

EEHW COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, April 21, 2016
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Dudley, Chair
Linda Little, Vice Chair
Matt Brown
Jerry Potts
Gary Minich

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kevin Bird (excused)
Grant Noland

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Matt Snyder, ROE
Dianna Heyer, Health Dept
Laurie Rasmus, Env Mgmt
Kathy Powless, VA
Sgt Lou Ann Hollon, Animal Control
Kris Horton, Animal Control
Jennifer Hoffman, P&Z

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

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

MINUTES

Mr. Potts made a motion to approve the 3/17/16 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Minich and the motion carried 5-0.

CLAIMS

Ms. Little made a motion to accept the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Minich and the motion carried 5-0.

ZONING –

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case S-01-04-16, A Petition Submitted by Anita & John Szajko

Ms. Hoffman explained that this is for the operation of a licensed firearms shop and accessory building on a property zoned R1 – single family residential. It is located at 4045 Fort Daniels Road in Mt. Zion Township. The Zoning Board of Appeals hearing was held on April 6, 2016 where they voted 5-0 for approval of the petition with the stipulations that are listed in the resolution.

Ms. Little made a motion to approved forwarding the resolution to the full board with a recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Potts. Chair Dudley asked if there were any complaints. Ms. Hoffman reported that there were no objectors at the hearing, but the office received 2 letters of opposition and 3 letters of support. The motion carried 5-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case R-02-04-16, A Petition for Rezoning Submitted by Jeanette Peden, Travis Peden, & Charles Yokley

Ms. Hoffman explained that this is for a rezoning of approximately 10 acres from A-1 agricultural to RE-5 single family estate zoning. It is located at 2640 Rock Springs Road in

Blue Mound Township. The Zoning Board of Appeals hearing was held on April 6, 2016 where they voted 5-0 for approval of the petition.

Mr. Minich asked a question and Ms. Hoffman pointed it out on the map and explained that there is a house on the land and they want to divide it so the house is with 5 acres and the other 5 acre tract does not have a house on it.

Ms. Little made a motion to approved forwarding the resolution to the full board with a recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Brown and the motion carried 5-0.

SUBDIVISIONS – None

REPORTS

Planning & Zoning – No report

Regional Office of Education -

Mr. Snyder distributed his quarterly report and explained that everything is going well. They currently have 85 employees. He explained the programs and numbers of students being served. He reported on the funds being received and said they are receiving everything on time from the state except for one grant. He said they have more money in the bank for this time of the year than they've had for several years. GED testing numbers are still down, but they are going to start offering a pen and pencil test. It is the HISET test. Ms. Little asked if this test is comparable and as acceptable as the GED. Mr. Snyder said it is and there are several states that are using it exclusively.

He elaborated on the buildings in the district as far as new and renovation projects and said it is amazing what has been done. The Futures building is going to be moved at the end of this year into the old Tech Academy. Millikin Academy is there this year downstairs. The cost would be \$30,000 to \$40,000 and currently they are paying \$78,000. All of the programs will be there and it will be very beneficial.

Environmental Management -

Ms. Rasmus reported that the 1st electronics collection for 2016 was held April 2. There were 1,075 cars which is a record, by far, in terms of attendance. Another record was set in the amount of materials collected which came to 132,923 pounds. Another electronics collection is scheduled for June 18 and yet another one on October 8. Changes to accommodate additional cars more quickly are being worked on by the Environmental Management staff along with their partners at Progress City and ATR.

Mr. Potts commented that he had sat in line for an hour and only moved 300 feet. He said the problem was that there were no police at the intersection directing traffic. Ms. Rasmus said that there were 2 police officers at the corner of Mound & Brush College and they were not moving anybody off of Mound, but that was their decision. She explained that this event was attended by far more than they have ever had. She said they have never been backed up to that intersection before. In the past, there was not a need to have police. Fortunately they did come and were cooperative in that they did not shut the event down. She said they plan to be

proactive for future events and have them there. Never in the past has there been a need to worry about that intersection or a backup, but because of this collection's huge attendance, it happened. Chair Dudley commented that he thought that a lot of people were under the misunderstanding that this event was going to be the only one that was going to happen this year. He commended the Environmental Management staff for what they did. The wind was blowing about 30 to 40 mph that day. The volunteers worked very hard. There were only so many trucks that could be filled. He said he knew they had learned a lot and would improve in the future. Mr. Potts said he had spoken with Lt. Butts and he said that the County could come in and assist.

