

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
MACON COUNTY BOARD**



**JULY 13, 2023**

**Kevin Greenfield  
Chairman**

**Josh Tanner  
Clerk**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Sheriff and State's Attorney present.

The Roll Call showed all member present with the exception of Mr. Hogan, Mrs. Larner, and Mr. Noland.

Mr. Entler led the members in prayer.

All led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Sheriff Root: Sheriff Root said they wanted to recognize several correctional officers that took part in a lifesaving effort in the Macon County Jail. Sheriff Root stated on May 22, 2023 the Decatur Police Department called the jail to inform them they were bringing a combative subject into the jail that had been pepper sprayed. Due to the subject's combative nature, several Correctional Officers including C/O's Jacob Feser, who was not at the meeting because he is serving in the military, James Davis, Bradley, Jackson, Bronson Dotson, Jackson Whitlock, Zachary Bond, and Clinton Keller, along with the assistance of their nurse Emily Krohn were called to intake in preparation. The inmate was placed on the pat-down wall and searched. Afterwards, C/O's Feser and Davis escorted the inmate back to the dressing room to put on the jail uniform, and during that process the inmate became diaphoretic, fainted and was assisted to the ground by C/O's Clinton Keller and Bronson Dotson. Keller and Dotson rolled the inmate to his side in the recovery position. The inmate became unresponsive, and his breathing slowed. As this happened, Feser requested Nurse Emily Krohn to their location and requested she bring Narcan. Nurse Emily arrived and utilized the jail issued Narcan that C/O James Davis had with him. 911 was subsequently called requesting an ambulance. C/O Zach Bond provided security for the nurse while keeping all the trustees away from the scene. C/O Bradley Jackson assisted with maintaining the inmate's airway by providing the "Head Lift /Tilt Neck" method. While waiting for the ambulance, the inmate needed a second dose of Narcan. Once the EMS arrived, C/O Jackson Whitlock assisted them by helping move inmate onto their stretcher. The inmate was transported to St. Mary's Hospital, and life-saving measures were taken to stabilize him. Hospital staff believed that the quick thinking and sound judgment of the people involved contributed to the lifesaving efforts of this inmate. Sheriff Root said he would like to thank every one of his correctional staff. They provided an excellent job. He said this is an example of what they do every day. He presented each of them with the Life Saving Award issued by the Macon County Sheriff's Office. He thanked all of them for what they do, and said they were definitely as asset to this community. Sheriff Root introduced each recipient to the board: James Davis, who is a two time recipient of this award, Bradley Jackson, Bronson Dotson, Jackson Whitlock, Zachary Bond, Clinton Keller and Emily Krohn who is the nurse that provides all of their medical services.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield thanked all of them for what they did.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**APPOINTMENT:**

1. Resolution G-5583-07-23 – Appointment to Macon County Conservation District Board of Trustee

Michael Sams, 4095 Sand Creek, Decatur, IL 62521  
Term Expires: June 30, 2028

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Approval of the minutes of the June 08, 2023 meeting

**CLAIMS:**

Approval of Claims for May & June 2023

**CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS:**

A letter from Chairman, Kevin Greenfield to the Decatur Public Building Commission regarding Macon County Multiple Facilities Lease Agreement Surplus Funds held by the Decatur Public Building Commission as of November 30, 2022.

A letter from Jonathan Perona, Manager of the Decatur Public Building Commission regarding a check to the County of Macon for Surplus Funds held by the Commission for the fiscal year ending November 30, 2022.

Letters from the Illinois Department of Transportation certifying to the County Board of Macon County, State of Illinois the name of Mr. Craig Shonkwiler, as having the qualifications for appointment to the Office of County Engineer for Macon County. IDOT requested a certified copy of the resolution appointing him, after the Macon County Board takes action, and suggested the clerk complete and submit BLR 02122, Resolution Appointing County Engineer.

Sheriff's Report – June 2023

Treasurer's Fund and Investment Report – June 2023

Coroner's Report – May 2023

Auditor's Report – June 2023

**DELINQUENT TAX DEEDS:**

There were none presented.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Kraft moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve the Consent Calendar.

**QUESTION:**

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said in the Consent Calendar is the appointments. Mr. Sams is being appointed to the Macon County Conservation District Board of Trustees. He said he believed this is the third or fourth month in a row that he has asked to have any form of documentation provided for any of the appointees that they are supposed to be voting on. He did say that last month it was provided, but this month it was not, again.

