

EEHW COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, December 15, 2016
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Dudley, Chair
Grant Noland
Matt Brown
Rachel Joy
Jerry Potts
Debra Kraft

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Matt Snyder, ROE
Tracy Sumpter, P&Z

Kathy Powless, VA
Sgt Lou Ann Hollon, Animal Control
Kris Horton, Animal Control

MEMBERS ABSENT

Helena Buckner, Vice Chair

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 November 17, 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Noland and the motion carried 6-0.

ZONING –

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case S-01-12-16, A Petition for a Special Use Permit Submitted by Allied Asphalt (Kent Darst)

Ms. Sumpter explained that the request is for the operation of an asphalt business in R-I single family, residential zoning. It is commonly located at 2103 S. Taylorville Road in South Wheatland Township. The ZBA public hearing was held on December 7th and based on finding of facts, staff recommended approval 5-0 with the stipulations as shown in the resolution.

Mr. Potts made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brown to forward the resolution on to the full board with a recommendation to approve and the motion carried 6-0.

SUBDIVISIONS – None

REPORTS

Environmental Management - no report

Health Department- no report

Animal Control

Sgt Hollon distributed a monthly report on the numbers for November and offered to answer questions. There were no questions.

Sgt. Hollon reported that the Foster for the Holidays Program is going on. She urged everyone to spread the room so the animals could have a home for the holidays. If they adopt, it is a reduced rate of \$45. That goes until the 14th.

Mr. Potts asked about a credit card bill and if the balance is being carried. Ms. Horton & Sgt. Hollon assured him the bill is paid off each month.

Mental Health-no report

Veterans Assistance –

Ms. Powless reported that they had received 156 gift cards @ \$30 each from Texas Roadhouse totaling to \$4,680 which was matched by the Howard Buffet Foundation. There are 16 gift cards @ \$25 each for WalMart from the Elk Ladies Lodge 401. Help for Heroes matching funds have come in from the Howard Buffet Foundation on Monday. The check was for \$124,985 which brings the total up \$147,751. Veterans are eating very well. VFW had 35 gift baskets that went out. For a lot of the vets, a \$25 WalMart gift card is a lot, but if they can go eat at the Texas Roadhouse while they are out, it is great. They are all just really happy.

Historical Museum – no report

U of I Extension – no report

Planning & Zoning – No report

Regional Office of Education -

Mr. Snyder presented the quarterly report explaining that they get funding from Macon County and the Piatt County Board as well. It is about 80% from Macon and 20% from Piatt.

There are 89 employees. Everything is going pretty well. Federal funding has been pretty solid. State funding is down right now. Funds are slow even though education is in the full budget and he said they would be getting paid this year. They are just behind in receiving some of the funds right now. Local funds look down for 2nd quarter, but the 1st quarter is when a lot of the tuition for the Tech Academy and other programs come in and they are received on a semester basis so another big chunk is starting to flow in. GED testing is way down. There are some things being worked on there. Mr. Snyder said they are out visiting the schools. Professional workshops are being handled differently. They are now going out to the schools because the schools are having such a hard time finding subs and financially they can't really afford a lot of workshops so professional development is being brought to them on their early out days. Each teacher has to have 100-120 hours of professional development over 5 years. Superintendents are met with each month. There is a huge shortage of teachers and substitute teachers. That is also being worked on. Millikin University, as one example, just graduated approximately 30 teacher candidates mid-term, but they can't get jobs because they won't get their transcripts until mid-January. Teaching certificates & sub-certificates can't be obtained

until they have transcripts and that is a statewide issue. Decatur will have about 40 openings starting 2nd semester and the county schools will as well. Chair Dudley asked if the State Legislators have been asked about a waiver. Mr. Snyder said it was being looked at and they are talking to the State Board too trying to figure out how to make this work because of the teacher shortage and all the job openings, people pay a lot of money to get their degree and they are sitting there when they could have a job. Those discussions have been started. They are looking at upping sub pay which is at \$95 a day right now. Ten years ago, it was \$90. They are looking at all kinds of things. Right now you have to have a bachelor's degree to substitute and they are talking about possibly lowering that to 60 credit hours. There are some issues with that as well.

Mr. Snyder said he was recently in Springfield. The way the state works, Department of Transportation maps are used to determine low income. Decatur has a large number of low income students. Argenta has a small number. They have found out that in the Larkdale area and their apartments and trailer park, which are Argenta district, Decatur has been getting those students claimed as low income for a number of years. It is going to cause a cost shift. Decatur will lose money. Argenta will gain money. It is an example of how things get convoluted.

Chair Dudley asked how things were going with the sales tax. Mr. Snyder said it is flowing. Sangamon Valley is getting ready to build some science labs. Everybody else has built. He said what was done in Meridian is unbelievable. Everywhere over here has built. Champaign County has built like crazy too. Eisenhower school students are really taking care of that building. It is still beautiful.

Citizen's Remarks – none

OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS – none

Closed Session – none needed

NEXT MEETING Next regular meeting - Thursday, January 26, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Potts, seconded by Mr. Brown, the motion carried 6-0. Chair Dudley welcomed the new members to the committee and thanked everyone for their work and interest and then adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham