

FORD COUNTY BOARD MINUTES
April 11, 2011

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The County Board of Ford County met pursuant to adjournment in the Ford County Board Room of the Ford County Jail in Paxton on Monday, April 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman, Rick Bowen.

B. ROLL CALL:

The roll call showed the following board members in attendance: Bob Lindgren, Pat Haskins, Tom McQuinn, Jason Johnson, Randy Ferguson, Richard Hewerdine, Randy Berger, Gene May, Floyd Otto, Tim Nuss, Elynor Stagen and Rick Bowen.

C. PROCLAMATION:

Chairman Bowen

D. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION:

Floyd Otto

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Berger moved that the March 14, 2011 minutes be approved (upon correction in the first paragraph of the Chairman's report, "AME Gasification" should be changed to "AFE Gasification"). Mr. Otto seconded it. Voice Vote - Carried

F. COMMUNICATIONS:

G. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Mr. William Wetzel, representing Erica Brewer, the owner of farm property adjacent to the proposed location of the ECO plant in Gibson City, is concerned about the negative consequences from this project. His letter to the chairman and board stressed the importance of the "Host Agreement" and to be attentive to every aspect within the agreement. He advised the board to hire an independent attorney to go over the agreement. He said that the board has only one opportunity to get the agreement right in regard to financial benefits to the county, safety, etc.

Mr. Rich Porter read a letter that he wrote to Mr. Bowen which will be in the Paxton Record, in regard to the wind farm project. He stressed issues such as set backs and proximity to non-participating properties, property value protection for homes and inadequate funds and insurance mechanisms.

Gregg Phillips encouraged everyone to read all the new updates and information in regard to the wind farms.

Erica Brewer told the board that they have every right to have an independent engineer or developer to help with the Eco "Host Agreement" and encouraged them to do so.

Cindy Ihrke encouraged the board to review the facts and to stop and rework the ordinance in regard to the wind farms.

Ann Ihrke informed the board that no one wants to live in an industrial park. Once the wind farms are erected, it is too late. She urged them to not be rushed into it.

Leonard Spencer said that his property will be surrounded by the proposed ECO plant on 3 sides. He and his wife, Judy, are concerned about their well water, livestock, truck traffic and noise. They do not want to live in an industrial park.

Darrell Foster asked if the County could be fair and impartial when signing the wind farm contract. "Can the County Board guarantee that the property will not decrease in value? How many constituents would it take to change a board member's mind?"

Tom Harrison urged the members to take more time to think and talk to people about the wind farm proposal. The board members have many people's future in their hands. He urged each board member to sit down in quiet time and consider if they are making the right decision.

Dale Huston, from Springfield, has the same concerns that Mr. Wetzal has in regard to the ECO "Host Agreement".

Joy Porter read the proposed resolution written to the state in regard to the Health Alliance issue. She asked if the state really cares? She said that's the way they feel in regard to the wind farm and ECO issues. "Does the county board really care?" She asked that the board reconsider and change the current siting policy in regard to the wind farms. She asked that the board not trash the county.

Chairman Bowen thanked everyone for their input.

H. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Mr. Otto moved to accept the monthly reports of the County Clerk, Coroner, Supervisor of Assessments, EMS, Zoning, Sheriff, and Highway and to place them on file. Mrs. Haskins seconded it. Voice Vote – Carried

I. REPORT OF PROBATION OFFICER:

Mrs. Morris was not in attendance.

J. REPORT OF CIRCUIT CLERK:

Mrs. Evans reported that she passed 2 out of 3 tests that are required for the county to comply with FEMA.

K. REPORT OF THE TREASURER:

Treasurer Hastings was not in attendance.

Mr. Berger moved to approve the Probation, Circuit Clerk and Treasurers reports and to place them on file. Mr. McQuinn seconded it. Voice Vote – Carried

L. OPPORTUNITY FOR DEPARTMENT HEADS TO ADDRESS BOARD:

Clerk Kellerhals thanked everyone who helped with the April 5, 2011 election. The election went very smoothly, thanks to everyone's help.

M. CHAIRMAN REPORT:

Mr. Bowen reported that he spent most of his time with the wind farm and the road agreement. He attended the WIA meeting and informed the board that the unemployment figures are slowly going down.

N. VERBAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Environment

2. Finance

Mrs. Stagen moved to approve payment of the General Fund bills.

Mr. Berger seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous

The extension office has requested a \$50,000 levy request for the 2012 budget.

Mrs. Stagen moved to approve the \$50,000 levy for the extension. Mr. May seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous

Mrs. Stagen moved to approve **Resolution 11-20 (to participate in the service program of the Office State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor)**. Mr. Ferguson seconded it. Roll Call – Unanimous

Mrs. Stagen moved to approve **Resolution 11-21 (opposing the elimination of Health Alliance from the State Contract)**. Mrs. Haskins seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous

3. Highway

Mr. Otto moved to approve payment of the Highway bills. Mr. Lindgren seconded the motion.

Roll Call – 11 yeas; 1 absention;
(Mr. May abstained)

4. Insurance /Personnel

Mr. McQuinn and Clerk Kellerhals are meeting with an insurance company tomorrow.

5. Overview/Legislation

The committee met with the Public Building Commission and checked out a couple of possible places that were available for county office

6. Sheriff

Mrs. Haskins moved to approve payment of the Sheriff, County Housing ESDA & Coroner bills. Mr. McQuinn seconded the motion,

Roll Call – Unanimous

7. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Berger moved that the written and verbal reports of the committees be accepted as presented and placed on file. Mr. Otto seconded the motion.

Voice Vote - Carried

O. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS:

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| 1. Mobile Region 8 | Sheriff Doran |
| 2. Union Affairs | Mrs. Haskins |
| 3. Eastern Illinois Economic Development Authority | Mrs. Stagen |
| 4. 708 Board | Mr. Berger |
| Discussed cuts at Prairie Center. | |
| Mr. Berger also talked about the contract with Showbus in regard to a city route | |
| 5. WIA | Mr. Bowen |
| 6. Ford-Iroquois Board of Health | Mrs. Stagen |
| 7. Regional Office of Education | Mr. Bowen |
| 8. Community Economic Development Foundation | Mr. Ferguson |
| 9. 9-1-1 | Mr. Johnson |
| 10. I.H.R. & CD | Mr. Bowen |
| 11. Zoning | Mr. Johnson |
| 12. CIRMA | Mr. Bowen |
| 13. Extension | Mr. Hastings |
| Held a 4-H auction at Woodworth. Made \$2,100. Premiums for 4-H fair will be paid by the state. | |
| 14. E.M. A. | Mr. Higgins |

P. OLD BUSINESS:

None

Q. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

R. NEW BUSINESS:

After discussion was held about the Host Agreement, the board members felt confident in taking a vote.

Mr. Ferguson moved to approve the “Host Agreement”. Mr. Nuss seconded it.

Roll Call Unanimous

S. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

T. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Otto moved to adjourn; Mr. Berger seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 8:35 P.M.

U. PROCLAMATION

Sheriff Doran

The next monthly meeting will be Monday, May 9, 2011 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Kellerhals
County Clerk

Approved: _____