

Members Present

Mr. Olthoff, Mr. Vickery, Ms. McBride, Mr. Washington, Mr. James, Ms. Polk, Mr. Nixon, and Mr. Hess

Members Absent

Mr. Pagast, Mr. Stauffenberg, Mr. Tripp, Mr. Tholen, Ms. Bernard, and Mr. Flett

In Attendance

- **Board Members**

Mr. Arseneau

- **Department Heads**
- **Media**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Olthoff, at 9:00 a.m. Quorum present.

2. Public Comment

3. Approval of Minutes – May 25, 2011

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Washington and seconded by Ms. Polk. Motion carried.

4. Zoning

- **ZBA Case #11-01; a request for a Variance to Section 121-281 (c) (Accessory Structures), on a parcel generally situated in Section 30 of Ganeer Township. The petitioner is Municipal Trust & savings Bank Trust No. 2257, Paul T. Routson, property owner and applicant. (Referred Back to County Board)**

Mr. Van Mill stated that there was a request to table this until the next meeting.

Mr. Nixon made a motion to table it until the July meeting and Ms. McBride seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

5. Subdivisions

- **Sunset Grove Subdivision Letter of Credit**

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that Sunset Grove's Letter of Credit is about to expire and they are asking for a new one to be issued. They sent Tyson Engineering out there to inspect the subdivision and to let them know what still needed to be done. He handed out a spreadsheet to the committee that itemizes all the work that still needs to be done on the subdivision. When they came back to them with this, they discovered that the current letter of credit of \$92,000 was not enough to cover the work that still needed to be done so they are asking that the letter of credit be increased to \$150,623 as outlined on the spreadsheet.

Mr. Vickery made a motion to approve and Mr. Washington seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

6. Planning

- **River Study - Update**

Mr. Van Mill stated that he wanted to give the committee a few updates on some projects that they have been working on. The River Roundtable conducted a public meeting on June 7 at the Hilton which was a big success. They had speakers from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, from the EPA, and four

groups from Indiana that participated in this event which is huge because that is a source of a lot of our environmental issues that are going on in the river. They introduced the project that they put forward which is a document that they have been working on for about a year that they have written from scratch. They also produced a brochure that summarizes the river issues as they see them in Kankakee County and also a video. He thanked those who attended. They had over 200 people that participated and went to the different breakout sessions. The last speaker, Dr. Marlin, had a very interesting presentation. As we are seeing our river fill in the question is not necessarily how we are going to get it out but what do we do with the spoils. He was very informative in terms of how we can use that for development purposes. They are going to continue dialogue with Dr. Marlin on a one-to-one basis to see what we can do with the sand and sedimentation coming out of the river and how we go about putting together a program for some extraction. They have gotten our federal legislators in place in support. Adam Kinzinger is writing a couple of letters of support and his staff is out looking for some programs that they can use to help enhance some of the projects that they want to put forward. They have all the communities looking now more at the river as part as their economic development program. Through the Planning Department, they are going to be putting forth a scanning process where they look at the most practical and obvious areas for commercial development that they can find along the river. They had very good success in terms of the newspaper reporting on the event. Last week there was an editorial that suggested that the river needs to be used more aggressively in a commercial basis.

Mr. James stated that it was an excellent program but it was too long and covered too many aspects of the river.

Mr. Van Mill stated that there was an agenda and people could attend the presentations that interested them. They received a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources worth \$1200 and some local agencies are coming forward with grant funds.

Mr. Washington stated that he enjoyed the program and thought that it was very informative.

Mr. Van Mill showed the video to the committee.

Mr. Olthoff asked if the Iroquois River is contributing more to sediment than what Indiana is.

Mr. James stated that he was involved in the first study done on the river and he was told that the basic reason for the color difference is the fact that the sediment side of the Iroquois is basically clay and it is lighter and stays suspended and flows through the system but the Kankakee is made up of basic sand which is heavier which we use for filtering which is why we have clearer water in the Kankakee River compared to the Iroquois.

Mr. Arseneau asked if he has been able to talk to Congressman Kinzinger and our neighboring congressman over in Indiana about this issue regarding the river.

Mr. Van Mill stated that they met with Kinzinger's office and have indicated to him that there needs to be a partnership there. They were going to go back and see who the congressmen on the Indiana side are. Congressman Kinzinger is in the process of writing a letter that supports our initiatives. The Army Corp of Engineers have indicated that they are finishing up a study that looks at different options with regards to what can be done and the corresponding impact of those things. Some of the things that would seem to be a benefit would actually create worse problems down the road. They have about 12-14 more months to

complete the study. They have asked Congressman Kinzinger to write a letter encouraging that program to continue and to get completed on time so they can move forward and actually have an action plan in place.

Mr. Arseneau stated that he thinks that everything starts in Indiana so we really need to be going to the people in Indiana and getting them involved in this.

Mr. Van Mill stated that he thinks that is happening. He was encouraged to have four Indiana organizations participate in this event. We have more in common with them than differences. We need to build on the things that we have in common. He thinks that they have been able to build a little bit of a coalition that looks not only at the environmental issues but also at what we can do to maximize its use whether it is with the cities or us encouraging commercial and industrial development, tourism, and recreation. Those things get put on the back burner. They are going to move forward and are going to be talking about strategic areas for resorts now because if we don't start now then when the economy turns we will not be in a position to really highlight those things. The environmental issues have to keep moving forward but we can't lose sight of these other factors.

Mr. Olthoff stated that nature has always eaten in the banks and deposited on the opposite side. We are all part of this and it has to be a mutual effort.

Mr. Washington stated that we need to do something and do it as quickly as we can.

Mr. Olthoff stated that apart from working with Indiana, nothing can be done.

