

**ENVIRONMENTAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Macon County Office Building
141 S. Main Street, County Board Room #514
Decatur, IL 62523**

July 23, 2020 5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Debra Kraft, Chair
Kevin Greenfield
Linda Little
Jim Gresham

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

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

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Laura Zimmerman
Matt Brown

MEMBERS ABSENT

Helena Buckner, Vice Chair

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

MINUTES

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve the 6/25/2020 meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Little and roll call vote showed that 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 roll call vote showed that the motion carried 5-0.

ZONING –

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case R-02-07-20, A Petition for Rezoning Submitted by Suzanne Bloomfield

Ms. Gunter explained that this is a request to rezone approximately 3 acres from RE-5 single family estate zoning to R-1 single family residential zoning. The property is located at 1715 Heritage Road in South Wheatland Township. The Zoning Board of Appeals held a hearing on July 1st and based on the finding of facts, staff recommended an approval. The ZBA voted 5-0 for approval of the rezoning.

Ms. Little made a motion to approve forwarding on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Gresham. Ms. Little asked what the difference in the zoning is, so it can be subdivided or what? Ms. Gunter explained that they had 3 acres and the RE-5 zoning

calls for minimum lot size of 2 acres. They needed minimum lot size of 1 acre to subdivide. So, that is why they had to go to the R-1. Roll call vote showed that the motion carried 5-0.

SUBDIVISIONS –

Pleasant Pines Subdivision 2 lot minor

Ms. Gunter explained that this is located in South Wheatland Township. The owners are Jack and Suzanne Bloomfield. The property is located at 1715 Heritage Road. The property will be rezoned R-1 single family residential zoning if the County Board approves it at their August meeting. Lot 1 is 1.46 acres and Lot 2 is 1.4 acres. The City of Decatur and staff have reviewed all of the documents and recommend approval.

Ms. Little made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Gresham and roll call vote showed that the motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS

Animal Control

Lt. Scheibly distributed statistical reports for the month of June, 2020 & 2019.

As a shelter operations update, Lt. Scheibly reported that the doors were officially opened to the public starting July 7th. Adoptions are currently being done by appointments only. This has helped to keep the number of people inside the shelter to a minimum. For Friday & Saturday volunteers, scheduled times are being used for dog walking, etc so an eye can be kept on the number of people that are in the shelter. Everything has gone well so far. The numbers are good and business has not slowed down much.

Upcoming specials include participation in the National Adoption event called Clear the Shelters. It is sponsored by NBC & Telemundo TV stations. In conjunction with the event, for the entire month of August, adoptions will be half price.

Ms. Little asked if they had any puppies. Lt. Scheibly said not at the moment, but it is always subject to change. They never know what will be coming through the doors. The numbers are much fewer than last year at this time as the number of intakes has decreased, but the number of adoptions are still doing fine.

Chair Kraft asked what wildlife they have. Lt. Scheibly said that refers to when the wardens have had to go out and pick up when people get permits from IDNR for nuisance raccoons or skunks. He said they had gotten a domesticated rabbit that came in as a stray. Ms. Kraft asked if they have barn cats. Lt. Scheibly said they do have them from time to time and advised her to contact them and they could help her out with that.

Mr. Gresham commented that it looks like service calls are down. Lt. Scheibly confirmed saying it is hard to compare this year to last year at the same time, but there is a difference.

Veteran's Assistance - No Report

Planning & Zoning –

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Land Disturbance Permit Fees

Ms. Gunter explained that these fees were established in 2008 when the Storm Water Ordinance was approved. They have not been increased since then. They will be going from \$50 to \$100.

Ms. Little made a motion to approve forwarding on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Gresham. Roll call vote showed that the motion carried 5-0.

Health Department –

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations in the FY20 Health Fund Budget for COVID-19 Contact Tracing

Ms. Binkley reported that all of their services are now pretty much back in effect. For the most part, they have been providing most of the services. They did shut down initially to just essential services, but have been increasing them back up to where everything is being provided again with a few adjustments in order to assure that they are maintaining the health and safety of the staff and clients and patients. Some of those adjustments have been home visits are now done by phone or video and WIC is curbside so people don't have to come in. Some of the families have really enjoyed that because they can just pull up and get what they need. Some things, it is being learned, that maybe there are better ways to do them. That is a nice blessing that comes out of this. Obviously, as you all know, this is a challenging time. At the Health Department, everything that can be done is being done to maintain all essential services and to respond to COVID-19. The staff has been amazing, but they are getting tired. A lot of them have been working everyday or nearly everyday since early March before Macon County even ever had cases. She said they are trying to give them a little respite by rotating staff, but as everyone knows, public health, in general is usually under funded and under staffed. So, to be starting that way and then even losing a couple of staff members in the process is very difficult.