Mrs. Wilcox: Mrs. Wilcox said that was e-mailed to him.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said that last time they had told him they could not e-mail information because it was not secure.

Mrs. Wilcox: Mrs. Wilcox said he could come in to the office and look through the book. They keep the binder with all of the appointments in it.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said he specifically asked and was assured that Mr. Coleman had received that information.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said that is an interesting turn of events. He said he appreciated that.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said if Mr. Coleman didn't receive it then he needed to know because he would need to figure out why he didn't. He was assured that Mr. Coleman did receive it.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said he appreciated the overture and would check his records of such. He said it has been for several months now, at this point that the information cannot be sent by e-mail, and it was never told to him that that could change. He said he would check his records and thanked Mr. Greenfield for acknowledging that.

Crystal Hugger: Mrs. Hugger said she did send that to Mr. Coleman by e-mail.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman thanked her.

## **ROLL CALL.**

Ayes: Entler, Goodman, Greenfield, Horve, Kraft, Kreke, Little, Mattingley, Oliver, Scott, Yoder

Nays: (None)

Abstention: Coleman

**AYES = 11**

**NAYS = 0**

**ABSTENTION = 1**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

The Operations & Personnel Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

**EEHW COMMITTEE**

**COMMENT:**

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she had 14 resolutions which were all from the Health Department, and they were all renewals. She said they would do them one at a time and if there were questions they would be answered.

2. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5567-07-23 which is approving an increase in appropriations in the FY23 Health Fund budget for Starting Point FY23 ARPA Title III-E TCARE.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mr. Mattingley to approve Resolution G-5567-07-23 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED. (COLEMAN SHOWED HIS VOTE AS YES)**

**QUESTION:**

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver asked if there is a specific reason that they have to be done one at a time.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said yes because these are financial.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver asked if they were all for the same entity.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said yes. It is different grants and different funds that it is being accountable for.

3. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5568-07-23 which is approving increase in appropriations in the FY23 Health Fund budget for Starting Point FY23 Caregiver Gap.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mr. Kreke to approve Resolution G-5568-07-23 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5569-07-23 which is approving increase in appropriations in the FY23 Health Fund budget for Starting Point FY23 Flex Comm.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to approve Resolution G-5569-07-23 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

5. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5570-07-23 which is approving increase in appropriations in the FY 23 Health Fund budget for Starting Point FY23 GRG Gap.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Ms. Goodman to approve Resolution G-5570-07-23 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

6. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5571-07-23 which is approving increase in appropriations in the FY23 Health Fund budget for Starting Point FY23 Reducing Social Isolation – Flex Comm. grant.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mr. Kreke to approve Resolution G-5571-07-23 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

7. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5572-07-23 which is approving an increase in appropriations in the FY23 Health Fund budget for Starting Point FY23 Respite grant.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mr. Yoder to approve Resolution G-5572-07-23 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

8. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5573-07-23 which is approving increase in appropriations in the FY23 Health Fund budget for Starting Point FY23 SHAP/MIPPA/SHIP grant.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mr. Kreke to approve Resolution G-5573-07-23 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

9. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5574-07-23 which is approving increase in appropriations in the FY23 Health Fund budget for Starting Point FY23 SIS/CPoE grant.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to approve Resolution G-5574-07-23 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

10. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5575-07-23 which is approving increase in appropriations in the FY23 Health fund budget for Starting Point FY23 ADRD Gap.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mr. Kreke to approve Resolution G-5575-07-23 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

11. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5576-07-23 which is approving increase in appropriations in the FY23 Health Fund budget for Starting Point FY23 ARPA Title III-B Reducing Social Isolation.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve Resolution G-5576-07-23 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

12. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5577-07-23 which is approving increase in appropriations in the FY23 Health Fund budget for Starting Point FY23 ARPA Title III-B SIS/CPoE Professional Development.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mr. Mattingley to approve Resolution G-5577-07-23 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

13. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5578-07-23 which is approving increase in appropriations in the FY23 Health Fund budget for Starting Point FY23 ARPA Title III-D Evidence Based DSMP.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mr. Kreke to approve Resolution G-5578-07-23 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

14. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5579-07-23 which is approving increase in appropriations in the FY23 Health Fund budget for Starting Point Fy23 ARPA Title III-E CAS Professional Development.

