Special meeting of the Council of the City of Ottawa, Illinois
Joint Meeting with the Ottawa Plan Commission

Present: Mayor Eschbach, Commissioners Dan Aussem, Dale Baxter, Edward Whitney and Wayne Eichelkraut.

Absent: None.

This special meeting was held by the Council to hold a public hearing on the proposed Annexation Agreement between the City of Ottawa, Archer Daniels Midland Company, and American River Transportation Company.

Bernie Wiler, Michael Davies attorney commented first. He raised the question of the contiguity of the property. He noted that State Statue only refers to rivers with routing from the Mississippi River for contiguity and feels we have no authority to annex.

Peggy Enquist, a South Ottawa Township resident, questioned restrictions for the special use permit. Will the City’s restrictions be as strict as the County’s proposal?

Tracy Yang, of the Sierra Club, claims their attorney requested copies by FOIA of “paperwork”. She would like to comment on the annexation agreement. Noticed the proposed County agreement included a silo for sand.

Beverly Boudrow, wondered if any air quality impact testing had been done and if there would be a separate cover for sand.

At 7:34 p.m. the meeting was turned over to Brent Barron and the Ottawa Plan Commission.

Brett Madison, from ADM, noted that ADM purchased the property in 1956 and in 1957 placed an elevator on the parcel. Parcel 3 might be switched from sand to grain. ADM would accept sand by truck to barge or dump in a pit to a barge. Not corn and beans and sand because different equipment is needed. A building addition of 17 x 30 would be built so that a truck would be completely enclosed. When asked why parcels 1 and 3, the response was that the City asked for it along with a conservation barrier. Truck traffic would be into Parcel 2 or 3. Possible wait time would be 22 minutes. No trucks in the road and no lines. On a busy day, there would be 120 trucks and they are proposing 88 trucks a day with no changes needed from IDOT. Barge hatches would not be open except for the one being loaded. The property is 800 feet from Covel Creek and the dump pit would be enclosed for dust collection purposes. Permits would be required from the Department of Labor, the CORE of Engineers, the Illinois EPA and the Coast Guard.

Peg Kramer of 1441 Route 71 commented first on the proposal. Rita Znaniecki, County Board member, asked about the roads in and out and only on Parcel 2 as Parcel 3 has no transloading. Marv Gronke, who is Peg Kramer’s neighbor, talked about 2 F’s, frustration and futility, and noise, blasting, and dust. Peggy Enquist, added that Mississippi Sand has their permit. Rick Scott, former Fire Chief and former County Board member, said that 88 trucks would be the minimum and 104 might have Class A silica. He also questioned the dust out of the barges. Farley Andrews commented on Cargill, a train loader, traffic issued on Route 71, mooring or stacking of barges in the Illinois River, health issues, mining and transporting. John Stone, Plan Commissioner, wondered about IDOT truck traffic safety and truck stacking on Route 71. Todd Volker, Plan Commissioner, asked about alternate transfer points. Kim Ekena, of ART Company, noted other operations in Toluca and Ransom. Debbie Burns, Plan Commissioner, wondered about a May traffic study. Tracy Yang, asked about barge stacking and a docking width of 2 barges only. She also wondered who controlled the businesses along the river, the Coast Guard? the CORE? Rita Znaniecki, said that the County limited the docking area to 2 barges along Parcel 3. Farley Andrews asked if a pier would be built. Vearl Perry, Plan Commissioner, noted that we have no control over the river. Mike Kasap, County Board member, spoke about economic development and tourism. Debbie Burns, who is also an Ottawa Visitors Center Board member, showed everyone a copy of the latest OVC billboard, claiming Route 71 is the scenic way to Starved Rock. Ashley Williams, read a statement relating to health issues and silica sand. Peggy Enquist,
wondered about truck traffic regulations. Debby Reagan, spoke of sand dust and contiguity. Vearl Perry, questioned if ADM had monitoring reports that they would share. He also asked if a dust sock could be on the barge.

At 9:40 p.m. the Mayor closed the public hearing on the proposed annexation agreement. Written comments will be accepted by the City Clerk until Monday July 1, 2013.

It was moved by Al Howarter and seconded by Vearl Perry that the request from Archer Daniels Midland Company and American River Transportation Company for initial zoning to Class “R-Rural” zoning be approved. All ayes from Plan Commission members.

It was then moved by Al Howarter and seconded by Todd Volker that the meeting be adjourned until Monday, June 24, 2013, for the Plan Commission to continue deliberations. Public hearing items and public comment will not be discussed any further at the adjourned meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly L. Munks
City Clerk