Mr. Washington stated that we have to work with Indiana. Getting the marshland restored will help significantly. In addition to that there may be some method that will trap the sand and maybe we can find money profiting methods of disposing of it.

Mr. Vickery stated that the State has taken a financial risk in investment by moving ahead with purchasing quite a bit of property east of Momence.

Mr. Nixon stated that he thinks Mr. Van Mill has done a great job in building partnerships and that he should keep going with it and they will continue to do what they can to help him.

- **Enterprise U**

Mr. Olthoff stated that this was quite a program and it really got a lot of response from the community.

Mr. Van Mill stated that last Tuesday they had the finals of Enterprise U which is a program that they started at the end of February with the help of Glenn Nixon. He thanked Mr. Nixon for all of his help. They felt the timing in our community was right for a program like this. They had 44 applicants and had huge partnerships, as well. The Community Foundation provided \$3500 of the \$5000 that they gave out in prizes. KCC did all the boot camp classes for individuals who really didn't know how to start a business. They had partnerships with a lot of small businesses who provided free of charge some of their services to the winner. They had a number of events during the last few months. The final eight competed last Tuesday and the judges all came back at the end and said that it was a great program that they were very happy to be part of. Mr. Nixon was on the Review Committee which actually had to review the thousands of pages of business plans and help whittle the 22 plans down to 8. They are going to continue the program annually and are hoping to make it better every year. Hopefully they will get more money because next

year they have plans to get maybe get \$10,000 or \$15,000 so they can give a really good prize. He thanked everyone who helped make it a success.

- **Solid Waste Plan – Update (copy on web-site <http://planning.k3county.net>)**

Mr. Van Mill stated that this is the other thing that they did this month and it is out to the Regional Planning Commission for review and it is posted on our website, also.

- **Zoning Board of Appeals – Reappointment of Ed Meents**
- **Zoning Board of Appeals – Reappointment of Bill Hemm**

Mr. Vickery made a motion to combine and approve the above reappointments and Mr. Washington seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

- **Zoning Board of Appeals – Appointment**

They are still working on filling this opening.

- **Historic Preservation Commission – Reappointment of Dr. Jim Paul**
- **Board of Examiners & Appeals – Reappointment of Terry Vaughn**

Mr. Nixon made a motion to combine and approve the above two reappointments and Mr. Washington seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

- **Board of Examiners & Appeals – Reappointment/Appointment**

Mr. Van Mill stated that there two positions open on the Board of Examiners & Appeals, one for an architect and one for a residential contractor. This committee does not meet very often but they update the building codes to bring them into compliance with updated technology and if someone in the field does not agree with the decision of the building official they can take that appeal to this group, as well. The make-up of this committee must have diverse expertise.

7. Transportation

- **Contract with IDOT (MPO)**

Mr. Lammey stated that every year since 1983 they have had a contract with IDOT for their transportation planning program (MPO) and the amount this year is \$197,514. He is looking for the committee to authorize the county board chairman to sign that contract.

Mr. Hess made a motion to authorize the county board chairman to sign the contract with IDOT and Mr. Washington seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

- **Program with IDOT for State Metro Planning Funds**

Mr. Lammey stated that they did not find out until a couple weeks ago that they were going to get this \$45,000. They have four programs that they would like to have considered. The first two of which are in draft contracts with the Village of Bradley for the intersection design for Industrial Drive and Route 50. This will allow trucks, that now sit on Route 50 waiting to unload, to park on a road off of Route 50. They have shown the Village of Bradley the draft contract. The second project is in downtown Kankakee. There are a number of off-street parking lots near us that are old and dilapidated and need to be designed as parking lots. He has included a draft contract in today's packet. They would also like to update their transportation brochure. He is asking the for the committee's concurrence in the program and for the committee to

authorize the chairman to sign the contracts with the Village of Bradley and the City of Kankakee and with IDOT when it come in.

Mr. Washington made a motion to approve pending changes that may occur and Mr. James seconded it. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays.

- **Program with IDOT for Rural Transportation Planning Funding**

Mr. Lammey stated that they found out two weeks ago that this money was available - \$15,009. The program is basically about freight movement, mostly trucks through Kankakee County and mostly through the eastern portion of the county, in conjunction with the Illiana study. There are some rail planning efforts in it also. He is asking for the committee's concurrence in the program before they send it to IDOT.

Mr. Vickery made a motion to approve and Mr. Hess seconded it. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays.

- **Illiana Study**

Mr. Lammey stated that there have been a couple of meetings held. Every meeting that they have now is held in Illinois and then in Indiana the day after and they take turns with who goes first each time. It is interesting to hear what other people have as their priorities on this project. He thinks all of them have freight and movement issues the same as we do. The website is listed on the documents he handed out and he encourages the committee to sign up on the mailing list to receive information. Everyone is welcome to attend the public hearings which will generally be held at Governor's State or at the old Holiday Inn in Mattson. They are trying to get one of the meetings held down here but are not having too much luck so far. It is a two year study.

Mr. Olthoff asked if the board will be notified of the meetings.

Mr. Lammey stated that they will let the county board members know as soon as they know. The next stakeholder's meeting is July 12 at 2:00. The committee members are welcome to attend.

Mr. Hess asked if Indiana has any other routes that they are looking at.

Mr. Lammey stated that there is a concern about that; it will be interesting to see what happens. They are not at the route stage yet.

Mr. Vickery asked if it would help to do a traffic study down through Momence.

Mr. Lammey stated that they will make sure that they are aware of the situation in Momence.

8. Old Business

9. New Business

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 a.m. was made by Mr. Hess and seconded by Ms. McBride. Motion carried.

Planning, Zoning, and Agriculture
Committee Meeting
June 27, 2011

Bill Olthoff, Chairman
Joanne Langlois, Executive Coordinator