**MOTION**



Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mr. Yoder to approve Resolution G-5579-07-23 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED. (KRAFT WAS NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE)**

15. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5580-07-23 which is approving increase in appropriations in the FY23 Health Fund budget for Starting Point FY23 ARPA Title III-E Stress Busting.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Ms. Goodman to approve Resolution G-5580-07-23 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED. (KRAFT WAS NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE)**

**COMMENT:**

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said the resolutions were all for Starting Point, which is an amazing service that is offered at the Macon County Health Department. The fact is that these are a lot of little, different grants that help cover the expense of a fabulous service that the Health Department is able to provide. She appreciated the board's support.

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

16. Mr. Mattingley presented Resolution G-5581-07-23 which is approving a labor agreement between Macon County and the AFL-CIO/CLC on behalf of the Corrections Sergeants.

**MOTION**

Mr. Mattingley moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution G-5581-01-23 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED. (KRAFT WAS NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE)**

17. Mr. Mattingley presented Resolution G-5582-07-23 which is approving a donation from Sandemac Kennel Club for K-9 bite suit.

**MOTION**

Mr. Mattingley moved, seconded by Mr. Yoder to approve Resolution G-5582-07-23 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED. (KRAFT WAS NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE)**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

18. Mr. Greenfield presented Resolution H-2327-07-23 which is approving an employment agreement for new Highway County Engineer, Craig E. Shonkwiler.

**MOTION**

Mr. Greenfield moved, seconded by Mr. Yoder to approve Resolution H-2327-07-23 by prior roll call vote.

**COMMENTS:**

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said this has been a long time coming. For several months they couldn't give the board Mr. Shonkwiler's name or much information about him. He told them if they wanted to know about him to come see him or Tammy. Mr. Shonkwiler was at the meeting and would be there afterwards as well. They will meet in the conference room, and hopefully they will all stay and have the chance to introduce themselves to him and get to know him a little bit. Mr. Greenfield thinks they will be more than pleased with the person they have hired to take Mr. Bird's place. He looks forward to working with him, and couldn't say enough good things about him. He will definitely be an asset to Macon County.

**MOTION CARRIED. (KRAFT SHOWED HER VOTE AS YES)**

Mr. Shonkwiler: Mr. Shonkwiler said he wanted to say thank you to the County Board, the County Board Chairman, and the County Administrator for giving him this opportunity. He said he grew up 30 miles east of here. Coming back into the county through this process brings back a lot of memories. Mr. Shonkwiler said he worked for the Illinois Department of Transportation when he was in college. He worked on South Shores and 105 doing some roadway surveying. He has worked out by Harristown on a patching job. He worked on Route 36 over by Long Creek. He said the last year he was here he was out on the Elwin bypass. He laid out bridges out there and got to see them go up from the ground. The funny part about that was, at that time his boss the Resident Engineer, gave him an 8 ½ x 11 area on his desk to put his papers. So, Mr. Greenfield said he could get a card table as long as he got it on a discount. Mr. Shonkwiler said he appreciated it. He said he comes from the City of Bloomington. He has been their Assistant Director and City Engineer for the last 3 years. Prior to that he worked for a short stint in Bloomington, Indiana as their City Engineer. He was with the City of

Urbana for 14 years, and prior to that two engineering companies doing private work. He thanked them again for the opportunity.

There was no old business presented at the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said they were going to have a presentation. He said if they remember, a few months ago they authorized EMA purchasing a drone.

Tammy Schneider: Tammy Schneider, Director of the Emergency Management Agency, brought video. She said through ARPA funds they were able to obtain a drone. It is a joint asset between EMA and the Sheriff's Office. Primarily they will use it for search and rescue, damage assessment and things of that nature. They have had some pretty interesting training that went on with it. She wanted to show all of them a little bit of that. She showed them detail of a creek while zoomed in and also from 400 feet in the air. She also had video of an individual laying in a cornfield that could be seen from a long distance. Mrs. Schneider said there is also video of the operator zooming all the way down and the maker of the person's boot can be read off of the sole of his boot. She showed video of the individual moving through the cornfield and disappearing from view because the corn was very tall. They are then able to pick him up again using the drone. She said if someone were ground level trying to find the individual in the cornfield, they would not be able to locate them. She said if it were an autistic child or someone with dementia and they were wandering, they would never find them from ground level. She showed video, with the infrared capability, of where the individual was in the cornfield. They were also able to see the part in the individual's hair when they zoomed in closely to him. Mrs. Schneider said this was going to be an amazing tool for them. They have trained Deputy Cody Woods with the Sheriff's Department, and Justin Root who is her assistant at EMA. They are both licensed Part 107 Pilots with the FAA and fully licensed. They are also licensing two other deputies. They are hoping to be able to at any time that they get a call for a lost subject, get someone out there. They will be able to zoom down on the water. She said they might not know, but when autistic children go missing, they head for water. They are drawn to it. She said having this tool will be a game changer.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little asked if they had to have court orders to use the drone over private property.

Mrs. Schneider: Mrs. Schneider said it depends on what they are using the drone for. They can't use a drone in a law enforcement sense to fly over private property to do surveillance type things. By statute there are certain things they can and cannot do. All of those things are being integrated into their policies. She said on the EMA portion of it they would approach the landowner and ask and gain permission, but just flying over to get from point A to point B, when not recording, can be done. They are gathering information from agencies all around the state on both the EMA side and the law enforcement side, to gain as much quality information as they can.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver said someone said they were going to show a license plate on a car being read with the drone.

Mrs. Schneider: Mrs. Schneider said they can do that because they can zoom in and see a license plate.

Mrs. Oliver: Mr. Oliver said there was a car on the road in the video and he wanted to see if they could get the license.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said he finds drones very fascinating for the numerous applications of use both positive and some of the negative. He said it had been a few months and asked Tammy to refresh him on the amount spent on the drone.

Mrs. Schneider: Mrs. Schneider said the drone itself was \$15,000. They gave her a budget of \$20,000 because of the price of the batteries. They have to have a special bag to keep the batteries in because they are lithium, and lithium batteries can catch on fire. She said when the batteries are not in the drone itself they are kept in that special bag. They also spent money creating a training system because there is a national standard for training so they can develop proficiency. There is no sense in having a drone if all they know how to do is stick it in the air and fly to the other end of the field. They want the pilots to become proficient so they will be useful when they need to go out and find someone or do damage assessment.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver asked if it would only be used in Macon County.

Mrs. Schneider: Mrs. Schneider said they would be a mutual aid asset because she is a part of a mutual aid network for search and rescue.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver asked if it could be used in the entire State of Illinois.

Mrs. Schneider: Mrs. Schneider said it could be used throughout the entire state. She said she is also a part of the Emergency Management Assistance Team for doing damage assessment and things of that nature. She would have to have Justin go through some training to become a part of that team; but she thinks that would be valuable as well. She deployed to do assessment in Taylorville when they had tornadoes hit there several years ago. She said having that asset available and deployable in that instance would be valuable as well.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little asked how many deputies the Sheriff intends to have trained to be pilots.

Sheriff Root: Sheriff Root said 3 total.

Mrs. Schneider: Mrs. Schneider said if she had more employees she would train them as well. That is the reason they are training deputies because then they will have someone on all shifts.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver asked if there will be a charge to any other entity that would want to use their services.

Mrs. Schneider: Mrs. Schneider said they are spending a lot of money rebuilding infrastructure on bridges, culverts and roads. For instance, they just had the storms come through on the 29<sup>th</sup> and one of the things they are going to attempt to recoup through FEMA, if they reach all of the thresholds, which they will know within the next two weeks, is public assistance. She said when FEMA comes out one of the things they want to know is, ok you spent this and you're claiming this infrastructure was damaged by the storm, but what did it look like before? They can use the drone to go out and take pictures of bridges, roads, and culverts and use it in that way as well. It would also provide training for their pilots, and it gives them documentation to keep of their infrastructure to show what kind of shape it is in. So they will use it to do several different things.

Mr. Yoder: Mr. Yoder said using it to take pictures of infrastructure would be something useful for the Highway Department.

Mrs. Schneider: Mrs. Schneider said she has already had discussions with the Highway Department and she will be discussing it with the new Highway Engineer.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver asked if they have to get any permission to go from one county to the other from any law enforcement agency.