Health Department-

Ms. Heyer commented on the fact that at the Decatur City Council meeting earlier in the week, the Council had unanimously chosen to pass the Cupcake Law / Home Kitchen Act at the objections and pleas from Ms. Heyer not to. She said the City did not seem at all interested in anything she had to say as she conveyed to them that the Health Department and the Board of Health do not feel that this is well-written law. It does not protect the health of the public. The Health Department does not have the ability at the current time to manage what this would entail. She said it was clear that there is not an understanding nor a value of public health and what the Health Department does. The work that Public Health does, for example at the Decatur Celebration, consists of assuring that every food booth of those small business people has been inspected, the temperatures are appropriate and food is being handled safely. The Decatur Celebration has been successful for all of these years because the Health Department has been behind the scenes. That did not matter to them at all. It didn't matter that we inspect over 700 facilities and that we have licensed bakers out there trying to do the right thing. She said she personally believes that this act is being used totally differently than it was intended to do. Many of these folks have had good business prior to this happening and they make way over \$1,000 a month. With the way the law is written, they are not supposed to make over \$1,000 a month. How is the City going to insure that they are not going over \$1,000 a month? How are they going to assure that the specific products that they are not allowed to bake, those that are temperature sensitive, are not being made? There is no protection of the public through this bill. The Health Department is all about protecting the health of the public. There are still over 50 counties who do not want this law to pass. It goes against everything that public health is about which is prevention. Ms. Heyer said she spoke to the administrator at a meeting today. She is from the county that the little girl who Governor Quinn signed the law for was from. She said their Board of Health nor their County will pass it. Ms. Heyer respectfully asked the members of the committee to please not pass the law under the pressure they are feeling. She asked them to think about the possibilities that could occur from this law. She said she felt that the people that were coming to these meetings probably have clean kitchens, but many people do not. She told of a personal experience from years ago when she went to pick up a cake at a woman's house to find a cat walking across the counter tops and found cat hair on the cake. She stressed that most food borne illnesses pass through improper handling such as not washing hands appropriately. She offered to answer any questions and encouraged committee members to call her any time. She said she had respectfully informed the city that the Health Department could not support this if they chose to move forward. They started indicating that the Health Department could register them among other things. She said she got out of her seat and went to the podium and said that she was sorry, but the Board of Health does not want the Health

Department to do this and that she could not assist with it. She asked the members to think about the people that are out there trying to do things the right way. They are being villainized by some of the home bakers by trying to do things appropriately. They are being undercut by the home bakers. They are still afraid to come forward, but she said she did get a call from a couple of them thanking the Health Department for trying to stand up and do the right thing. She said she was frustrated and again offered to answer questions. She said she is passionate about what the Health Department does and feels that they do good work. This is nothing personal, but is strictly a belief that they are supposed to protect the public's health.

Chair Dudley said that out of the 102 counties in Illinois, only 8 have passed the ordinance. Ms. Little asked how many had voted it down. Ms. Heyer said 50 counties have chosen not to do it. Ms. Little asked if it was voted down or just decided not to address it. Ms. Heyer said it was her understanding that they voted it down. There are 18 that are undecided. Chair Dudley said he sits on the Health Department Board and would like for everyone to keep in mind that with all the budget constraints from the state, they are not getting paid. To ask the Health Department to do another unfunded mandate at this point in time when they're just trying to keep the doors open would put more pressure on. He asked how many people had been let go. Ms. Heyer said that when she started there was a staff of 102, and it is down to 86 now. Chair Dudley said they are understaffed and are trying to do everything they can to keep the doors open. He said this committee would have to deal with it because they (the cake bakers) would be back and would probably present something. He said when he told them they needed to go to the City, there wasn't anyone in the unincorporated parts of Macon County doing this, but now they've found a few. He said he didn't really have a problem with a lot of it, but didn't know if it would be worth the hassle to completely encapsulate the entire county over 3 or 4 people. There is a lot to consider, but the committee will have to deal with it. He said he had spoken to the State Public Health Department a few weeks ago. He said he and Lisa Gregory from the City Council went over. They weren't real crazy about for the same reasons mentioned here tonight. The timing and the budget are not good. He said he walked out of there thinking they were going to hold off too, but they did it without his knowing they were going to. He said that is ok, but he thought he'd get a call. He said it has been looked into a lot and it is not being done haphazardly.

Animal Control

Sgt. Hollon distributed a report and explained that there are only 134 animals in the shelter. This is pretty low. There are 54 cats and 60 dogs. That's a first time in a long time that there have been less cats than dogs.

April 22 is Earth Day. Several schools lend a hand and she encouraged anyone that could come out and lend a hand too, it would be appreciated.

June events include the June 4th ten year anniversary and they will be doing the All American Pet Birthday Party. That may also be the weekend of the Summer Freeze where 300 Below does their block party.

Mental Health-no report

Veterans Assistance –

Ms. Powless updated the committee on the Emergency Assistance Program. She said there was an elderly vet and his wife who were about to be evicted because they couldn't make their rent. They were behind \$900. They were assisted with \$700 and they were able to come up with the \$200. A claim was filed for pension that will bring in an extra \$200 a month for them so hopefully this won't happen again.

A young vet on Social Security Disability got kicked off and behind on his rent, so he, his wife and daughter were helped so they were not evicted.

A vet got laid off from her job, broke her ankle and unemployment didn't kick in for 3 weeks. She was assisted and able to help her stay in her house.

A young reservist drilled out, completed all his drills for a certain timeframe and couldn't do any more to help make his rent. He was assisted and kept from being evicted.

The program is working wonderfully and more requests are coming in. Some are coming from the Salvation Army referrals. They are being kept in their homes and off the streets. Ms. Little asked if there was a policy for how many times they can be helped. Ms. Powless said it is once a year at a max of \$700 for the year. Ms. Little said she did not want this to be another place on the list where they can keep coming back to for more. Ms. Powless said they are told they can only do it once a year and it is not something that they need to come back every year and do because that is not what it is about. They have all had it pointed out to them.

Historical Museum – no report

U of I Extension – no report

Citizen's Remarks – none

OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS – none

Closed Session – none needed

NEXT MEETING Next regular meeting - Thursday, May 19, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Potts made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Brown and the motion carried 5-0. Chair Dudley adjourned the meeting at 6 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham