

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

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

**June 24, 2021            5:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Linda Little, Chair  
Kevin Greenfield  
Jim Gresham  
Jason Comer  
Jeff Entler

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Helena Buckner  
Kristen Larner

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Brandi Binkley, Health Department  
Greg Collins, VA  
Tracy Sumpter, Env Mgmt  
Jennifer Gunter, P&Z  
Jessie Smalley, HR  
Lt. Scheibly, Animal Control  
Karl Coleman, County Board member  
  
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

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, 5/27/2021 made by Chairman Greenfield, seconded by Mr. Gresham, and the motion carried 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS**

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

**ZONING –**

***Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case S-02-06-21 A Petition Requesting A Special Use Permit Submitted By Jeffrey Augustine***

Ms. Gunter explained a petition has been filed by Jeffrey Augustine requesting renewal of a Special Use Permit for the operation of a landscaping business, with the storage of related materials in (A-1) Agricultural Zoning. The property is situated on 10 acres and the property is commonly known as 2045 Allen Lane, Decatur, IL 62521 in South Wheatland Township.

A public Zoning Board of Appeals hearing was held on June 2, 2021 and based on the finding of facts and staff recommended approval, the Z BA voted 5-0 to recommend approval to the County Board that the petition be granted subject to the stipulations as set forth in the resolution.

Motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve made by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Chairman Greenfield and the motion carried 5-0.

***Macon County Board S-02-06-21 A Petition Requesting A Special Use Permit Submitted By Pits Water Skiers, Represented By Doris Mabry***

Ms. Gunter explained a petition has been filed by PITS Water Skiers, represented by Doris Mabry requesting renewal of a Special Use Permit for the operation of a water ski club in A-1 Agricultural Zoning. The property is situated on 26.5 acres and is commonly known as 5300 W Harristown Blvd, Decatur, IL 62521 in Harristown Township

A required public hearing was held on June 2, 2021 by the Zoning Board of Appeals and based on the finding of facts and staff recommended approval, they voted 5-0 to recommend approval to the County Board the petition be granted subject to the stipulations as set forth in the resolution.

Motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve made by Chairman Greenfield, seconded by Mr. Gresham and the motion carried 5-0.

***Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case S-03-06-21 A Petition Requesting A Special Use Permit Submitted By Terry Parker***

Ms. Gunter explained a petition has been filed by Terry Parker requesting renewal of a Special Use Permit to allow a storage business in (A-1) Agricultural Zoning. The property is situated on 1.83 acres and is commonly known as 3926 Glasgow Road, Warrensburg, IL 62573 in Illini Township.

A required public hearing was held on June 2, 2021 by the Zoning Board of Appeals and they voted 5-0 to recommend approval to the County Board the petition be granted subject to the stipulations as set forth in the resolution.

Motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve made by Chairman Greenfield, seconded by Mr. Entler and the motion carried 5-0.

**SUBDIVISIONS –**  
**REPORTS**

**Animal Control**

Lt Scheibly presented statistical reports for May, 2020 & May, 2021 for comparison. He noted that there is a big difference in the two years. The big difference is a result of the Shelter still being pretty much closed down due to COVID in 2020. This year they are back on track with the norm. The numbers at the Shelter are definitely increasing as the weather gets warmer. The Foundation & Shirley Stanley did a spot on WAND as they always do on Friday to help with the cats / kittens. Almost a dozen adoptions of those are being done daily right now. Dog numbers are still low on those, but an increase in activity is beginning.

The specials for this month are \$25 adoptions for cats. A block party featuring a \$40 adoption on bully breeds is also going on right now. Lt. Scheibly was asked to clarify what bully breeds are. He explained that they are the pit bull mixes.

### **Veteran's Assistance –**

Mr. Collins reported that the department had purchased a mini van that will be located here at the County for their use. He explained that when he files a disability claim for an injured vet, such as an Agent Orange exposure on a Viet Nam veteran, the VA tells them that they have to send them to a doctor of their choosing. That used to always be Danville. That is no longer the case. They pay 3<sup>rd</sup> party people to do the exams and the department has no idea where they will be. A lot of times they are in Springfield, St. Louis, Carlyle or anywhere. He said that currently he is having the volunteer drivers use their personal vehicle to take them. They have been looking for a vehicle for a while and there is enough money in the donation line to get one. That is where that money was pulled from.

Chairman Greenfield asked if, basically, the mini van had been donated. Mr. Collins explained that the money would be donated back for the van. The money is in the budget now, but yes.

Mr. Gresham asked if volunteers would still be driving the van. Mr. Collins confirmed, saying it would be very much like now. The department pays the DAV van to go to Danville 3 days a week and then the volunteers who are all CDL certified drivers are also paid. They will be the same ones driving this new mini van. There have been several events when one of the veterans was released from a local hospital one day, picked up by a driver, but ended up having to be taken back to the ER when he ended up in Peoria. Mr. Collins said he had driven his personal vehicle over and picked him up to get him home.

### **Planning & Zoning –**

Ms. Gunter had no report

### **Health Department –**

#### ***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations in the FY21 Health Fund Budget for COVID-19 Contact Tracing***

Ms. Binkley explained that the committee had seen something similar to this quite sometime ago. This is for the increase received. She reminded them that last month she had reported to them that the department had requested an additional \$1.3 million when the State told them that they could extend the time and request additional funds. She said they did end up getting another \$800,000 for that. This resolution reflects some of the funds that were unspent in FY20 and so needed to roll into FY21. It also reflects the increase of the \$800,000. It explains the allowable expenses. These have been seen before. They talk about building capacity, responding to outbreaks in congregate settings like long term care or prisons, alternate food and / or housing for people in quarantine or isolation and cannot afford that for themselves, surge support for call centers which is all handled internally, payment of overtime for employees shifts, promoting testing for vulnerable populations and addressing health equity and impact on populations in our community.

The resolution includes all the numbers - the original amount can be seen as well as the increase or decrease, and the final revised amount.

Chairman Greenfield asked how much overtime she expected to come out of that. Ms. Binkley said not very much. The last one that was paid, and talked about at a previous meeting, was going to be from March 5 when the switch over was made to the new time clock to the June payroll date. That was for all employees and included flex time, not the time and half overtime. That equaled about \$18,000 total for everyone that was listed on that. There are very few cases right now, so they are looking at and monitoring what needs to be done with staffing to move forward and insure there are not too many people on staff, but that enough are retained so that if there are surges in the fall with school starting back up and with some of the variants that are happening. She said they are talking with legal internally about how to move forward at this point. She said she did not expect there to be very much extra time at all moving forward, even for the key staff as they are not having to work anywhere near the number of hours that they were working in 2020.

Chairman Greenfield asked if all the people are back to work at the Health Department. Ms. Binkley explained that they do have all of the Contact Tracers, both full time and part time, that will be working from home indefinitely until the end of the grant which is potentially December 31 unless it gets to the point some need to be let go. They all knew this was temporary, so that is going to happen at some point. There is nowhere to put them in the building, so they have been working remotely and they will continue to do that. As far as any other staff that could not be social distanced in the building, the Building Commission is finalizing some plexi-glass so there will be a very small number of staff that will be coming back as of July 6 and the Building Commission will have everything in place for that by that date. Chairman Greenfield asked for clarification that all of her people will be back as of July 6. Ms. Binkley confirmed saying, other than those Contact Tracing staff. And, again, that is a small number of people. Only the ones that are crammed into very small areas and cannot get away from each other and many of those people have been doing alternating schedules where they work in the office some days of the week and remotely on other days of the week so that they are not just completely at home. But, again, that is probably less than about 20 people and they will all be physically in the building for 5 days a week as of July 6.

Ms. Binkley referred to an email she had sent out in reference to how much is remaining. For the Contact Tracing Grant, as of May 31<sup>st</sup>, there was \$2,142,942 spent and that was out of the \$2,861,712. That is the grant where they now have the additional \$800,000. That is also the grant where they have received permission to purchase the new phone system out of. That was a project that was being worked on before COVID. That is now not going to have to come out of the Health Fund. They will be able to pay for it out of this grant. They are also looking at possibly implementing a keyless entry system as well as the electronic medical records. The outside auditor has talked about the electronic medical records for several years. Permission to pay for that out of this grant has also been received as well. Ms. Binkley highlighted the fact that one month, December 1 – 31 of this year will be in that FY22 budget, so they do plan for those projects to be done in FY21. Ms. Binkley said her assumption is that that will just be a little bit of staff time there in December.

Motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the finance committee with recommendation to approve made by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Chairman Greenfield and the motion carried 5-0.

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations in the FY21 Health Fund Budget for Mass Vaccination Grant***

Ms. Binkley explained that the amount is \$315,000. The numbers show that a vaccine administration fee is allowed to be billed, not for the vaccine, but for administering it. She said that they had chosen to do that as had other health departments. The reason for that is that you can bring in some funds to help support the efforts because \$315,000 goes pretty quickly when you have to vaccinate for an entire grant year. The numbers are best estimates. Right now vaccine administration is down. Many fewer are being done than at the beginning, but when the younger kids 12 and under and back to school time arrives, there is a chance that more of that revenue could be coming in again. The grant is for staff time primarily, supplies for vaccine, payment for security provided by the Macon County Sheriff's deputies at the beginning when things were kind of ugly and dangerous. That added security has been ceased as issues are not being seen currently. The hope is that it will remain that way. That was approved to be paid for by the State through this grant. The resolution also shows pandemic response, administration of vaccinations, payment of overtime for shifts and any other vaccine related expenses which would be the ancillary supplies that are not provided by an outside entity and would have to be purchased.

Chairman Greenfield asked Ms. Binkley expected \$78,000 in overtime to come out of this grant. Ms. Binkley explained that part of the flex (straight) time that was paid out of this has already been paid. For this grant and for the Contact Tracing Grant, Ms. Binkley said she does not expect much more unless there is a huge surge or spike that is unexpected. She said she does not think there will be a spike in vaccine demand even when the younger children are approved to receive the vaccine. She said she did not expect them to get totally bombarded like they did in December, January, February and March. Therefore, she said she did not expect there to be a lot of overtime or flex time coming out of either of these grants. She said she thought there would be some, but now that the demand is so much smaller and staff is able to take some time off and get their time down. She said they are encouraging everyone to use their flex time so that there are not flex time payouts. Part of the reason for deciding to pay that out was because people were not able to take the time off. That included weekends, holidays, etc. Chairman Greenfield asked if these were nurses giving the shots or who they were. Ms. Binkley explained that it is for nurses and some support staff. There are people that maintained the Track Program that was a whole online system tracking people registering for vaccinations, getting a QR code, being scanned through the whole process and that being tracked in I-Care which is where all of the vaccinations are tracked. So, there is some background support or clerical staff that assists with that and assist with running the clinics as well. Now, there are so many less people coming in to get vaccinated, so there is not a need to have several people there. It can be less than 5 or 10. When the mass vaccination clinics were being held, they had to have nearly the entire Health Department team there to make them work. Chairman Greenfield asked when this grant runs out. Ms. Binkley explained that this one goes through the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. She said it is also unknown how often people will need COVID vaccinations moving into the future. They are still researching that. That is expected to just roll into the regular vaccination processes after this year. This grant is just for the surge and the pandemic and responding to that and getting those initial vaccinations administered.

There has been talk about increases and adjustments to the Comprehensive Health Protection Grant which is the base Health Department Grant that people receive in their counties in order to provide the basic essential operations. There may be something like that, but that would not be specific to COVID. That would be to handle the essential services, whether it is nursing or environmental, health promotions and some of those other types of programs and activities.

Motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the finance committee with recommendation to approve made by Mr. Entler, seconded by Mr. Gresham and the motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Binkley went on to explain how much is left of that. So far, that grant has paid \$138,879. That has been spent. That does not include if there would be a flex payout or nurse sign on bonuses. As a reminder, the nurse sign on bonuses are \$1,000 paid out over 3 installments. That is significantly lower than what other health care agencies are paying out for those.

As far as any other report, Ms. Binkley let the committee know that they are doing a bid invitation for a phone system. That has wrapped up. They talked to legal and are putting out the notification to the winning bidder tomorrow. She said they have been working with the Building Commission and are excited to get that done.

Bigger projects, like the electronic medical records and the digital environmental health, are also being worked on. Ms. Binkley said she would keep the committee up to date on those.

Chairman Greenfield said that the other day, at the Board of Health meeting, the Board voted on pay for the Family Leave Act if someone is off and asked who that was proposed by and what the vote was. Ms. Binkley said she had proposed that and the Board voted against it. The vote was close. There were two that abstained and the vote was very close. Ms. Binkley explained to the rest of the committee members what they were discussing. She said they proposed a paid policy of two weeks to the board. She said they had run it through legal to get an opinion to bring to the board. It would pay if someone adopted or had a child for a couple of weeks so they would be able to have paid time off for that following the adoption or birth of a child. The Board did vote against it. One of the primary things that was expressed was that they felt like it was not the right timing and that we would possibly experience criticism if that was moved forward. There was a board member that had concerns about us being a trend setter. There are not a lot of businesses in America in general that offer paid parental leave. Some other countries offer full paid parental leave much more. She said that especially since they are public health, they wanted to support families and make sure that people have that best, healthiest start and can support people so that they are able to take care of their family members.

Mr. Entler asked about the new COVID variant and if it is a concern. Ms. Binkley explained that there are several variants here in Macon County already. Some are more transmissible than the original strain. It is definitely concerning. She said they did not want to instill fear. They tell people not to fear, but to be prepared and do what can be done. She said it is concerning because as a community, as the Health Department and part of the Health Care system in Macon County, we are finally getting to this place where we can move forward and have that

light at the end of the tunnel and actually start living life a little bit more. But, it is a proceed with caution type of thing because in some other parts of the world and even parts of our country, people are having big issues with the variant and losing more lives. So, we want to continue to be cautious with that and take the precautions that we can. It is also very concerning that here in Macon County, we are only at 36.15% of people that are fully vaccinated. So, it is nowhere near the herd immunity that we would really like to have in order to feel a little safer moving forward. She said she definitely thinks it is concerning, and not to scare people, there have been a lot of negative ramifications of COVID other than just physical health. There are just a lot of people who are now balancing the mental and emotional effects of COVID versus the physical ones. It is going to be hard to find a balance if we start to experience some of those more dangerous variants here. There is also a lot less people getting tested now, so we have less of an accurate picture of how many people are passing COVID around in our community. It is just important for people to get vaccinated and continue to take those precautions.

**Environmental Management** - Ms. Sumpter had no report

**Regional Office of Education** – No Report

Ms. Little said she intends to reach out and ask for attendance at the next meeting because there has not been an update for a while. COVID has had a huge impact on the schools so an update would be appreciated.

**Mental Health** – no report

Ms. Little said she would be reaching out to Mr. Macken as well and ask him to come and talk a little about the program there.

**Historical Museum** – no report

Ms. Little said she would reach out to them as well. She said there are several new committee members and it would be good to see some faces and get some input on the programs they offer.

**U of I Extension** – no report

**CITIZEN'S REMARKS** – None

**OFFICEHOLDER'S REMARKS** - None

**Closed Session** – None needed

**NEXT MEETING** Next regular meeting – 7/22/2021

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned by Chair Little at 5:55 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office*