

ENVIRONMENTAL, ZONING, WELFARE AND LEGISLATIVE

April 5, 2011

Present: Laura Wilkinson, Chairman
Marilyn Voggetzer Tony Woods
Carol Foli Greg Hager

Absent: none

Others present: Cliff Frye, Joelynda Conrad, Brett Rahar, Pana Mayor Steve Sipes,
Tom Lacy, Joe Marley, John Curtin and Jan Bland.

The meeting of the Environmental/Zoning/Welfare/Legislative Committee was called to order with a quorum in attendance on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 6:30 pm at the Christian County Courthouse to discuss all matters properly brought before the committee.

Pana Mayor Steve Sipes asked the Committee to review terms and financial commitment of concerning the intergovernmental agreement relating to animal control services. This agreement was discussed in August of 2010 and signed in October of 2010. Issues and problems from both sides were discussed including Pana not having the ability to hold animals for the required 24 hour timeframe, the inability for Pana to drop off animals during weekends and holidays. Joelynda expressed concerns regarding sick and violent animals being dropped off. Various suggestions and brainstorming was done and it was determined that Mayor Sipes, Joelynda, and possibly the Illinois Department of Agriculture would continue discussions and report back to the Committee next month with a potential resolution.

Mayor Sipes commented that the recycling containers might need to be pulled more often. Greg Hager had been watching the site and thought the site was doing better. They will consult with Joe Stepping, if the problem continues.

On March 11, 2011 Tom Lacy, Chairman of the Christian County Historic Preservation Commission sent a letter to Chairman Curtin to request amending the Historic Preservation Ordinance O2007 CB 007 passed in October of 2009 and amended in December of 2009 by doing the following things:

1. Amend the language on page 10, to read “if the Commission decides that the landmark should be designated, it should do so by a resolution cast by a majority of the Commission and approved by the owner(s).”
2. Amend the language on page 13 to read “if the Commission decides that the proposed historic district should be designated, it shall do so by a resolution passed by a majority of the Commission and approved by no less than 51% of property owners and/or leaseholders.”
3. The entire section entitled “fees and Penalties” found on page 21 of the ordinance should be excluded or deleted.

[The entire letter is attached.]

Chairman Curtin commented, “It was never the County Board’s intent, but was left in order to comply with state regulations.” The question has been to change the ordinance

or not enforce it. Mr. Lacy told the Committee that the commissioners have wrestled with the idea since the inception. A motion was made by Tony Woods and seconded by Marilyn Vogettzer to make the modifications and amend the ordinance as recommended by the commissioners. The motion carried. Additionally, Attorney Lacy should write to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency to notify them of the changes to be made and if these proposed changes would violate any primary purpose of the ordinance to notify us immediately.

Zoning Officer Brett Rahar presented the Committee with a new Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Christian County currently has an existing Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, which was put into place in 1993. Recently, new maps have been made and changes were made in the boundaries of the 100 year flood plain. In order for homeowners to be eligible for flood insurance, the County must enact this new ordinance prior to June 16, 2011. This applies to unincorporated areas in the County. A motion was made by Greg Hager and seconded by Carol Foli to recommend to the full Board to rescind the 1993 ordinance and adopt the new proposed ordinance. The motion carried.

Cliff Frye offered discussion regarding House Bill 805. This pending legislation gives several counties (Christian County included) the ability to regulate the spreading of sludge. The regulations could include how, where, changes and fees. This was just for discussion as no law as been enacted as yet.

A letter and resolution was received from the Regional Superintendent of Schools Greg Springer for the County Board to take into consideration a resolution objecting to the State's proposed elimination of funding for the Regional Offices of Education. No action was taken.

After the census figures have been taken, reapportionment of voting districts can be done and must be reviewed by population. Christian County's numbers are well under the 5% difference requiring action. Any action must be passed by the July Board meeting and filed with the County Clerk. The Committee discussed the issues and whether to make any changes to the number of county board members or the boundaries of the county board districts. It is their general opinion not to make any changes. They would like any comments and opinions from the rest of the board members prior to next month's committee meeting.

In the committee's review, it was noted that in 2002 there was a reduction of county board members from 21 to 16 and the voting districts were reduced from seven to four.

A motion was made by Marilyn Voggettzer and seconded by Greg Hager to adjourn. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Wilkinson, Chairwoman
Environmental Committee

