

EEHW COMMITTEE MEETING
October 24, 2019 5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Dudley, Chair
Debra Kraft, Vice Chair
Matt Brown
Laura Zimmerman
Jim Gresham
Helena Buckner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Linda Little

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Patty Cox, County Board
Matt Reynolds, Animal Control
Jeff Scheibly, Sheriff's Dept
Greg Collins, Veterans
Jennifer Gunter, P&Z
Sheree Zalanka, Health Department
Bethany Stapel, Health Department
Nick Burge, Environmental Mgmt
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

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

MINUTES

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve the 9/26/19 meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

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

ZONING –

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case R-01-10-19, A Petition for Rezoning Submitted by Andrew & Allison Smith

Ms. Gunter explained that R-01-10-19 is a petition filed by Andrew & Allison Smith requesting a rezoning of approximate 5.0 acres from (R-1) Single Family Residential zoning to (RE-5) Single Family Estate Zoning. This property is commonly located at 4755 Bentonville Road in Long Creek Township. On October 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 4-0 for approval of the rezoning.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Dr. Zimmerman and the motion carried 6-0.

SUBDIVISIONS –None

REPORTS

Planning & Zoning – No report

Animal Control

Sgt Reynolds presented statistics and explained that the current shelter inventory consists of 204 animals of which 149 are cats, 54 are dogs and one rooster.

The current three adoption specials are Fall in Love with Pitties and Kitties. This is in line with national Pitbull month. All pitbull adoptions are \$25, kitten adoptions are \$40 and adult cats are pay what they weight.

Ms. Kraft asked how many pitbulls they had. Sgt Reynolds said they generally make up the majority of the dog population at the shelter.

Sgt. Reynolds reported that Sheriff Brown has made some staffing changes and as of 12/2/19, Lt. Scheibly will be the new administrator at the shelter. Sgt. Reynolds said he would be going to 2nd shift Patrol. Lt. Scheibly introduced himself saying that he has been with the Sheriff's Office for 25 years. About 5 years ago he was at the shelter for about 3 years, so he is definitely familiar with it.

Veteran's Assistance -

Mr. Collins invited everyone to the Veteran's Day event scheduled at the Salvation Army at 7 o'clock.

Health Department –

Assistant Administrator, Bethany Stapel reminded everyone that they are offering flu vaccines and gave an update on the Year in Review hosted by the Environmental Health Division for the food establishments. It was held on October 21 & 22. Press releases were put out. Postcards were mailed to all of the establishments and then they were notified as Environmental Health Specialists were going out on site. It was promoted at the C of C and they were on the radio several times. There were 35 individuals from 21 establishments that attended. That is about 3% of the facilities that showed up.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Contract for Copier Lease and Monthly Images for Macon County Health Department

Ms. Zalanka explained that they contract for copier, printing technology and services. The current contract expires January 9, 2020. Bids were received from 4 vendors in April, 2019. Watts was the lowest responsible bidder. A 5 year contract was negotiated. The proposed contract has been reviewed by the State's Attorney's Office and the Board of Health. This is for 6 machines at the Health Department. It will be a savings of \$20,000 annually.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Dr. Zimmerman and the motion carried 6-0.

Environmental Management –

Mr. Burge reported on the action in progress after the passage of Resolution No. G-5050-10-19. This resolution gives the Decatur Public Building Commission the ability to convey the Parcel (Wyckles property) back to the Buffett Foundation.

He said he wanted to bring to the committee members' attention that Piezometers had been installed on the property by SKS Engineering, Inc. during the summer of 2018 for the purpose of monitoring the elevation of the groundwater (water table) as a preliminary measure before a facility could be built on the property. As a result of this resolution, Mr. Burge said he has contacted SKS Engineering, Inc. to try to schedule the removal of these piezometers and sealing of the resulting holes. This is important to eliminate the risk of a pipe becoming broken and allowing contaminants from surface drainage (farm chemicals, pollutants) into the groundwater layer. Through correspondence with the Decatur Public Building Commission and SKS Engineering, the Wyckles property has been fully harvested and is ready for SKS Engineering to conduct their work. SKS Engineering stated that weather-permitting, the work could be completed by the middle of next week. Mr. Burge said he asked to receive notification once this work has been completed. It should cost \$1,175.00 and the Macon County Environmental Management Department will be responsible for paying this invoice.

Mr. Burge said that when he was presenting his budget he had mentioned that he and Chairman Greenfield were working on a cost sharing agreement between Macon County Environmental Management and each of the townships and villages where recycling boxes are placed. Details are still being worked on, but the hope is to present the agreement at one of the next EEHW committee meetings.

Mr. Burge said he wanted to let the committee know that with this being close to the end of October, the regular collection schedule has come to an end. Macon County Environmental Management holds periodic electronics and paint collections, typically from April through October each year. Last season, the Department experimented with "pop-up" collections for electronics throughout the winter months when possible basing the collection date off of a favorable 7- to 5-day forecast. Due to limited staff, time, concerns for safety, and responsible management of resources Macon County Environmental Management will not be offering pop-up collections this season. Ms. Kraft asked Mr. Burge to repeat what he had just said. Mr. Burge said the department will not be holding pop up collections this season. Ms. Kraft asked why. Mr. Burge said because in looking at the numbers from last year, the time and effort it takes to put it together versus the number of people that take advantage of it, it is just not a responsible usage of time. Ms. Kraft asked what timeframe he was talking about. Mr. Burge said he refers to it as the collection season, but the general season starts in April and goes all the way through October. He said they had started out in April with two collections for both paint and electronics and then after April it was ratcheted back to one per month just because it is quite an undertaking for a one man staff to take those on. Since April, from May through October, Mr. Burge said he has been holding one electronics collection and one paint collection per month. At this point, pop up collections will not be held throughout the winter months and will resume in April. With that in mind, Mr. Burge clarified that paint collections have never been held during the winter seasons due to safety concerns and containment issues. The paint that is collected is bulked in 55 gallon drums and if a drum were to get too full and then freeze and expand, there would be quite a mess. That is why paint collections have never been held during the winter months. Last season, holding electronic pop up collections was experimented with.

Most entertainment and home office electronics can still be recycled free of charge on a daily basis at Best Buy and Staples in Forsyth. TVs of a certain type and size are accepted at Best Buy for \$25 apiece (CRTS up to 32” screen size and flat screens up to 50” screen size). This is not an ideal situation, but it is still a recycling option. BLH Computers, Inc. also accepts electronics for recycling but is not local to Macon County, must be transported to Springfield location by appointment, and is generally more costly as items are most often charged for based on their weight.

U of I Extension -No report

Regional Office of Education - No report

Mental Health – No report

Historical Museum - No report

CITIZEN’S REMARKS –

Chair Dudley asked the visitor to give his name and address prior to speaking. The citizen stated he did not have to give his address per Illinois Law and that he had already gone through it with the City Council. Chair Dudley repeated his request for a name and address. The gentleman asked if the chairman was saying that he would not allow him to comment if he didn’t give his address. Chair Dudley said he would like for him to state his name and address. The citizen said he was going to opt to not give his address because he does not have to. He said his name is Mark Erdler and that he was curious why the cannabis discussion was moved off of this topic and what the new information is, if it’s going to be provided to the public because especially with the kind of backroom way that the City Council handled the cannabis vote, he said he feels like they, the public, deserve to know how the leaders are informed, what sources they are being informed by because if there are sources that are quality enough that decisions are based on them, then leaders should be willing to share them with the public so they can say ok, here’s how our leaders are making decisions. Chair Dudley interrupted saying that he was going to explain that before the end of the meeting, but he wanted to get through the meeting first and that he wants him to know that he, and that he thought he could speak on behalf of the committee, that he takes exception to the fact that he was making a statement that there are backroom deals going on. He said they don’t operate like that. Mr. Erdler clarified that he had said City Council and that he had released the emails himself on social media. Chair Dudley said he would make a statement if Mr. Erdler wanted to hear it, but he would not have intimidation or statements like that they are doing backroom deals. He said the public does deserve to know and he was going to tell them. He said if Mr. Erdler wanted to continue, to go ahead, but not to make assumptions because the County Board operates above the board in public meetings and everybody on the board is as honest as they can be. Mr. Erdler said he referenced the City Council and he was not accusing anybody here of anything; that is why he came in good faith. Ms. Kraft asked for one question. Mr. Erdler asked what the new information was because when he went to the website, he saw the statement that said because of new information, this has been moved off the discussion. That is why he said he did not think they would discuss it. He asked if they understood why he thought they would not be willing to discuss it. Chair Dudley said he understood, but doesn’t want assumptions to be made about the

board and he would make a statement at the end of the meeting. Mr. Erdler said ok, his question is what is the new information and is it going to be shared with the public.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS –

Chair Dudley said he wanted to make a statement about the marijuana issue and why it was taken off of tonight's agenda. There has been information that has come to the board members that there will probably be some changes made to the law in the veto session. After discussions with the State's Attorney, Mr. Dudley said he felt it was not in the board's best interest to make a decision on that until they know exactly what the law would be in the State of Illinois. He said he did not feel it would be right to vote on something that they don't know exactly what they are voting on. It also gives another month or so to do more due diligence to see what the new rules are going to be. All the reading and studying could be done right now and then the state could change the law in a week and then we're right back to square one. He said he just thought it would be due diligence to wait and see if that law is changed in the veto session or not, it gives another month for more research. He said he would be going to a seminar next week where he would learn things. Ms. Kraft has been working really hard. Dr. Zimmerman & Ms. Buckner have been working on some things. Ms. Kraft said she would be going to a UCCI seminar on Saturday on the topic. The trailer bill they are going to introduce will be changes to law enforcement she thought. Chair Dudley agreed saying that he did not think it was fair of them to try to do this until they know exactly what the law is going to be and who is going to be affected by it. Once the law is etched in stone, we can have done our due diligence and know what we are voting on when we vote. It would be jumping the gun if we did it today. That is exactly why it was taken off. There was no pressure, no force, nothing like that. We just want to make sure we get it right. That is all there is to it. He said the hope is to have it back on the agenda next month or in December. He said he appreciates all the work everyone has done on this. We want to get this right. He said he thought there are some good things to be brought out of this and he felt that they would do that.

Closed Session – None needed

NEXT MEETING Next regular meeting –11/21/19

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Ms. Kraft, the motion carried 6-0 and Chair Dudley adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office