

Minutes of the Land Use and Development Committee Meeting

The Land Use and Development Committee of the McLean County Board met on Thursday March 4, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Gordon, Members Erickson, Buchanan, Brandt, Wendt

Members Absent: Member Pyne

Other Board Members Present:

Staff Present: Ms. Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator, Mr. Mark Messman, Assistant State's Attorney, Ms. Diana Hospelhorn, Recording Secretary

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present: Mr. Phil Dick, Director of Building and Zoning,

Others Present: Mr. Mike Behary, County Planner, Mr. Michael Brown, Director of Ecology Action Center.

Chairman Gordon called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. He presented the bills from February 28, 2014 which have been reviewed and recommended for transmittal to the Land Use and Development Committee by the County Auditor. The prepaid total and fund total for December 31, 2013 is \$947.67. He asked for any objections to the bills.

Motion by Brandt/Wendt to recommend approval of the Land Use and Development Committee Bills for February 28, 2014.
Motion carried.

Chairman Gordon presented the request by the McLean County Solid Waste Management Technical Committee to approve a Resolution for the following items:

- 1) \$500 for a Municipal Recycling Grant for Colfax
- 2) \$500 for a Municipal Recycling Grant for Heyworth
- 3) \$16,000 for a Household Battery Recycling Grant administered by the Ecology Action Center (EAC)

He invited Mr. Michael Brown, Director of the Ecology Action Center, to address the Committee.

Mr. Brown stated that the EAC has offered Municipalities Grants for years. He added that the EAC is trying to phase out the program due to reduced revenue. Landfill tipping fees have declined and the Landfill is anticipated to close in a few more years. Adjustments to the Grant have been made. Only new recycling programs are supported by the Grant. As a result we have seen some reduced participation.

Mr. Brown advised that the Household Battery Recycling Program is a popular program. In 2013, 27,000 lbs. of household batteries were recycled. He stated that the \$16,000 is the usual amount requested to continue funding the program.

Mr. Wendt asked the amount of money collected by the tipping fees. Ms. Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator, responded that the 2014 expected revenue was budgeted for \$160,000. As of June 2013 we had collected \$64,000 in tipping fees. An expected average for the year is \$100,000.

Mr. Brown noted that McLean County waste can go to either the McLean County Landfill or to Livingston County Landfill. Revenue is collected only when the waste goes to McLean County Landfill.

Mr. Wendt asked if the new paint recycling plan goes into effect; will the money generated go to the County? Mr. Brown responded that this type of program has been successful in Illinois with the electronics EWAYS Program. The program includes a small additional fee when the paint is purchased. How the system is set up to accept the returned paint for safe, legal disposal is not clear. He stated that he does support the Legislation. The program would save the County significant money with the Household Hazardous Waste Collection events. Paint is the single largest cost for the event.

Chairman Gordon asked if the \$16,000 battery recycling grant is a standard, consistent annual amount. Mr. Brown advised that it is a standard amount asked for about once a year however; when the money is gone additional funding is requested. There have been incidences when twice within a fiscal year the grant has been requested. The

\$16,000 may not last the entire year. Prorated for the annual cost, the amount would be slightly more than the \$16,000.

Chairman Gordon asked if the Small Municipality Recycling Grants are being completely phased out. Mr. Brown confirmed that the EAC is phasing out the Small Municipality Recycling Grants. Initially they were needed to help get recycling programs going. Many municipalities now have their own recycling programs. The Grants have served their purpose.

Mr. Dick added that the Solid Waste Technical Committee decided to no longer fund existing programs. Only new programs will be funded. Mr. Brown advised that Colfax is adding curbside recycling and Heyworth is adding brush and yard collection. They are both new programs.

Motion by Erickson/Brandt to recommend approval of the request by the McLean County Solid Waste Management Technical Committee to approve a Resolution for the following items:

- 1) \$500 for a Municipal Recycling Grant for Colfax
- 2) \$500 for a Municipal Recycling Grant for Heyworth
- 3) \$16,000 for a Household Battery Recycling Grant administered by the Ecology Action Center (EAC)

Chairman Gordon presented the Items for Information;

- 1) Ecology Action center Solid Waste and Recycling Education 2013 Third Quarter Report.
- 2) Ecology Action center Solid Waste and Recycling Education 2013 Fourth Quarter Report.
- 3) Ecology Action center Solid Waste and Recycling Education 2013 Annual Report.

The reports detail efforts by the Ecology Action Center to provide solid waste and waste reduction services to residents of McLean County, the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal from July 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013 and from October 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. The activities include events, educational programs, public presentations, small grant programs through the Solid Waste Technical Committee, operation of the information center 40 hours a week, and promotion of recycling programs throughout the County.

The 2013 Ecology Action Center Solid Waste and Recycling Education Annual Report shows activities to complete the fulfillment of the Solid Waste and Waste Reduction Education Program Agreement of January 1, 2013 including;

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- Solid Waste Coordinator Activities

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- Bloomington Outreach
- Normal Outreach
- McLean County Outreach

Mr. Wendt asked if there are statutes that allow the County to address abandoned homes or buildings in the unincorporated areas of McLean County. Ms. Eisner responded that Counties and Townships do have the authority to compel the demolition of properties. The procedure requires that a;

- notice be sent to the owner to take care of the problem before the County is forced to do so
- File a suit to compel the demolition
- Order the demolition and/or do the demolition
- Place a lien on property to cover the cost of demolition

Ms. Eisner reported that the County has been in contact with the owners of the specific property Mr. Wendt is referring to.

Mr. Wendt would like to see the County continue to pursue contact with the property owner. He is concerned for the safety of the public. Ms. Eisner responded that Mr. Pablo Eves has sent letters to the owners. The goal is to give the property owners a deadline after the weather conditions improve. The hope is that they will demolish the structure on their own. She will keep Mr. Wendt updated on the progress.

Mr. Erickson reported that the Town of Normal held a conference in regards to the Landfill and Dewitt County. He noted that a thought was noted that the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington have joined with other Government entities to raise a potential legal issue. If this issue were to come before the County Board, would it come to the Land Use and Development Committee? Ms. Eisner responded that she believes it would come to the Executive Committee.

Chairman Gordon stated that the next Land Use and Development Committee Meeting will be April 3, 2014

Chairman Gordon asked if there was any other information to come before the Committee. Hearing none, he adjourned the Land Use and Development Committee Meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Hospelhorn
Recording Secretary