

EEHW COMMITTEE MEETING
November 16, 2017 5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Tracy Sumpter, P&Z
Sgt Reynolds, Animal Control
Dianna Heyer, Health Dept
Kathy Powless, VA
Kris Horton, Animal Control
Laurie Rasmus, Env Mgmt
Nick Burge, Env. Mgmt
Laura Zimmerman, County Board member
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

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

MINUTES

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve the October 26, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Noland and the motion carried 7-0.

CLAIMS

Ms. Kraft made a motion to accept the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Brown and the motion carried 7-0.

ZONING –

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case S-01-11-17, A Petition Requesting Renewal of a Special Use Permit Submitted by Hollie Burns

Ms. Sumpter explained that this is to operate an animal grooming and pet photography business in R1, single family residential zoning. The property is located at 2727 W. Rock Springs Road in South Wheatland Township. On November 1st, a public ZBA (Zoning Board of Appeals) hearing was held and based on the finding of facts, staff recommended approval, the ZBA voted 3-1 for approval of the special use permit with the stipulations listed on the resolution.

Mr. Potts asked if this request had anything to do with the last request. This is a whole different deal with different circumstances. This is a renewal.

Mr. Brown made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Noland. Chair Dudley asked if the petitioner had any problems with the stipulations. He was informed that they did not. The motion carried 7-0.

SUBDIVISIONS – None

REPORTS

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Ms. Heyer reported that at the last meeting, she had told them about an opioid prevention meeting that they had been asked to host by the Governor's Office. She said that they did that on November 1st in the County Board Room. She said the room was filled. There were 11 speakers. Most of them were providers such as social service agencies, but there were a couple of parents who had lost a son. It was a very good meeting. Ms. Heyer said she had learned a lot as she was not aware of how much was being done regarding this issue. The premise for the meeting was that the Governor's Office wanted to hear about what the community is doing about the issue, what kind of services are available, and to get feedback on the plan that the state had pushed out for opioid prevention.

Some highlights she shared included:

- There have been over 1800 people that died in Illinois of overdose in the past year. In Macon County, so far this year, 4 have died. In 2015, there were 11 and in 2016, there were 11 more that died. It is unbelievable. Most people do not know how widespread this is. It is nationwide. There are more people dying of opioid related overdoses than car accidents. She said it really opened her eyes about how widespread the issues are and how much our community is doing about it. She said that some of the things she learned are that:
 - The Sheriff's office has been implementing something called the Safe Passages Program which helps addicts get into treatment. If they are willing to give up their drugs and paraphernalia they have, the Sheriff's Office has been helping them get into treatment.
 - The Tyler Yount Foundation, Tyler's parents along with the ambulance services and the Sheriff's Office, have trained over 400 First Responders to give Narcan which is the drug that will reverse an overdose. That is amazing.
 - Macon County has a drug court program.
 - Dr. Dennis Rademacher is one of the medical directors at the St. Marys Treatment Center. There are very, very few physicians in our county that have gotten trained to be able to do medication assisted treatment to help the folks that are trying to get off this stuff. He is one that can give it, Heritage and Crossing have done a collaborative program, and maybe one other physician. The problem is that the insurance companies are not paying for long term treatment. They'll pay for about 28 days of treatment and then when the individual gets out of treatment, it is very easy for them to fall back into taking the drugs again. Overdoses usually happen right when they've gotten out of treatment and their body is more susceptible to the overdose because they are not used to taking that heavy amount of drugs. There were such heartbreaking stories heard that day. Dr. Rademacher suggested that we need more physicians that can do the treatment, more beds, more places for people to go when they get out of treatment, ability to be in long term therapy – longer than just the 28 days – to learn how to rehabilitate, be on the medication assisted treatment, learn how to rebuild their lives, how to get a job, how to be able to function in the community again.

- The Brick House Foundation for men has been started by a gentleman in Decatur to help men getting out of treatment rebuild their lives.
- A local attorney said the majority of cases he has worked on over the last 13 years as a defense attorney had some kind of connection to abuse and / or misuse of drugs and / or alcohol. In years past, these people have been going directly into jail. What they really need is help.
- The jail has been working on a Vivatrol Program through the Gateway Foundation. This is something where addicts that are in jail can get treatment.
- Educators at the Health Department are finding that the families that are dealing with the addictions have such heartbreaking stories. This is happening to people in all walks of life. The picture of a drug addict has changed. It could be anybody. People go in for surgery or a young athlete goes in after an injury and is put on pain killers and they like the way it makes them feel, so they start looking for more. They get to the point where they can't get anymore and decide to try heroin which is much less expensive, but once you start heroin, it is almost impossible to get off of it.

One of the things that came out of the meeting is that Tim Macken with the Mental Health Board will begin to facilitate a coalition. In November, a lot of the people that were at this meeting will meet again to start the coalition to see what they, as a group, can do to help solve the problem. This is a big issue for the community to try to collaboratively find some answers to help people. Prevention is key. That is what Public Health is good at. A lot of Health Departments are getting into training First Responders to give the Narcan. Other groups have already started doing that, but that may be a way the Health Department can help. There are some people that are given Narcan, overdose the next day, and get Narcan again. There has to be some long term follow up treatment for these people.

It was a really good meeting, well attended. There were a lot of good people, good speakers there that are out there in the community, caring for people and trying to help.

Ms. Heyer added that there are still flu shots available.

Planning & Zoning – No Report

Veteran's Assistance

Ms. Powless reported that the Howard Buffett Foundation had pledged to give \$125,000 again this year IF they raised one cent more than was raised last year which was \$25,000. She said they raised over \$30,000 and the checks are still coming in. The check for \$125,000 from the Howard Buffett Foundation was received today.

The NE Community Fund has asked for 10 names for Thanksgiving boxes. There are 4 vets that are wheelchair bound and unable to come pick them up. Gregg Collins will deliver them on Monday.

Durfee School has asked for 7 names for Christmas boxes.

Christmas basket lists for the VFW Post 99 are being compiled. Last year there were 35 food baskets. The hope is that there will be a few more this year.

The office will be closed tomorrow, Friday, 11/17 so the staff can be at the Stand Down at the Salvation Army.

The Pearl Harbor Day ceremony will be at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 12/7/17 at the Beach House Restaurant. She asked that everybody please try to come. They'll be there no matter how cold it is. The speaker will be Pete Frank who is one of the few remaining WWII Navy Vet.

At the Veterans Day ceremony, there was only Ms. Powless, Mr. Collins & Josh Tanner from the county.

Environmental Management –

Mr. Nick Burge reported that he is the Assistant Director with Environmental Management and he wanted to give an overview on the Municipal Grant Program. 7 Spring Clean up Grants were awarded this year. An additional \$800 was offered as part of the grant if Townships, Cities and Villages were implementing electronics recycling into their events. Five of those Villages & Townships took advantage of that. Those that did collect electronics had over 50,000 pounds or a little over 25 tons recycled. In terms of waste disposal, these programs give residents the opportunity to get rid of large items that would otherwise be cumbersome to get rid of. This includes couches, chairs, large furniture, etc. The total for waste disposed was almost 300,000 pounds or a little over 100 tons.

A Community Sustainability Grant is also given in the amount up to \$5,000. This year, it went to Crossing Health Care. They wanted to put in a living perimeter around their community garden.

A four yard dumpster was also provided for the Decatur Park District to put at Rotary Park as opposed to having a large roll off box there.

Out of the \$18,000 budget, a little over \$16,000 in grants this year.

Ms. Rasmus reported that they would be starting the Christmas Light Collection Program again this year the Monday after Thanksgiving. It will be done a little differently. The office will continue to accept them as they always have, but those are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. business hours that are difficult for a lot of people. So, in addition, a used clothing bin has been purchased, painted and signed and will be available at the Recycling Center on 21st Street where paint & electronics are collected for collection of Christmas lights as well.

An electronics collection was held this week with about 80 people coming through. It was a successful event.

Animal Control

Sgt. Matt Reynolds introduced himself and explained that he had taken over at the Animal Control facility. He distributed the statistics report for October and offered to answer questions.

The Home for the Holidays Adoption Promotion will be held from Saturday, November 18th through January 6th. This is a fostering program for the shelter pets with the hopes that it does lead to an adoption. If it does lead to an adoption, they are 50% off with the Shelter Foundation supplementing the other 50%.

Regional Office of Education No report

Mental Health – No report

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 – December 21, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Potts, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the motion carried 7-0 and Chair Dudley adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham