

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

State of Illinois)
)SS
County of Boone)

Boone County Board
6th day December Session
May 12, 2016

The County Board of Boone County in the State of Illinois convened in special session at the county Board Room at the Boone County Administration Campus in the City of Belvidere in Boone County on Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 6:00pm pursuant to adjournment of the County Board Meeting April 20, 2016.

The Board was called to order by the Chairman and he announced the passing of Board Member, Craig Schultz. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and an invocation was given by Ken Terrononi. The Chairman then called for a moment of silence to honor Mr. Schultz.

Members Present:

Bob Walberg, Chairman

Karl Johnson, Vice Chairman

Sherry Branson-entered at 6:05pm

Jeffrey Carlisle

Denny Ellingson

Ken Freeman

Sherry Giesecke-entered at 6:35pm

Raymond Larson

Cory Lind

Brad Stark

Cathy Ward

AGENDA

Motion by Brad Stark and second by Jeff Carlisle to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Walberg explained about people invited to the event: legislators, congressmen, township supervisors and other organizations. Legislators were unable to attend, as they had session in Springfield the next day.

The following spoke regarding the Great Lakes Basin Railroad:

Don Ellingson: 4996 Poplar Grove Rd, Poplar Grove

Scott Fowler: 9100 Rt 76, Belvidere

Chip Franson: 8753 Quail Dr, Belvidere - received letter from George Roadcap, PHD, a hydrogeologist with State of Illinois-his well and area around Spring Township susceptible to chemical permeation-letter given to

Toria Funderburg: 8700 Summerset Dr, Belvidere - urged to write to State of Illinois Legislators to persuade them to not allow eminent domain.

Chairman Walberg called for any of the township supervisors to speak...none.

INVITED GUEST SPEAKERS

Congressman Adam Kinsinger's Field Rep, John Walsh, wrote an email in response to invitation to meeting. Ken Terrenoni read the email. Powerpoint to be added to website regarding the STB, and no congressional jurisdiction over the Board. The Board is appointed by the President.

Julie Newhouse: 13407 Capron Rd, Capron - spoke on behalf of the Winnebago Boone Farm Bureau-submitted a document with questions and concerns regarding the GLBR. They did vote against the project and against the eminent domain.

Chairman Walberg showed appreciation to the Winnebago Boone County Farm Bureau and their support. The Bureau engaged their legal department and showed great insight.

Dan Kane, Boone County Conservation District Executive Director, presented the Boone County Board with a map and 7 page letter to STB, along with a key to understanding the map. The map assesses known species of concern.

DEPARTMENT HEAD SPEAKERS

Sheriff Dave Ernest spoke on behalf of the Public Safety Committee. He said there is nothing beneficial for Boone County with the GLBR. Manpower, response times and proximity to emergency hazardous material and increased accidents are all concerns.

Brad Bartell, Fire District #2 Chief and Boone County Emergency Management-response times, planning for unknown (how many trains), too few bridges included in plan, too many variables to predict cost for disasters all concerns.

Chairman Walberg commended the Boone County residents and Board for research and awareness. Our website contains a lot of information. Other counties passing or recently passed resolutions in response to GLBR. Letters from three local Granges submitted to website as well. Chairman Walberg called for Boone County Board committee members to speak.

Administrative & Legislative-Sherry Gieseke

- Liability due to LLC Structure
- Economic viability of the County
- Inability to furnish infrastructure
- Rail line route alternatives
- Social aspects

Roads & Capital Improvement-Brad Stark

- Right of Way protection
- Water drainage and road protection/damaged infrastructure
- Roads impacted/closed
- Travel impact and route relocation
- Impact on public/school bus routes

Planning, Zoning, Building-Denny Ellingson

- Impact on Comprehensive Plan
- Reduction of prime agricultural land
- Productivity loss to farmers

- Impact on Conservation District, shallow water tables
- Cost & placement of emergency structures

Health & Human Services-Jeff Carlisle

- Geology, surface soil, Troy Bedrock Valley
- Conservation areas
- Reference water management studies (wells, exposure and possibilities, water shed)
- Aquifers, surface springs
- Impact on neighboring schools

Public Safety- Ray Larson

- Response times for first responders
- Necessary response equipment
- Cost of public safety, inability to staff
- Decline of homeowner insurance fire ratings
- Derailment scenarios, pipeline safety, utility line impacts
- Noise/safety barriers?

Finance-Karl Johnson

- Impact on property values
- Real Estate tax gain
- Financial viability of enterprise
- What guarantees do we have money will be there for repairs?

City County Coordinating-Cathy Ward-wants strong objection resolution passed by Board

- Shared list of concerns from City/County meeting
- Concern from foreign investment
- Concern for the Sandwich Fault Line
- City Council and Mayor Chamberlain opposed to proposition

Chairman Walberg asked if any of public had any more concerns not previously covered.

Scott Fowler spoke with concern of livestock and additional land taken by construction for overpasses.

Board member, Cory Lind, expressed concern for noise barriers and barriers to guard against derailment. Added to list above for the Public Safety concerns.

Board member Sherry Branson discussed information she received from Richard C Berg, director of Il Dept of Energy and Natural Resources State Geological Survey Division. She submitted an overview of his information. He has concerns about GLBR proposal for Boone County. Mr. Berg and Pat Mills willing to help County. Mrs. Branson discussed research and recommended we have means of restrictions if we do have to work with GLBR, and made several recommendations. She also stated that Union Pacific would not be using this railroad.

Chairman Walberg made note that we do not have any proposals in place regarding the proposed route. Then asked for any more public comments.

Lisa Vance, Garden Prairie, spoke regarding motor fuel tax lessened by fewer trucks, not recouped by railroads.

Chairman Walberg summarized that based on the reasons cited by the public and from the committees that the Boone County Board/community oppose this route.

Denny Ellingson referred to a statement from Frank Patton, managing partner of GLBT, he would continue to push the project through, despite County Board's opposition.

Cathy Ward then called for vote to show opposition to proposal.

Chairman Walberg said that would take place during next board meeting, because no motion was published in time to vote on it. Member of public asked if document would be ready by June 15, 2016 deadline. Chairman Walberg said he would like it to be ready and would be a part of the agenda for the next board meeting. Chairman Walberg said Rock County would like to partner with us in our opposition. Two counties going together could show a larger voice.

Cathy Ward asked State's Attorney for ability to have a consensus vote. Yes one can be taken, but no resolution vote. Chairman Walberg said consensus was clear because no one spoke in favor of GLBR.

Denny Ellingson proposed the alternate route that would go through Winnebago by airport to use an existing rail line. Sherry Gieseke agreed using existing rail lines. Chairman Walberg said the STB encourages alternate routes. Ken Freeman questioned Winnebago as alternate route.

County Board members discussed format of document and if it should be called a resolution. Chairman Walberg allowed more public comment from audience. Sherry Branson offered to collect and organize any research from the public.

Karl Johnson expressed concern for Mr. Terrononi and the time frame to get everything finished appropriately. Board members then discussed time frame and format further. Dan Kane indicated that the STB is looking for a certain format.

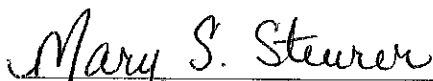
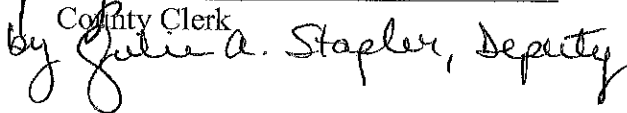
County Engineer Rich Lundin arrived and Chairman Walberg invited his input. He referenced issues regarding the infrastructure of the roads.

Chairman Walberg asked for getting a person to help Mr. Terrononi in putting together the supporting documentation. Mr. Terrononi has requested a proposal.

Chairman Walberg called for motion to adjourn. Motion by Sherry Gieseke and second by Jeff Carlisle to adjourn. Motion carried.


County Board Chairman

Attest:


County Clerk
by , Deputy