However, Ms. Binkley reported that they had gotten notification just Tuesday that they had a grant approved that they had applied for that is to grow contact tracing capacity throughout the State of Illinois. She said they were really happy to find out that they had been approved for the full grant amount in Macon County which is \$2,861,712. The challenge in writing this was that all of those dollars have to be spent on contact tracing or something that is related to contact tracing. You always want money, but then this has to be directed toward this one thing out of everything we do. The team at the Health Department worked very hard to make that happen and insure that we did not lose any of that money. This was presented to the Board of Health. The purpose is to grow capacity to respond to COVID-19 and contact tracing and building up infrastructure. She said that the resolution mentions building capacity, responding to outbreaks of congregate settings such as at long term care facilities or shelters throughout the community. Resource Coordination would be setting people up with any alternative housing, medicine, social services, food they might need. This is something that we have needed and now we are excited because now there is some funding for that. If we have someone in this community that needs isolation and has nowhere to go, we will be able to support that. Also, it promotes testing among vulnerable populations that experience health disparities, insuring health equity and

addressing community and regional approaches for successful sustainability of local contact tracing programs. Ms. Binkley said they are already in the process of interviewing and hiring contact tracing positions, case investigator positions and additional jobs will be posted which include, but are not limited to infection control nurses, clinic nurses, care resource coordinators. One of the things you have to talk about in public health and that Public Health does is address health disparities and health inequity. So, they had proposed a position specifically for that in our community to insure that everyone in every population is getting the services and information they need. The rest of those positions are being posted on the website. Some of the Contact Tracing positions can be full or part time. People will be needed for nights & weekends. The staff has been covering that, so if you have someone that might work full time, but have weekends open and want to earn a little extra, please have them check out the information on the website and consider applying.

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve forwarding on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Little. Roll call vote showed that the motion carried 6-0.

(Note: Chairman Greenfield entered the meeting at some point after roll call, but was not noticed by the Clerk and was not included in votes until this point)

Mr. Gresham asked about testing and length of time in getting results back. Ms. Binkley explained that at the beginning, results were taking quite a while and then it got to where they were coming back more quickly. Then there was an almost 7 day lag with some of the test results coming back. There is a bi-weekly EOC call and Ms. Binkley said that one local entity that is conducting testing that stated that they did ask about why it went from 2 days to a 7 day turnaround. They were told that those were the tests coming from the IDPH labs and they had given people a few days off around the July 4 holiday because they have also been working since the beginning of March without breaks or days off. That is what caused that lag, but Ms. Binkley said she has heard that now, it is back to about a 2 day turnaround on those IDPH labs. As far as private labs, she did not think they had had that longer return time. They all seem to be getting back closer to that 24 – 48 -72 hours at the most turnaround. Mr. Gresham commented about the stress of having to wait 7 days after getting tested. Ms. Binkley agreed and said that is why they stress that people that are having symptoms should stay at home and act as though they have it. Even if they do get tested and get a result back in 24 – 48 hours, they could be getting a negative test result. If someone does not have enough of the virus in them, it could show up as a false negative. Just because they have a negative test, it doesn't really give them the complete freedom or relief because they could still have it and it might be just the point in time when they get tested. She said they still encourage people strongly to stay home if they are sick and make sure to quarantine even if there is not a positive test result for those 14 days.

Environmental Management –

Mr. Burge gave an update on electronic & paint collections. To date, because of the pandemic, collections were not held in April or May. The first event was on June 27th and it was a paint collection. 125 people of the 140 registered attended. The next collection was July 11th which was an electronics collection. 131 people of the 140 registered attended that one. At that

collection, 192 tv / computer monitors were brought in for recycling. The next paint collection was held this morning from 8 to noon. 117 people of the 141 registered attended. The next collection will be an electronics collection on August 8th. There are 148 people registered and that is completely full at this time. The next events are being scheduled and should be announced early next week.

Chair Kraft asked about limits in the number of items that can be brought in. Mr. Burge explained that there is not an overall limit when it comes to cords, cell phones, etc. but tvs / computer monitors are limited to 7 per person per appointment.

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 –

Chairman Greenfield asked about a resolution someone had called him about numerous times. Chair Kraft said she had also gotten numerous calls from the same person, but had pulled it from the agenda because Mr. Baggett said it did not require having to go through committee. It just goes to the full board. Mr. Greenfield asked if that was the plan. Ms. Kraft said yes, & she had already requested it. She explained that it is a resolution to put on the ballot to form a new state. She said she didn’t mind voting on it and said, in her opinion, they would give her the graciousness of doing it. Chairman Greenfield said, good enough.

Closed Session – None needed

NEXT MEETING Next regular meeting –8/27/2020

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Little, seconded by Mr. Gresham and Chair Kraft adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office