

**MACON COUNTY BOARD
ENVIRONMENTAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Macon County Office Building
141 S. Main Street, County Board Room #514
Decatur, IL 62523**

April 22, 2021 5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Linda Little, Chair
Kevin Greenfield
Jim Gresham
Kristen Larner
Jason Comer

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Lt. Jeff Scheibly, Animal Control
Tracy Sumpter, Env Mgmt
Jennifer Gunter, P&Z
Jessie Smalley, HR
Brandi Binkley, Health Department
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

Helena Buckner
Jeff Entler

The meeting was called to order by Chair Little at the Macon County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting, 3/25/2021 made by Chairman Greenfield, seconded by Ms. Larner, and the motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS

Motion to approve the claims report was made by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Chairman Greenfield, and the motion carried 5-0.

ZONING – No Report

SUBDIVISIONS - none

REPORTS

Animal Control

Lt. Scheibly distributed reports on shelter statistics for March, 2021 and March, 2020 as a comparison. The numbers are on par with normal. They are getting somewhat busier, but the numbers are still good.

The current special at the Shelter for this month is \$30 adoptions.

Veteran's Assistance – No Report

Planning & Zoning –

Discussion / Review as to possible amendments to the Macon County Nuisance Ordinance

Chair Little said she would like for Ms. Gunter to give an update on the status, what steps have been taken, & where it is at now and then the committee can get into discussion of whether anyone believes there needs to be any changes made.

Ms. Gunter reported that there are two separate properties.

On the Star Route property, a complaint was received on 3/11/21. The property was inspected on 3/15/21. She said she saw the violations. She re-inspected it after 7 days per the ordinance on 3/22/21. She sent out the 15 day violation notice on 4/6/21. She re-inspected for compliance and found it not to be in compliance on 4/7/21 at which time it was turned over to the State's Attorney's office.

On the residential property, Ms. Gunter reported that she had rechecked it on 4/8/2021. The junk and refuse was still present. The abandoned vehicles were brought back in – was not there from the previous inspection. On 4/9/21, the junk and refuse violation only was turned over to the State's Attorney's office. On 4/15/21, Ms. Gunter re-inspected the vehicles per the 7 days of the ordinance, sent the 15 day violation notice and is due to re-inspect on 5/3/2021.

Chair Little asked for questions for Ms. Gunter. There were none. She continued, saying that her caution is that she does not like to see law changed based on one issue. She said she felt that Springfield does that to us a lot and we never seem to come out on the good end of it. She said she was anxious to hear good suggestions and why the ordinance needs to be changed and if we have those suggestions, they can be sent on to the SRO (Siting, Rules & Ordinance) sub-committee because those changes will not be made in this committee.

Mr. Gresham thanked Ms. Gunter for getting some movement on this issue and also for the work she had done to put all this together.

He said he agrees that this one incident is what brought this to his attention, but in going through our ordinance, and it is not a bad ordinance by any means, but there are a couple of things, in looking through some of the ones from other counties that he said he thought could be beneficial in the future.

Mason County has one where they have a chronic nuisance provision included which shortens the time for the next time around in the next 2 -3 years.

He said he had not seen anything in our ordinance about burning. Ms. Gunter explained that the Refuse Ordinance controls the burning which is part of the Environmental Management department. A lot of the counties have combined Nuisance and Refuse ordinances, and for a lot of the counties ordinances, the Health Department is the enforcer. Ms. Gunter said she had looked at the Refuse Ordinance with Ms. Sumpter and they had decided that it was just going to muddy it to try to combine them. Right now, we have a separate Refuse Ordinance that handles the burning.

Mr. Gresham said he knew that they had looked at the burning situation that they had had and it is much appreciated.

Mr. Gresham continued, saying that Champaign County had apparently had a similar problem to what has been seen in this county where if you go out and inspect and then the property owner moves the problems to another location, in the Champaign County Ordinance, that does not remediate anything. This complaint still goes on just as if the party had done nothing. Apparently, this has happened in other places and that is why it is in their ordinance.

The other things Mr. Gresham said he had made notes on were definitions such as for debris where it could be more extensive, but the two previous items could be easily inserted into Macon County's ordinance.

Mr. Gresham commented that a lot of the other counties involve law enforcement especially on abandoned vehicles and he asked Ms. Gunter if she ever takes law enforcement with her if she feels there might be a problem. Ms. Gunter said that if she does not feel comfortable going out alone, then yes, she contacts law enforcement and they send a deputy with her.

Mr. Gresham said he is very pleased with the progress being made on the situation being dealt with.

