

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

**January 23, 2020                      5:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Debra Kraft, Chair  
Helena Buckner, Vice Chair  
Kevin Greenfield  
Laura Zimmerman  
Jim Gresham  
Matt Brown

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Linda Little

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

**MINUTES**

Dr. Zimmerman made a motion to approve the 12/19/19 meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Buckner and the motion carried 6-0.

**CLAIMS**

Dr. Zimmerman 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 S-02-01-20 A Petition Requesting Renewal of a Special Use Permit Submitted By Tim C. Duncan***

Ms. Gunter explained that this is for the operation of a lawn mowing business and small retail counter for selling battery powered lawn equipment and light repair in A1 Agriculture. The property is located at 3388 E. Boyd Road in Whitmore Township. On January 8<sup>th</sup>, a Public Zoning Board of Appeals was held and based on the finding of facts, staff recommended approval and the Zoning Board of Appeals voted 5-0 for approval of the Special Use Permit with stipulations as stated in the resolution.

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve forwarding on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Buckner and the motion carried 6-0.

***Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case S-01-01-20 A Petition Requesting Renewal of a Special Use Permit Submitted By Robert & Aissa Norris***

Ms. Gunter explained that this is to allow the holding of events such as educational tours, wedding receptions, company picnics and family reunions in A1 Agricultural zoning. The property is located at 990 S. Meridian Avenue in Harristown Township. On January 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 stipulations as stated in the resolution.

Chairman Greenfield made a motion to approve forwarding on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Gresham and the motion carried 6-0.

### **SUBDIVISIONS – None**

### **REPORTS**

#### **Planning & Zoning – No report**

#### **Animal Control**

Statistical reports for December for 2018 & 2019 were distributed to members.

Lt. Scheibly explained that the promotional event coming up next month is the annual Speed Dating. There will be ½ price adoptions, refreshments, give aways, etc..

Mr. Gresham asked about personnel. Lt. Scheibly explained that they have one open spot that is funded through the Shelter Foundation. They are moving away from Adoption Coordinator and going to a part time Promotional Coordinator. Applications are currently being accepted. This is a part time salary that is reimbursed by the Shelter Foundation.

#### **Veteran's Assistance -**

Mr. Collins reported that he is now the official superintendent. The office is running fine. There will be a few changes this year. Applications are being accepted for a full time Administrative Assistant / Veteran Service Officer trainee

#### **Health Department –**

Ms. Binkley reminded members about the receipt of funding to look at expanding the dental clinic by an additional 4 chairs she had reported on at budget time. She said that they did get approval from the Board of Health to move forward on that. Updated quotes will be sought to make sure they are still the same. They are still working with SIU, but a contract has not yet been received. It could still change, but they do have approval to start moving forward more seriously. More information will be forthcoming.

More research into Electronic Medical Records and Digital Environmental Health systems is underway. They are speaking and meeting with other Health Administrators in the state and they are going to do some visits to view some in action.

As reported at EEHW last month, they are meeting with some Legislators about the Managed Care Organizations taking some of the services that Health Departments provide throughout the state. They are going to be helping with the advocacy for that. They met early in January and

there was a significant change made after that meeting to where they are now looking at contracting with Health Departments so that Health Departments can still provide this service. This is a big win, pretty promising, and shows that the Health Departments are doing a great job with the work they do in that area.

The Environmental Health Division and the work that they do has been talked about and Ms. Binkley gave an update on that. She said the Board of Health and Health Department Staff have all already been informed and they would be speaking at the February County Board meeting as well about what they do in general and specifically what the Environmental Health Division does. She explained that they have been doing some quality improvement and looking at how things are done and how they can be improved. There has been a lot of closure talk in the media in the past couple of years. Out of routine inspections, in 2019, the closure rate was 1.89% and out of all food activities which is any kind of visit made for an inspection whether routine, follow up on a complaint or finding there were 2,971 done in 2019 and that closure rate is only .8%. She said they never want to close anything. She said they do everything they can and are looking at the ordinance to make sure that if there are additional measures that can be taken to not close someone down but to get them compliant, that may be changed too. The closure rate is pretty low in Macon County compared to all the establishments and everything they need to do to keep the public safe. A couple of the establishments were closed more than once because of repeat violations. Something else in protocol that had been changed in 2018, was that weekend re-openings were stopped. That was changed because of experiences where several visits sending staff repeatedly and the establishment would not be ready. With staff time, mileage, costs, etc associated with the reopening, there was a call made a couple of years ago not to do that. The Assistant Administrator and Ms. Binkley along with the staff, BOH and some of the County Board have looked at that and have decided that they would now be doing weekend reopening IF the establishment is ready. Sometimes they think they are ready or say they are ready when they unfortunately are not. She said they would be communicating with them on the weekend and will go out IF they are ready to reopen. That is a way to be more accommodating and more of a partner with these establishments and making sure they get back open ASAP. They have also implemented that there will be two Environmental Specialists that go out if there is a closure or reopening. That is basically so that there are two sets of eyes and ears, especially when it comes to documentation. Additional training is being looked into as well as detail with the reports so that if there is ever a question and so it is communicated well with the establishment what needs to be done to be compliant. The Digital Health System would also improve getting information online and improve the ability to read those reports including for members of the public. It has also been determined that online payments can be accepted so they are working with the Auditor's office to insure that is being done correctly through Illinois GovPay. She said they already had that, it just wasn't being used in that capacity. Now, they've found out, thanks to the Auditor's office, that they can. A way of submitting a corrective action plan that is required before the Health Department can go out to reopen them has also been implemented. Those are things that are going to be implemented that can be done remotely so it saves the manager and establishment owner from having to come in to the office or wait until Monday. Also, the Health Department employees do not accept payment in the field, so there won't be an issue with that. If it is an administrative type of closure, and not an imminent health hazard, such as no certification for Food Protection Manager, a lot of opportunities are given, but there have been situations where someone has

