

**ENVIRONMENTAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE
(EEHW)
COMMITTEE MEETING
Macon County Office Building
141 S. Main Street, County Board Room #514
Decatur, IL 62523**

December 19, 2019 5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Debra Kraft, Chair
Helena Buckner, Vice Chair
Linda Little
Laura Zimmerman
Jim Gresham

MEMBERS ABSENT

Matt Brown
Kevin Greenfield

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Nick Burge, Environmental Mgmt
Lt. Jeff Scheibly, Animal Control
Brandi Binkley, Health Dept
Kathy Powless, Veterans
Jennifer Gunter, P&Z
Bethany Stapel, Health Dept
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

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

MINUTES

Dr. Zimmerman made a motion to approve the 11/21/19 meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Little and the motion carried 5-0.

CLAIMS

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

ZONING –

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case S-01-12-19, A Petition Requesting a Special Use Permit Submitted by Toby Buhs for the Operation of a Trucking Business in (R-4) Single Family Residential Zoning

Ms. Gunter explained that S-01-12-19 is a petition filed by Toby Buhs requesting a special use permit for the operation of a trucking business. The property is located at 6361 Reas Bridge Road in Oakley Township. On November 18, the Oakley Board voted to approve the special use permit, but limited to one semi. On December 4, a Public Zoning Board of Appeals Hearing was held and based on the finding of facts and staff recommended approval, the ZBA voted 5-0 for approval of the special use permit with the stipulations that are found in the resolution.

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve forwarding on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Buckner. Ms. Little asked if there were any objectors. Ms. Gunter said that some letters were sent in. Ms. Little asked about their reasons. Ms. Gunter said they had stated property values and they just didn't want it in the neighborhood. Ms. Little asked

about the location on Reas Bridge Road. Ms. Gunter explained that you would go across the bridge, past the turnoff to Bambi Point. You go across the bridge and it is the 2nd house after the corner where Sangamon & Star Route are. Dr. Zimmerman asked if they had said that they didn't really need it anyway. Ms. Gunter confirmed saying this is just him parking a vehicle there. The motion carried 5-0.

SUBDIVISIONS – None

REPORTS

Planning & Zoning – No report

Animal Control

Statistical reports for November, 2018 & November, 2019 were distributed to members. Lt. Scheibly explained that the current specials include the Stuff your Stocking for the Shelter, the adoption fee on cats is the weight of the cat, and the Home for the Holidays. There are 63 animals involved in that currently with hopes that most of them will get adopted and not be returned to the shelter. That runs through January 4.

Veteran's Assistance -

Ms. Powless announced that this would be her last meeting as she is officially retiring January 16. She expressed appreciation to the members of the committee and assured them that Greg Collins would be just fine running things. Members expressed appreciation for everything Ms. Powless had done.

Chair Kraft commented that she had attended the retirement party and it had warmed her heart. It was packed with all the veterans that came to thank Kathy. Every time, she would say, "Oh, here's my buddy". She thanked Ms. Powless for her 24 years.

Health Department –

Ms. Binkley explained that the new copiers were installed yesterday. Those will be a savings of about \$24,000 a year. It is going smoothly so far. Training led by the company for all of the staff is in the near future.

The Health Fund Balance is being reviewed. There are some projects that have been sitting for a few years that have needed attention. She said they would be meeting on that in January. Some of those projects could potentially be a possible collaboration and dental expansion with SIU, the impact of the minimum wage increase for the staff on the budget, pay compression on the higher level positions in making sure that is being planned for, and electronic health records. She said they have already been speaking with other health departments to do research on the electronic health records which is something that has been recommended for several years by the auditors.

Data is being gathered for the annual report that will be published in February and shared with the committee members.

Both Ms. Binkley and the Assistant Administrator, Bethany Stapel recently attended new Administrators training. There are a lot of new Administrators in the state. It was excellent training and both Ms. Binkley & Ms. Stapel are certified Public Health Administrators.

The Macon County Health Department recently found out that they were chosen as one of forty in the entire nation to participate in a Behavioral Health Training Project to learn how to implement behavioral health throughout all of the public health initiatives. She said they are really excited to be chosen out of 40 in the entire US.

Along with other Health Department Administrators, they will soon be speaking with State Legislators about possible changes that are being implemented and having significant impact at the Health Department as part of the transition to Managed Care with programs like Health Works and Starting Point. She said they are very active with that and doing everything they can to advocate for public health.

Chair Kraft asked about the training and if it was in Springfield. Ms. Binkley confirmed that it was in Springfield and explained that it was given by the Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators. They had some administrators that have been around for years along with regional health officers from the Department of Public Health and gave an all day training. They provide ongoing support, but this is something they provide every 2 to 3 years.

Mr. Gresham asked about being selected out of the 40 and what that involves. Ms. Binkley explained that there are several webinars where you present your top priorities for the community. She said they are talking with their partners on this because they are already involved in several different coalitions and committees in addressing behavioral health issues and integrated systems in Macon County. This is us getting the opportunity to learn best practices from the national council on how to implement this throughout the health department in a public health setting. There are webinars and a conference that is held with all expenses paid. This is about a 9 month process of just learning those best practices and talking through it. She said they would keep the committee updated, but they are very excited about the potential of what can be learned about how things have been implemented in other areas and being creative with what can be done here.

Environmental Management –

Mr. Burge explained that at the next EEHW committee meeting, there will be a resolution to approve a new lease agreement for the bays that are being rented for the recycling center on 21st Street. He said he had gotten the new lease last week and sent it over to Mr. Baggett for review.

The Christmas Light recycling collection is underway now. The box is located at the recycling center at 1750 N. 21st Street. Any Macon County residents can drop off their working or non-working lights. They are to be dropped into the box loose rather than in bags or boxes because this makes it easier when they are taken to the recycler.

Mr. Gresham asked if the lease is about the same. Mr. Burge explained that it is pretty much the same. The major difference is that the current agreement only mentions the two full bays while the new one adds the 3rd partial bay that we've been renting even though it was not

included in the lease. The rent stays the same, but now all of it will be a part of the agreement. It is \$500 for the 2 bays plus the electric and \$400 for the partial bay that is being shared with the landlords. They pay the utilities on that bay. The due date is changing from the 10th to the 1st.

U of I Extension -No report

Regional Office of Education - No report

Mental Health – No report

Historical Museum - No report

CITIZEN’S REMARKS – None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – None

Closed Session – None needed

NEXT MEETING Next regular meeting –1/23/20

Chair Kraft announced that with the resignation of Tim Dudley from the County Board, she will now be the Chair of EEHW. Helena Buckner will be the Vice Chair. Chairman Greenfield will join the committee as the 7th member

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Little, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the motion carried 5-0 and Chair Kraft adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office