Mrs. Schneider: Mrs. Schneider said when they cross jurisdictions it is a professional courtesy, regardless of your discipline, whether you are Emergency Management or Law Enforcement, to have communications there to let them know that you are in their jurisdiction. They usually don't enter someone's jurisdiction without having been called out. She said they don't just show up and they don't self-deploy anywhere.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Abeer Motan: Ms. Motan spoke to the board about some of her concerns.

Drew Laney: Mr. Laney said he is the Democratic Precinct Committeeman for Long Creek #5. He was there to urge the County Board and the Sheriff's office to issue a proclamation of apology for the county government's role in failing to protect Samuel Bush while he was in the custody of the Sheriff's Office. He sincerely hopes they will keep in mind what the history books will reflect if you fail to acknowledge any wrong doing or responsibility for the aforementioned incident. He said they should think about when their grandkids, great-grandkids or great-great grandkids go and read about the lynching of Samuel Bush and remember that their great-grandfather or grandmother were on the County Board that was around when that memorial outside the courthouse was placed. They might say, I wonder what they had to say about it. History will remember

that the City of Decatur was able to issue a proclamation of apology, and history will remember the board's silence should they choose to fail to act.

Dominique Bates-Smith: Ms. Bates-Smith said she is the Executive Director and the Co-Founder of the non-profit, Walk It Like We Talk It. Ms. Bates-Smith said the non-profit was one of the leading organizations for obtaining the marker that is now at the courthouse. She wanted to second what Drew said. They are asking for an apology from the Sheriff's Office as well as the County Board. There are a lot of people that want to talk about how they don't need to continue to dwell on the past. It is not dwelling on the past; it's acknowledging the past and making an effort to move forward. People constantly talk about different things such as slavery, the holocaust and everyone wants to say it is not their job to apologize; it's an individual. Ms. Bates-Smith said they are not asking an individual to apologize; they are asking the entity to apologize. She said they have an obligation in this community. They have an obligation as humans to do what is right, and this is what is right. It is one step forward to making things right and doing what they should have done right 130 years ago. She knows there are people who want to say that the relatives probably don't care, why do they care, are we sure they want this done? Ms. Bates-Smith said she could tell them that they absolutely want this done. Vernon Wimberly who is the great-nephew of Samuel Bush told her in the car when she drove him from Bloomington to here for the ceremony said, "If I get anything out of this, I want a public apology from the Sheriff's Office and from the Macon County Board." And his words state, "As I mention on June 3, 2023 while in Decatur, to the Mayor that the family would like a sincere public apology from the Sheriff's Department and the entity of the Board. Signed, Vernon Wimberly, July 13, 2023." "As a former equal justice member in Macon County, it is important that justice be rendered indecisively for the family of Samuel J. Bush for over 130 years, this is what our family would appreciate." Ms. Bates-Smith said that once again she was asking the community to do what is right, because like Drew said, if they don't, people will remember that.

Catherine Bryles: Ms. Bryles said she is a Member Service Representative at the CEFCU in Decatur. She said she is not speaking on behalf of CEFCU at all; she is just a concerned citizen in regards to the issuing of a proclamation of apology. She said sometimes you have to put your pride aside and say sorry to those who you have wronged. She understands that none of them in the room personally lynched Samuel Bush, but it is their responsibility to take action in apologizing and take responsibility for what their ancestors did. She said Decatur is a beautiful city, a beautiful town and has a lot of potential. She thinks issuing the apology would be a big step forward in unifying the community as a whole.

Jacob Hamm: Mr. Hamm said he also wanted to address the board regarding the need to issue the apology for the lynching of Samuel Bush, from the County Board and Sheriff's Office. Issuing formal apologies for the lynching will raise public awareness about the incident and further educate the public of a portion of history in the community that was overlooked. These apologies will also continue to advance the much needed dialog regarding race in this country, and the fight for racial justice forward.