Chair Little asked if Mr. Gresham would like to have his comments forwarded to SRO so they can take a look at it and decide whether the ordinance needs to be addressed now or just taken into consideration. She said that with Champaign County, if you move Pile A to Property B and they've got that clause to track it, who tracks it? How do you track it? Mr. Gresham said in this particular case, we know. He said that you won't catch every one of them, but if you do, it is in there. Chair Little said she would talk to Ms. Rood, Chairman of the SRO about the requests. This has been a good exercise to review the ordinance. It was nice to be able to read some of the other County ordinances as well.

Chairman Greenfield asked Ms. Gunter, with the situation being discussed, if there was a demolition permit taken out as well? Ms. Gunter confirmed saying yes, on the property with the house.

Macon County Board Resolution Calling for the Governor and General Assembly to Protect Local Control of Zoning and Land Use

Chair Little explained that this is to request that the State Legislature not do anything to promote SB 1602. At the last board meeting, Ms. Little said she had made it very clear that she was going to bring this up at this committee. She said she feels very strongly about this. She has gone through the Wind Ordinance for Macon County, which is a very good one and has compared it to what the Senate Bill will do to it and it basically destroys it. She said she is a firm believer that the State, as a whole, should not be legislating this type of zoning. She said she is a big fan of local control, especially on this. There are some huge set back differences. For those who were on the board when this Wind Farm Ordinance was gone through, it was extensive. There was lots of public comment and they had worked very hard on it to make it work for the County. Chair Little said she would like a resolution to go before the full board.

UCCI sent out a sample ordinance that is very good, although a bit lengthy. That is attached to the agenda. DeWitt also did one that is much shorter.

Chairman Greenfield made a motion to approve the one attached to the agenda, seconded by Mr. Gresham and the motion carried 5-0. Chair Little said she would present that at the next board meeting.

Health Department –

Ms. Binkley reported that the Health Department has been continuing to provide essential programs and services despite COVID-19.

The STI Clinic has still not been reopened just because of not having enough nurses at this time to do everything. Referrals are being provided for that service and they are looking at planning how they can get that opened back up or partnering with someone else to insure that accessibility to the STI services can be grown.

Another contractual dentist has been added to the staff. That is really exciting because it helps provide coverage for adults in the community. More walk-in hours have also been opened up as a result. This should also allow more adults to be seen each week there in the dental clinic. Pre-COVID plans were to expand the dental clinic, but that has been put on hold, but this will at least get more adults into the current space.

The Health Department adopted the County's new EWS Accounting for their timeclock to ensure they were having the most accurate reporting for all grants as far as minute by minute time accounting on all of the grants and how much time is being spent on each one. Ms. Binkley said they are about 1-2 months into it and it has been interesting, but is going well. She said they are glad that they have it and are being as accountable as possible with their time.

A new Health Equity Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator for the Health Department has been hired. She used to work with the Health Department as a Health Educator years ago, so they've been really excited to bring her back on staff.

A new Director of Clinical Nursing Services has been put into place. She was the Infectious Disease Coordinator.

There are now 4 variants of the COVID-19 in the County now. There are 18 of the variant cases. The positivity rate and numbers are creeping up a little bit. The positivity rate is at 5.5%. The County is now in the orange, which is a warning level that doesn't change anything or add any restrictions. It is more of just an informational pieces so that people can make decisions about what is happening in their community. The metrics that dictate restrictions or changing the phase are the regional metrics. Our region has one metric that is in the red. That is 8 days of COVID patient increases in the hospital. She said they are keeping an eye on that throughout the whole region. Nobody wants to go backwards, so hopefully, things will not get us into another surge. There is one possible break through case. There are several criteria that have to be met to be a break through case. A break through case is a positive test result on someone that has been vaccinated. Of course, vaccines are not 100% so we know that this

could possibly happen. The intent of this vaccine is to not have as severe of cases or as many hospitalizations or deaths. This is just a possible. The criteria is being evaluated according to what the state has given for this purpose to determine if it is a confirmed. We knew that could happen. No vaccine is 100%.

Vaccinations went from being the hot ticket item with everyone being upset that they couldn't get it fast enough to the other side where people wanting it has dwindled down. Ms. Binkley said they are working very hard to go out into the community for about a month and a half now. They have been taking vaccines to homeless shelters, community organizations, churches, The Good Samaritan, OASIS, etc. to find as many people as possible and make it as accessible as possible. She said she is very proud of her team for mobilizing that and making it accessible to anyone that wants it.

Environmental Management

Ms. Sumpter had no report.

Regional Office of Education – no report

Mental Health – no report

Historical Museum – no report

U of I Extension – no report

CITIZEN'S REMARKS – None

OFFICEHOLDER'S REMARKS - None

Closed Session – None needed

NEXT MEETING Next regular meeting – 5/27/2021

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned by Chair Little at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office