been closed because they don't have it. Per the Ordinance and Law, they do have to have that. Ms. Binkley said they are looking to see if, since it is more administrative rather than imminent health hazard, there might be a way to fine or do a menu limitation or something that will show the seriousness of it without having to put that closure stamp and all the ramifications that can come with it. This kind of quality improvement is being done in all divisions, this is just one that has had more criticism lately. She said they are always open to any type of feedback, negative or positive, so they can serve the community in a more efficient, positive way.

Chair Kraft asked about the establishments that were closed twice. If they are closed once, then twice, what is the protocol? Are they subject to random inspections? Ms. Binkley explained that depending on what category a food establishment is, or the level of risk there is, they have random inspections. A full service restaurant is seen at least three times a year if there are no other issues or complaints that have to be investigated. Some of the other ones only have one or two a year. There will be random visits, but if you get closed twice in a year, it does say in the ordinance that your permit can be revoked for that. But, there was a situation in the past year that that happened and they were able to work with the BOH and very closely with the establishment and their corporate. Because it was seen that they were making a real effort making sure the staff was trained. There is a process for appeal if that were to happen.

#### **Environmental Management –**

#### ***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Lease Renewal at 1710, 1750 & 1760 N. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, between the Wicker Real Estate Trust and Macon County Environmental Management***

Mr. Burge explained that the resolution will not be presented at this meeting. The landlord has found some things in the lease that they would prefer to have changed. It is currently in review with Mr. Baggett and the landlord's legal counsel.

The Christmas light collection ended January 15<sup>th</sup>. 2,280 pounds were collected. Literally over a ton of lights were collected. That was fairly successful.

Looking forward, April events are being scheduled. That is usually an electronics collection first, a shred event toward the middle of the month, and then a paint collection towards the end of the month.

Chair Kraft asked if, since the lease is not ready, the prior lease is being followed – or when was it due? Mr. Burge said the current lease is in place until the end of February. The start date for the new lease was supposed to be March 1<sup>st</sup>. He said he was not positive that it would get to that point. He thought it would have had to be approved at this meeting to get through the committees, EEHW, Finance and the Board, but it will all depend on how quickly everything is resolved between Mr. Baggett and their attorney. Mr. Gresham asked if it is done before Finance, if they could just send it on to Finance without it coming through EEHW. Chairman Greenfield said yes. Mr. Burge said with Finance being on 2/3, they would have over a week to get it done.

Mr. Gresham asked about an article on shredded paper recycling at Midwest that he had read in the paper. He asked for an explanation of the shredding event Mr. Burge has. He explained that it is run through Confidential Onsite Paper Shredding (COPS) which is a part of Midwest Fiber. He explained that shredded paper can be recycled. It has to be put into a plastic ziplock bag before putting it in the curbside recycling bin. That is so that it can be identified easily and be taken out before it goes through the sorting process. He said that is the proper means if you are putting shredded paper into your curbside recycling, you put it in a ziplock bag so it can be identified.

**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** –

***Macon County Board Resolution Adding Territory to Enterprise Zone and Approving the Amendment of the Enacting Ordinance and Intergovernmental Agreement – Decatur Orthopedic Center, LLC***

Chairman Greenfield explained that Mr. McCrady and Mr. Sams, this is a lot that has been bought next to Jake’s Office Building in Mt. Zion for the expansion of the orthopedic office. It is about a \$5 million project. This resolution just adds this lot to the Enterprise Zone.

Dr. Zimmerman asked if everything around it is already in the zone. Chairman Greenfield explained that this is along 121 on the back side of him. That is why it is not continuous because the lot really drops off.

Chairman Greenfield made a motion to approve forwarding on to the finance committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Gresham and the motion carried 6-0.

**Closed Session** – None needed

**NEXT MEETING** Next regular meeting –2/27/20

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

*Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office*