

**EEHW COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**August 24, 2017**  
**5:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Tim Dudley, Chair  
Helena Buckner, Vice Chair  
Rachel Joy  
Jerry Potts (arrived @ 5:31 p.m.)  
Matt Brown  
Debra Kraft

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Grant Noland

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Sgt. Hollon, Animal Control  
Jennifer Gunter, P&Z  
Carol Reed, Auditor  
Kris Horton, Animal Control  
Sheree Zalanka, Health Dept  
Dianna Heyer, Health Dept  
Laurie Rasmus, Environmental Mgmt  
Nick Burge, Environmental Management  
Tim Macken, Mental Health  
LeAnne Shoemaker, Mental Health  
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

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

**MINUTES**

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve the July 27, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Brown and the motion carried 5-0.

**CLAIMS**

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

**ZONING –**

***Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case R-01-08-17, A Petition for Rezoning Submitted by Richard & Linda Neihart & Terry Schum***

Ms. Gunter explained that the R-01-08-17 petition filed by Richard & Linda Neihart and Terry Schum is for rezoning approximately 3.8 acres from (A-1) Agricultural Zoning to (R-1) Single Family Residential Zoning. This property is commonly located at 5095 S. Franklin St Rd in South Wheatland Township. On August 2nd, a public Zoning Board of Appeals hearing was held and based on the finding of facts and staff recommended approval. The Zoning Board of Appeals voted 5-0 for approval of the rezoning

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 4-0.

***Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case R-02-08-17, A Petition for Rezoning Submitted by Zion Chapel UMC***

Ms. Gunter explained that the R-02-08-17 petition filed by Zion Chapel UMC for rezoning is approximately 2 acres from (A-1) Agricultural Zoning to (R-1) Single Family Residential Zoning. This property is commonly located at 6478 Nevada Road in Blue Mound Township. On August 2nd, a public Zoning Board of Appeals hearing was held and based on the finding of facts and staff recommended approval. The Zoning Board of Appeals voted 5-0 for approval of the rezoning.

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

**SUBDIVISIONS** – None

**REPORTS**

**Planning & Zoning** –

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Mitigation Grant for Macon County to Mitigate Flood Properties***

Ms. Gunter explained that this is a resolution approving the mitigation grant for Macon County to mitigate Flood properties. She explained that she had written a FEMA grant for \$322,652.00 to mitigate 3 houses on Kruse Road and turn them into green space. The matching grant will cost the county \$50,660.00, which she explained that she is working with the state for reimbursement of the match through the floodplain programs. This is the end result of a project that has been going on for many years.

Chair Dudley said he thought it had started in about 2008 or 2009 or even before that. He thanked Ms. Gunter for all of her work on it.

Ms. Buckner made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation for approval, seconded by Ms. Joy, and the motion carried 6-0.

**Veteran's Assistance**

No report

**Environmental Management** –

Ms. Rasmus said that before getting into the budget packet, she would like to take a minute to discuss the direction of the department.

Essentially, the department is tasked with preventing pollution and advancing recycling. The recycling programs and services that are offered are a key component to carrying out these tasks.

Currently, many of the recycling programs are conducted by holding scheduled events for the collection of a specific category such as paint or electronics. Going forward, with the intent of consistently making it more convenient for residents to properly manage these items, we would

like to move away from an event-based model and offer regular, frequent collection hours for the acceptance of items across multiple categories. In other words, one-stop recycling with predictable hours.

To accommodate this in an efficient, productive manner, it is understood that the department's offices and operations should be housed in the same building. A preliminary search for such a building is in its very first stages.

Our 2018 budget proposal was prepared with the aim of progressing towards our goal of one-stop recycling.

Beginning on **Page 3** (*Budget Overview*)

This page gives you an overview, showing that the department's budget is comprised of 3 sections

- 1) General Fund
- 2) Dept's reserves
- 3) Enforcement Program

For 2018, a 6.2% decrease in expenditures was made from the General Fund account. The other two sections are being funded at nearly the same level as the 2017 budget.

**Page 4** is a Summary of Wages

For 2018, an overall reduction in wages was made by

- Reducing salaries for the Director & Asst. Director from where they were by those who formerly held those positions;
- Eliminating Recycling Coordinator position;
- Taking on a 25% share of the Planning & Zoning Dept.'s Office Manager;
- Increasing the allotment for part-time staff.

**Page 5** shows our Proposed Capital Expenditures

Proposed equipment purchases focus on moving electronics both from personal vehicles that come through and try to unload large TVs as well as in the warehouse. She explained that they are looking at a forklift and other type of moving equipment.

Page 6 shows the 3 sections of the department's budget.

General Fund

- Line 4361 shows that we expect to receive \$20,000 in fees for recycling electronics.
- Line 4910 estimates that \$459,200 in Host Fees will be received into the General Fund. In 2018, the County will receive \$2.69 for every ton of waste accepted by Advanced Disposal Services at their landfill.
- For expenses
  - The 5000s show that:
    - 50% of Director's salary & 50% of Asst. Director's salary come from this section (the remaining 50% for each position comes from the Enforcement section)

- Other wages to be paid from in the 5000s include our 25% share for the Office Mgr. position and wages for part-time staff.
- The 6000s to 9000s line items are either the same or similar as the previous year
- The bottom line for this section on Page 8, shows that total expenditures from our department's General Fund allocation were reduced by 6.2% as compared to 2017.

Reserves account, which is on Page 10 with an accompanying notes page on 11.

- Our Reserves account is being used to allow for increased spending, beyond what is projected from the General Fund for part-time staff, contractual services, recycling programs and equipment.
- The bottom line shows that proposed spending for 2018 from our Reserves account is slightly reduced from what was budgeted in 2017.

Enforcement Program is on Page 12 with a notes page on 13.

- Through our delegation agreement, the IEPA has committed to reimbursing \$46,265 of our expenses – which is a 70% reimbursement rate.
- The remaining \$18,154 of projected expenses will be drawn from our department's Reserves Account.

In summary the budget package:

**Makes the 6.2% cut in expenditures from the General Fund and keeps budgeted levels nearly the same from our Reserves Account.**

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the proposed budget on to the Finance Budget Hearing with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Brown and the motion carried 6-0.

### **Health Department**

Ms. Heyer reported that a couple of weeks ago, the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator held a training in the evening called Until Help Arrives. The purpose of this FEMA course that is geared toward educating people on how to keep people alive until help arrives in a major disaster. It was open to the public and to the medical reserve corps. It was very well attended.

This week, Ms. Heyer attended the Opioid and Heroin Forum that Rodney Davis held in Clinton. There was a great turn out there. This is a really big issue that needs to be tackled all over the state of Illinois. Ms. Heyer explained that they are seeking ways that the Health Department can help with the issue.

Another diabetes self management class was begun at the SIU Clinic. They had good participation and were very pleased with the class.

Immunizations and dental exams are still being given to kids.

A graduation party was recently held for families in the Healthy Families Illinois Program. This is an intensive case management program that runs for 5 years from the time the mother is expecting through the child's age 5. The goal is to assist with educating the parent on health

and development, giving them tools for success, guiding them in their education, and assisting with graduating through the program. Five people were graduated.

### ***FY18 Budget Presentation***

Ms. Zalanka reported that the budget has gone through the Health Department's Finance Committee and Board and was approved. The total revenue for the budget is \$6,131,850. Total expenses are \$6,123,024 which leaves a net of \$8,826.

Efforts are continually being made to decrease overhead expenditures. The budget represents a 16% indirect overhead cost which is similar to the last few years.

An increase in payroll to be given through performance evaluations in the fall is included in the budget. A survey of comparable health departments was conducted in 2014 and it revealed that the salaries are up to 25% lower than positions at other health departments. FY18 represents the third year in the plan to increase the salaries at the Health Department. Several positions were rehired that were not filled because of the state budget and the uncertainty of receiving grant funds.

The State budget has made the grant process somewhat challenging. Some contracts for FY18 have been received, but payment is still being awaited for a few of the programs in FY17. Now that a budget is in place, payments have started flowing more regularly, so it is hopeful that all of that will be received soon.

The Health Fund balance is at \$4.2 million at the end of June. The FY18 budget shows average expenditures of \$510,000 per month. This indicates that an appropriate working fund balance should average between \$1.5 & \$2.1 annually. This would allow 3 to 4 months in reserves.

The Health Department has been operating short staffed for the last 3 years. This is the main reason the Health Fund Balance is where it is today. In early 2016, the Health Fund balance was down to \$1.3 million. At that time, state payments were not being received. It is believed that it is necessary to keep a larger health fund balance at this time because of the severe uncertainty of funding from the state level.

In FY18, the Health Department will continue to look at electronic health records, digital signage, trading in departmental vehicles, and further increasing employee salaries to better align with health departments of the same size and county population.

