

Minutes of the Land Use and Development Committee Meeting

The Land Use and Development Committee of the McLean County Board met on Thursday March 3, 2011 at 4:45 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Members Segobiano, Cavallini, Wendt and Soeldner

Members Absent: Chairman Gordon

Other Board Members Present: None

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, Assistant County Administrator, Ms. Diana Hospelhorn, Recording Secretary, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads/ Mr. Phil Dick, Director of Building and Zoning, Mr. Michael Brown, Director of Ecology Action Center.

Elected Officials
Present:

Others Present: None

Vice Chairman Segobiano called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. Chairman Gordon presented the Minutes of the February 3, 2011 Land Use and Development Meeting to the Committee for approval. He asked for any additions or corrections, hearing none he declared the February 3, 2011 Minutes approved as presented.

Vice Chairman Segobiano presented the bills from February 28, 2011 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 February 28, 2011 is \$775.55. He asked for a motion to approve the bills as presented by the County Auditor.

Motion by Cavallini/Soeldner to recommend approval of the February 28, 2011 bills as presented by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Segobiano informed the Committee that the first Item for Action is a Resolution from the McLean County Solid Waste Management Technical Committee requesting approval to fund \$13,000 for the ongoing electronics recycling program and \$2,800 in recycling grants for McLean County Schools. Vice Chairman Segobiano invited Mr. Michael Brown, Director of the Ecology Action Center, to address the Committee.

Mr. Brown presented the funding recommendations of the Solid Waste Management Technical Committee.

- Residential Electronics Recycling Program administered by the Town of Normal - \$13,000.
- School Recycling Grants for the following schools:
 - Colene Hoose Elementary - \$900.00
 - Lexington Elementary - \$1,000.00
 - Sheridan Elementary - \$900.00

Mr. Wendt asked for an explanation to the Program and asked how funding is received. Mr. Brown responded that the Electronics Recycling Program is administered and coordinated by the Town of Normal. He stated that the program is funded through the Solid Waste Fund from the tipping fees received from the Landfill. The \$13,000 cost is a reduction from last year's \$20,000 cost. Mr. Brown noted that it is an ongoing very successful program. Last year over 200 tons of various electronics were recycled.

Mr. Soeldner asked if the Town of Normal or the City of Bloomington is contributing to the Electronic Recycling Program. Mr. Brown noted that they do not commit dollars to the program; however there is staff time involved. He added that the Education Recycling Grants are also funded by the Solid Waste Fund. Mr. Brown advised that the City of Bloomington is seeking to supplement the program with an occasional one day public event allowing McLean County residence to drop off electronics for recycling.

Mr. Cavallini asked how the schools were chosen for the grant funding and how the amount is determined. Mr. Brown responded that the Grant Program announcement is sent to all the McLean County Schools. The applications received are reviewed by the Solid Waste Technical Committee. The Committee is looking for programs that will help promote recycling or promote education on recycling. The three schools that applied this year all received the Grant.

Vice Chairman Segobiano pointed out that the recycling programs would maybe be more successful if they were more publicized. Mr. Brown responded that the Town of Normal does not directly do marketing of the Electronic Recycling Program. He added that more awareness of all the recycling programs is needed. The Ecology Action Center is doing what it can to make the public more aware of the recycling programs available.

Mr. Wendt asked the total amount of money created annually by the tipping fees. Mr. Wasson, Assistant County Administrator reported that \$170,000 is budgeted for revenue and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2011.

Mr. Soeldner noted that the County is fortunate to have a working Electronic Recycling Program that is only costing \$13,000.

Motion by Wendt/Cavallini to recommend approval of resolution from the McLean County Solid Waste Management Technical Committee requesting approval to fund \$13,000 for the ongoing electronics recycling program and \$2,800 in recycling grants for McLean County Schools.
Motion Carried.

Vice Chairman Segobiano stated that the first Item for Information is the Ecology Action Center Quarterly Solid Waste Report for the third and fourth quarter 2010.

Mr. Brown referred the Committee to the 2010 McLean County Solid Waste Program / Recycling Education Report. Mr. Brown reviewed the Ecology Action Center Third and Fourth Quarter Solid Waste Report. He stated that the report details 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, 2010 through December

, 2010. 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. He pointed out the Household Battery Recycling Program continues to grow.

Vice Chairman Segobiano asked if there was going to be a one day event to recycle hazardous waste. Mr. Brown stated that it has been three years since the Community has had a hazardous waste collection event. These events, though partially supported locally, are funded by the State of Illinois. The entire fund has been cut. We have no idea if and when the Illinois Department of Protection Agency will resume their funding. He added that the cost of a one day event for a community of our size is \$100,000. Mr. Brown pointed out that the Solid Waste Technical Committee has started to investigate alternatives; a permanent collection facility or finding other funding for a one day event. Our application is on file with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. He reported that alternatives to the hazardous wastes are being promoted. Disposal of hazardous waste requires specialized trained certified personnel. Disposal costs are also very high.

Mr. Soeldner thanked Mr. Brown for the fine job the Ecology Action Center does.

Vice Chairman Segobiano asked if there were any questions on the Quarterly Reports, hearing none, he thanked Mr. Brown.

Vice Chairman Segobiano asked Mr. Phil Dick, Director of Building and Zoning to expand on Special Use Oil Drilling Permit that appeared in the Pantagraph. He noted that the article quoted Mr. Dick as saying he could issue a permit.

Mr. Dick informed the Committee that an oil company was interested in drilling in McLean County. The County Zoning Ordinance currently requires that a Special Use Permit requiring a public hearing would be needed. The oil company did not like the special use process and proposed a text amendment to allow oil drilling as a permitted use. Mr. Dick found there have been issues with Hydraulic Fracturing in other states. Hydraulic Fracturing is, under high pressure, large volumes of water and other chemicals are put into the ground 8-10 thousand feet below the surface to loosen gas and oil deposits. The deposits are removed from the ground and onto the surface, treated and hauled away. This has caused problems with pollution of ground water supplies. States including Illinois are in the process of updating regulations to require testing of the pressure and safety precautions to protect the water aquifers. He advised that in 2005 oil and gas drilling became exempt from the Clean Water Act. He pointed out the Zoning Ordinance allows drilling if it does not involve Hydraulic Fracturing. Mr. Dick wanted to hold the text amendment until the state adopts its new rules. The applicant did not want to wait and withdrew their application.

Mr. Dick stated that his office can only assist parties in preparing applications. The Zoning Board of Appeals makes the decision based on input from the public and information from the applicant.

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The Zoning board of Appeals then makes a recommendation to the County Board. He stated that Building and Zoning does not have the authority to issue a permit.

Mr. Wendt stated that the paper quoted Mr. Dick incorrectly saying he was able to issue the permit.

Mr. Cavallini asked if this type of application would come before the Land Use and Development Committee. Mr. Dick responded that zoning issues that have to do with a Special Use Permit, rezoning, or a Text Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance goes to the Zoning Board and then to the County Board. Anything having to do with subdivisions will come before the Land Use and Development Committee.

Chairman Gordon asked if there was any other information to come before the Committee.

Motion by Cavallini/Wendt to Adjourn the
March 1, 2011 Land Use and Development
Committee Meeting.
Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Segobiano adjourned the Committee Meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Hospelhorn
Recording Secretary