

LAW & LEGAL

February 6, 2023

The Law & Legal Committee held its monthly meeting on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the McDonough County Courthouse, Courtroom 201. Committee Members present included Committee Chair Joe Erlandson, Vice Chair Ken Durkin, Eric Blakeley, Eric Chapman, Letha Clark, Travis Hiel, Michael Kirby and Terra Litchfield. Other persons in attendance were State's Attorney Matt Kwacala, Patrick Stout, Tim Lobdell, Ric Smart, Deborah Cousins, Sheriff Nick Petitgout, County Chair Scott Schwerer, County Clerk Gretchen DeJaynes, and several members from the community.

Chair Erlandson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Review & Approve January 9, 2023 Minutes

Member Durkin moved with a second by Member Chapman to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Waste Management Update

Report received and filed.

Tri-County Recycling

Tim Lobdell gave the report.

Veteran's Assistance and Van Report

Ric Smart gave the report. Eleven Veterans were given assistance in January. Total assistance amounted to \$2,660.76, and one veteran was given assistance in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the grant fund.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Nick Petitgout gave the report. Petitgout informed the Committee that they have purchased a new car, and that a Deputy was involved in an accident that resulted in a fatality.

Assessor's Office Update

Assessor Deborah Cousins gave the report. Taxes were rolled on January 10th and exemption sheets have been sent.

Wind Farm Ordinance Amendment to be in Compliance with Public Act 102-1123

Chair Erlandson gave an overview of the new State Wind Farm Legislation. The deadline to pass a new ordinance is May 27th, 2023.

CO2 Pipeline Discussion

Chair Erlandson gave an overview of the actions that the County Board has taken so far. State's Attorney Matt Kwacala does not believe that we should discuss the matter until the court case is officially withdrawn. Kwacala also stated that he did not think this should have been put on the agenda. Chair Erlandson stated that he supported the original discussion to oppose the pipeline.

Claims Review and Approval

Member Litchfield moved with a second by Member Blakeley to approve the claims as submitted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Other

None

Executive Session

None

Public Comment

A Union rep for 649 Operators and 231 Laborers informed the Committee that they stand beside Navigator on the CO2 Pipeline, several Union members spoke and stated that they are in favor of the pipeline. Several people spoke in opposition of the pipeline, they are concerned about the safety of the pipeline and the lack of need for it.

County Board Chair Comments

The Governor has declared that the Covid Declaration will be ending on May 27th.

Adjourn

Member Chapman moved with a second by Member Hiel to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote.