Williams said she will be abstaining since it is her employer. Ardapple moved to approve Item C6 and Rosenbohm seconded. Item C6 was approved by a roll call vote of 17 ayes and 1 abstention, with Williams abstaining.

V. ZONING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS

1. Case 002-15-U, Andrew Schick (David Ellis, owner). A Special Use as required in Section 20-6.2.1.1.b of the Unified Development Ordinance. This section allows for a special use when a proposed land split does not meet the 40 acre minimum lot size requirement in the A-1 Agricultural Preservation District. The petitioner proposes to divide 6 acres from a 7.84 acre tract. The parcel is located in Hallock Township. The Zoning Board of Appeals recommends approval. The Land Use and Infrastructure Committee concurs.

Salzer left the meeting.

Williams moved to approve the ordinance and Dillon seconded. The ordinance passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

2. Case W01-15, Andrew Schick (David Ellis, owner). A resolution from your Land Use and Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of a waiver from Section 20-8.3.4.1.b.2.a of the Unified Development Ordinance. This section requires all minor subdivisions to have a public water supply. The petitioner is proposing to split an existing 7.84 acre tract into 2 parcels of 1.84 acres and 6 acres in size.

Salzer returned to the meeting.

Dillon moved to approve the resolution and Rosenbohm seconded. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

3. Executive Session

Chairman Rand said the Board does not need to have executive session.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pearson noted that the fifth annual Pat Hidden Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser will be February 15th at the Itoo Hall from 11am to 6pm. This has raised a great deal of money to help youth in the community.

Trumpe noted that the Farmer's Share of the Food Dollar Breakfast is on March 14th at Exposition



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Gardens. It's called Share of the Food Dollar since the small amount paid represents the amount of money that the farmer gets for the food.

Williams noted that on Thursday, February 26th from 6pm - 7pm the Sheriff's Auxiliary is looking for volunteers. ICC is hosting a class that will describe what the program entails.

Fennell noted that on Friday, February 27th there's a masquerade party at Pearce Community Center. It's a fundraiser for the Chillicothe Historical Society. The proceeds will go to fund the Zorro Fest Parade that will be coming this summer.

Chairman Rand said the County had a really wonderful State of the County presentation. He thanked the staff of Peoria County, including Ms. Curtis Luther, Ms. Fulton and Mr. Sorrel. He said team Peoria County had a little spat tonight but this just happens for reasonable, fair differences of opinion. He appreciates the spirit and politeness of the debate. He will not give up the notion that the County must work as a team and invites the elected officials to stay in there with the Board. The Super Committee matters a lot; that the County continues to dialog about what's important to the citizens of this community. In particular, becoming more visible to the community so they like being here and have an appreciation for what these tax dollars support. Chairman Rand said that Trumpe will be hosting the meeting in April at Dunlap High School. In June, Phelan will be hosting in Peoria Heights at the Village Hall. In August, the Board will be at Limestone High School. The County is still working on the October meeting with Ardapple.

Fennell noted that the State of the County presentation was outstanding and he commended Chairman Rand and Ms. Curtis Luther. He only regrets not having it filmed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the Chairman announced the meeting was adjourned.