Ms. Heyer added that when she came on board 3 years ago, the troubles with the state budget were on the horizon and they have been very cautious over the past 3 years to be careful about rehiring as people left. People have been covering positions and some things have been reorganized. The reserve looks pretty good right now, but the fear is that moving into FY18, it is not known what is going to happen, so she explained that they will continue to be diligent about being cautious about spending. She reiterated that they had had a professional company do a salary survey in 2014 and it was found that some of the positions were up to 25% lower than other health departments of equal size, especially in the areas of managers, directors, case

managers, and RNs. She said that they have been working each year to try and get that up so they could be competitive and get people to work for them. That is still the goal.

Chair Dudley added that he had been a member of the Health Board during that time and said that he could not thank Ms. Heyer enough for her leadership during those tough times. To keep the doors open and the Health Department running during those times was amazing. Ms. Heyer gave credit to her team. He said we have really good leadership in Decatur and we should be really proud of that Health Department. Ms. Heyer commented that the sad thing about the whole budget situation with the state is that so many local health departments and social service agencies have lost so many good qualified people with years of service.

Mr. Potts made a motion to approve forwarding the proposed budget on to the Finance Budget Hearing with recommendation for approval, seconded by Ms. Buckner and the motion carried 6-0.

### **Animal Control**

Ms. Horton reported that in 2016, Animal Control picked up 2499 animals within the county. 1200 were adopted out. The full time vet was lost on the first day of the fiscal year and spent the whole year with a part time vet and had to pay vet clinics in town for their services. Wardens ran 8,800 calls in one year. With all of this, they were still able to come to within \$5,000 of their budget. Sgt. Hollon continued that that was after losing \$95,000 they had been asked to drop. Things that have been done this year is as well include having to begin looking into replacing computers. Most of the systems have to maintain databases and be able to tell them is they've been to a house before and how many time. The system has to stay up on the latest windows system. Updating has begun, but it can't be done all at once. In the next couple of years, the old systems will no longer be usable. Six new computers were added this year. More will be added next year. A new truck had to be purchased this year. There was a situation where a warden was on a call and someone didn't see him and ran into the back of his truck and totaled the truck with the lift gate. The insurance company came through and provided everything needed to purchase a new truck. A new full time Vet was hired. Having a vet on staff every day makes a difference. She explained that they are thankful to have the Decatur Macon County Animal Shelter Foundation in their corner to help pay for things when they can't. They are currently paying for a full time Adoption Coordinator. The insurance for that position is paid out of the Animal Control budget. They have also decided to give a part time Adoption Coordinator and it is hoped that that will help alleviate some of the shelter's part time costs. Sgt. Hollon explained that they had recently switched to a new food. It is hard to tell yet how much, but it is believed that the savings are going to be substantial. The higher quality allows using a lesser quantity. There have been no problems with the animals. A new program in conjunction with the Decatur Public Schools was started this year. Sgt. Hollon explained that she wants to give kids a chance to come out and learn how to work with a vet or a warden. Two students were taken on through the year and that also gives the shelter free help. They work out well and later if there is an opening, they can be hired and it is a win / win. Good feedback has been received. Other intern programs are also done, but these come out of Decatur Schools. Statistic reports are placed on the website in an effort to be a transparent agency. Fido Scurry which is a like a 5K where you walk with your dog is coming up. Dogs that can be adopted are brought to the event. It is on September 9<sup>th</sup> in Fairview Park at 8 a.m.

### ***FY18 Budget Presentation***

Sgt. Hollon pointed out that when looking at the May, 2017 figures, they are nowhere near what they will be for the year. More money will be coming in from the City per contract. Next year, they are slotted to pay \$585,273 for animal control. The \$95,000 from the general fund was put back into the budget. Sgt. Hollon said that she had been told that if it cannot come out of the general fund, animal control is considered a part of the safety tax because it is responsible for assuring that the county and the city are safe. That \$95,000 has not been received in the last two years. The Animal Shelter desperately needs that, or at least some of that to get back to where they need to be. Decisions based on the life and death of animals are starting to have to be made and Sgt. Hollon said she does not want to have to be in that position especially if it is something that can be fixed. Total projections of revenue minus expenditures, considering the inclusion of the \$95,000, would put the shelter at a \$55,000 gain by the end of the year. Last year, there was a projection of a \$32,000 loss. She said she did not think there would be a loss by the end of the year. That is how good the staff has done this year to try to cut costs. But, it has come with the cost of having to make harder decisions in the running of animal control. She told the committee that they should tell her what they need, but it does come with a cost.