**OFFICEHOLDER, DEPARTMENT HEAD & EMPLOYEE COMMENTS:**

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman thanked everyone for coming and participating in local government. It is an essential function. He appreciated those who came to voice their opinions to concerns around the agenda, especially in relation to Mr. Bush and the due diligence they need to do as a county in remembering his honor. He said he was rising once again before this body, to call upon this body through its leadership as well as the Sheriff's Department to issue a proclamation of apology for any responsibility in the lynching of Samuel Bush who was visitor to this county and was wrongfully accused of committing a heinous act. Subsequently, Mr. Bush was forcibly removed from the county's custody and property and lynched, either on or adjacent to the Macon County Courthouse. It was their responsibility to insure his constitutional right to due process and they actually failed him and the community he represented. It is never the wrong time to do what is right. It is never the wrong time to do what is righteous. They have the opportunity to right a wrong that has not been done in 130 years. He said if any of them hold virtue, ethics and justice near and dear to their heart, this is absolutely the most prudent thing they could do, and the smallest gesture they could do in relation to such. He said they are not asking for reparations or asking for different things, they are asking simply for an acknowledgement of what happened not even 500 feet from where they sit currently in this room now. If they stepped outside they could see exactly where it happened. It took the efforts of the community, and young folks to even get that done there, let alone any form of acknowledgement and that's the least thing they could do as an entity and it seems to be the will of a good few of our community. Mr. Coleman said he was formally requesting, again, that they as a county body, through its leadership, Mr. Greenfield as well as the County Sheriff's Office, issue a proclamation of apology acknowledging any wrongdoing that they as a county had in the lynching of Samuel Bush.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she appreciated his comments last month and this, but her understanding of citizen comments and officeholder comments is exactly that. As a county board member Mr. Coleman is completely encouraged to pursue that proclamation, but public comment or officeholder comment is not putting anything on the agenda. Things get on the agenda through committee, and Operations and Personnel would be her first assumption for that particular issue, or directly through the county board chair. So, to give the impression this month that they failed to act over the last month, shame on you.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said they failed for 130 years, so shame on all of them.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she didn't fail for 130 years. She is not that old.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said it could be done through a resolution or just as they did that evening, through a recognition or proclamation that could come from the chairman. He has a legal opinion that it is in the chairman's authority to do so. He said if the State's Attorney disagrees with that he would love to hear that argument, and he was not accusing anyone of doing so. Mr. Coleman said it is within the county's power to do this,

through the chairman, their leadership that they elected as a body. He said the chairman was his chairman as well. All three of them were a part of this body as well. They represent thousands of individuals in Macon County, some of them were at the meeting. He said he takes offense to the whole thing really.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said he takes offense to some of the things on the sign. It paints Mt. Zion as a pretty bad... It doesn't paint Mt. Zion the way Mt. Zion is today. He thinks it is unfair to those people that it painted the picture it has. Mr. Greenfield said he wants to see them find ways to get along, not find ways to divide them. It seems that Mr. Coleman is trying to bring a wall in-between them and they really don't need that. Mr. Greenfield said he and Mr. Coleman need to find things they agree on and get along on. Mr. Greenfield said that man was unjustly hung, but so were other people. He said 130 years ago none of them were living, and he didn't know anyone who could have been there when it happened. To say they need to apologize.... He told Mr. Coleman he is certainly sorry it happened. That should not happen to anyone at any time. But, to say it is their fault, it is not their fault. None of them condone that sort of thing, at least he hoped they didn't. Mr. Greenfield said if Mr. Coleman wanted an apology, he is sorry that it happened. What else did he want him to say?

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said a proclamation specifically.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield asked, that says he is sorry it happened?

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said he would let Mr. Greenfield finish his point because he didn't want to interrupt him because there is kind of a process order for **Robert's Rules of Order** and how this normally happens.

Mr. Rueter: Mr. Rueter said he wanted to interject something in terms of procedure. He said Mr. Coleman had contacted his office that day or maybe the day before and spoke to Mr. Baggett about the procedures for either issuing a proclamation if there is some sort of.... As Mrs. Little alluded to, as a member of the board he could bring a formal resolution before the board and issue a proclamation. There have been occasions where various governmental bodies have issued proclamations on the basis of some perceived authority of the chair of that body, and that was what he had asked Mr. Baggett to look into. Mr. Baggett told him that given the recent request they would do that and they will. His initial discussion with Mr. Baggett is that there is no formal procedure for proclamations from the chairman or that sort of thing. There is no statutory authority. It is something people have just kind of taken for granted and just do on occasion. They will look at that and get him an answer as to if there is a formal procedure of their statutory authority and what might be the different avenues to pursue to get this officially done by the County Board.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman requested a Point of Personal Privilege. He appreciated Mr. Rueter's comments, and truly appreciated the efforts he and Mr. Baggett were making on behalf of that. He would hope and believe, and does believe, that his legal counsel is doing their due diligence. Mr. Coleman said his request was to formally verify that, that



was the understanding because he has spoken to outside legal counsel about this. It is their legal opinion, as Mr. Rueter spoke to, that there is nothing preventing the board from doing so because it is well within the county's bounds and ability to do so. Mr. Coleman said he wanted to also just acknowledge that the record will be out of what he said, and he has reiterated and people from the community have reiterated, that he is not accusing anyone specifically in the room at all, whatsoever, for wrongdoing.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said he understands.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said he reiterated that point. He said he finds it interesting and a bit offensive that this is becoming a combative thing when one would think it's the only prudent thing one would do if they have ethics and virtue and justice at the mind of anything they would do.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said Mr. Coleman is asking him to apologize for something that he didn't know anything about.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said that is part of the problem.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield didn't know they were putting the sign up. He didn't know anything about the ceremony.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said he didn't put it up himself.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said he wasn't aware of it until Mr. Coleman mentioned it the other day at a board meeting; and he had no idea what he was talking about.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said absolutely.

Mr. Greenfield said, as Chairman of the County Board, you would think I would have known they were putting a sign at the courthouse. He said he was not notified, and no one told him anything. So, it kind of took him off-guard and by surprise. Mr. Greenfield said he feels that he and Mr. Coleman need to work on things that matter today, and try to find a common ground where they can work together and put differences behind them. He said Mr. Coleman has accused him of racial things before, but assured Mr. Coleman that he didn't look at him as a black man; he just looks at him as a man.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman stated that Mr. Greenfield literally said he was inciting a race riot by bringing attention to their unconstitutional and illegal map that Mr. Greenfield forced down their throats. Now you guys are mad that we are a 3 seat minority on this body.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield asked him if he has seen what Mike Madigan had done to them for the last 40 years, but that is a different story.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said this is a public body meeting. Do we obey by rules and process here?

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said Karl you just want to stir trouble and he was not going to buy into it.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said that is deplorable.

Ms. Goodman: Ms. Goodman said she wanted to encourage them to try be on one accord. She said they should put aside their personal differences. If a family member is asking.... All he is asking for is an apology, how does it hurt us to do that? They need to take care of what they need to take care of and move forward. Let's try and work together. Don't look at Mr. Bush as a black man; look at him as a human being. What if it was a white man?

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said the color of his skin doesn't matter, what happened to him matters.

Ms. Goodman: Ms. Goodman said a lot of people say that color of skin does not matter, but that is so not true. She said as an African American she could tell them some stories, but that is for another day. But, seriously, can we try to work together. We are here to work for the good of our community. So, let's do that.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said he totally believes in that.

Ms. Goodman: Ms. Goodman said she couldn't see how that is going to hurt them at all. No, they didn't have anything to do with it, of course 130 years ago, but it happened here in our county. Let's take care of it and move forward.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said they had talked about this enough.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman requested a Point of Personal Privilege. That is not how it works. The conversation can go on as long as the body wants to in a sense. He wanted to finish the last point there and articulate and piggyback on what Ms. Goodman said that Mr. Wimberly was a resident of Macon County for over 20 years and left this community to find better economic opportunities that were not afforded to him here in Macon County. Mr. Coleman reiterated that this is coming from a former resident, a direct descendant of the individual to which this happened. He said he finds it interesting that we're.... He understands that you guys might not see it this way but sometimes....

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield asked what he meant you guys. He doesn't know what you guys means.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said wow that was.... He said he would let that ring out there. Mr. Coleman said his point was going to be that it is 2023 and it seems a lot of times like it's 1963 with the way this county operates in race relations and what goes on

here. He understands that some people may not see it that way, and he was not going to use the term you people, because that's going to wrongly take everything he just said out of complete context, but a lot of people in this community feel like that's exactly what goes on here and we are constantly getting the shaft and the bad end of the stick. It's quite clear and quite evident.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said he thinks Mr. Coleman is totally wrong.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said he was glad Mr. Greenfield thought that.

Mr. Greenfield adjourned the meeting.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said that is not how government works.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said he can adjourn the meeting any time.

Mr. Coleman: Mr. Coleman said no you can't. He said he didn't think Mr. Greenfield had that authority by any means. Mr. Coleman thought the attorney right next to Mr. Greenfield just made that face because Mr. Greenfield does not have that authority. He said he will come to bat every single time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.