Ms. Kraft asked how many computers are at the shelter. With six having been replaced over the past year, how many more are there to replace? Sgt. Hollon said there is a total of 13, so that leave 7 more to replace. Ms. Kraft referred to them not having a full time vet last year and the fact that they came within \$5,000 of the budget and asked if that was because of not having the vet or where the \$5,000 came from. Ms. Horton said they honestly thought they were going to blow the budget last year when they lost the vet. Sgt. Hollon referred to the Professional Service line and the \$18,000 increase. She said they had done a lot of begging and pleading to the vets and a lot of them gave free services. They can't be expected to do that forever. The Foundation helps sometimes too. Ms. Horton said they currently have a beautiful, young dog with a torn ACL. That is a \$1,500 to \$3,000 surgery. One of the local vets, with some begging and pleading, is going to do it for \$300. They have a student that they are going to use this surgery as a teaching tool. This is not something that happens regularly. Everything that can be saved is. Sgt. Hollon said they have a fund balance, but she is not sure what the current balance is. That is why she was allowed to run a \$32,000 loss last year.

Chair Dudley said the volunteers are amazing and he'd love to come out more often, but he'd just want to take them home with him.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to pass the proposed budget on to the Finance Budget Hearing with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Buckner and the motion carried 6-0.

### **Regional Office of Education**

No report

**Mental Health –**  
***FY18 Budget Presentation***

Mr. Tim Macken introduced himself as the Executive Director at the Mental Health Board. He explained that he had spent the last 22 years at Heritage, recently as the Chief Operating Officer. July marked his 33<sup>rd</sup> year in behavior health.

He reported that they are there to request an extension of the Mental Health Fund tax levy at the same, maximum, level of \$1.5 million as has been the case for the past 4 fiscal years. There have been some challenges this past fiscal year. The contract with Health Alliance was lost when they pulled out of the region. They are one of the Managed Care Companies. Both of the two that were in this area pulled out. That source of revenue has departed. There were also expenses related to that. Contracts with all the providers had to be reduced by 10%. It is hopeful that in time, it can be returned to them.

This levy equals \$60 a year on a home valued at \$120,000. Operational expenses have been maintained at 8.4% of the budget. Other mental health boards throughout the state are at over 13%. A good job has been done in keeping the expenses below the average.

There continues to be difficulties in getting payments to providers and it is thought that that pressure will continue to increase the pressure on the board and the mental health fund. While managed care will be reintroduced to this area in January, the Board has also generated revenue over the past several years with local funds initiatives. The board has been able to directly bill Medicaid. That brings an extra 50 cents for every dollar of additional revenue to the county. That is a good thing, but when managed care came into the picture, that process stopped for the most part. Some is still being done. It is unsure if the capacity to do that and pursue that will be saved because that extra revenue will help. The challenge with the managed care companies, the State forgot about the existence of Local Fund Initiatives through mental health boards. And so, they didn't know what to do with the contracts they let with those managed care companies. They got bills and didn't know how to process them, so they didn't pay. It is hoped that in the negotiations with the managed care companies that get the contracts will be notified not to forget about the LFI. So, there is hope in bringing that revenue back up.

Chair Dudley said that again, it is amazing that the board is able to continue doing what they are doing with the way the state has been. It's hard to plan a budget around what is perceived that the state will do. It again shows what kind of people and the kind of job they do that we have in Macon County. Mr. Macken credited his staff and the great job they do.

Mr. Macken also commented on the Opioid & Heroin forum that Ms. Heyer had spoken about attending in Clinton. He said he had some involvement in this having just come from Heritage where they collaborated with Crossing Health Care. He said over the last 4 years, there has been a nearly 400% increase in the number of people with opioid addiction and overdose deaths. This county is pretty remarkable. The efforts to provide overdose reversal kits to First Responders, actually training participants in methadone and medication assisted treatment, and how to use the kits. This County's death rate while horrible a year ago at 13 deaths is significantly lower than Sangamon County because of that program and getting those things in place. The Mental Health Board is in a good position to kind of pull people together to have a unified approach to that. Something unified across all agencies can be so much more useful.



Mr. Potts made a motion to forward the proposal on to the Finance Budget Hearing with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Joy, and the motion carried 6-0.

**Historical Museum**

No report

**U of I Extension**

No Report

**Citizen's Remarks** – none

**OLD BUSINESS -**

Chair Dudley thanked Vice Chair Buckner for picking up the slack at last month's meeting when he was unable to be present.

**NEW BUSINESS** – none

**Closed Session** – none needed

**NEXT MEETING** Next regular meeting – September 28, 2017

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Potts, seconded by Ms. Kraft, the motion carried 6-0 and Chair Dudley adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham*