

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

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

December 17, 2020 5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Linda Little, Chair
Jim Gresham
Jeff Entler

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Jennifer Gunter, P&Z
Tracy Sumpter, Environmental Mgmt
Greg Collins
Jessie Smalley, HR
Lt. Jeff Scheibly, Animal Control
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

John Jackson (@ 5:34 p.m.)
Helena Buckner
Kevin Greenfield

Brandi Binkley, Health Dept

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lloyd Holman

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

MINUTES

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting, seconded by Mr. Entler and roll call vote showed that the motion carried 5-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Entler and roll call vote showed that the motion carried 5-0.

ZONING – No report

SUBDIVISIONS – None

REPORTS

Animal Control

Lt. Scheibly distributed November monthly reports for 2020 & 2019 as a comparison and offered to answer any questions. Adoptions are down by 40 – 45. The numbers at the shelter are extremely low. Everything is going well.

The Foster Home for the Holidays Program is currently underway. There are about 50 animals out in that program. The end date for that is January 6.

Veteran's Assistance -

Mr. Collins reported that the DAV van has stopped running to Danville as several Honor Guard members have come down with COVID. They are out of the hospital and doing better now. The Pearl Harbor Day Program was also cancelled due to COVID. Mr. Collins thanked Ms. Kraft, Dr. Zimmerman, Recorder Mary Eaton and the P&Z girls for helping out with the Veterans Day video. It turned out good. Mr. Holman brought in flag cases and a lot of widows who were distraught that the Honor Guard cannot do funerals currently were given the cases and it helped a lot.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Transfer within the Veterans Assistance Commission Fund

Mr. Collins explained that when Ms. Powless had retired, her vacation and extra days expenses had not been figured into the budget. This resolution pulls the money from other lines into the salary lines to pay those expenses.

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

Planning & Zoning –

Macon County Board Resolution to Approve Intergovernmental Agreement for the Educational Portion for the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), Between the Macon County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Village of Forsyth, Village of Mt. Zion, City of Decatur and the County of Macon, Illinois

Ms. Gunter explained that Macon County is in the MS4 group with the City of Decatur, Village of Forsyth, Village of Mt. Zion and Macon County Soil & Water Conservation District. We work together to fulfill the requirements given by the IEPA. This group has been working together since 2009 under a previous MOU and this is to update it.

Mr. Gresham asked if there were any major updates. Ms. Gunter said no.

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

Health Department –

Ms. Binkley reported (via phone) that the department has been quite busy with the pandemic response as well as maintaining pretty much all of the other services, except the STI clinic which there were not enough nurses to staff. Several more nurses have been hired and it is hopeful that the STI clinic will resume after the first of the year which will bring the department back to full services.

The team at the Health Department has nearly doubled with the Contact Tracing and they are very happy to find some excellent, qualified team mates to help with that COVID Contact

Tracing response. There have been some lower numbers recently and the local daily positivity rates are somewhat lower as well recently. Ms. Binkley explained that this could be attributed to several things, but she hopes that one of the reasons is because the mitigation measures are being followed and that people made some very difficult choices and sacrifices over the Thanksgiving Holidays and chose not to gather outside their household, especially if they were not feeling well. She thanked anyone who did that and asked everyone to please continue that. While the numbers are low, we do not want to reverse the progress that we have made.

Yesterday, the first shipment of vaccine was received locally in Macon County. That was a very joyful moment in what has been a long and sad pandemic that we are all experiencing. There are guidelines we have to follow as far as the distribution of the vaccine. The first shipment went to the local hospitals. Future shipments will continue to be distributed as they are received. Of course, it will probably take several months to get everyone vaccinated and everyone is asked to continue to be patient and listen to the announcements about when they are able to receive that vaccine. She asked that everyone please continue to wear the masks, social distance, not go out if sick and to wash hands often. Those things are going to continue to be very important, even as people are getting vaccinated.

Enforcement of the mitigation measures updates have been given. Ms. Binkley explained that they are working with the Board of Health and the State's Attorney's Office to ensure that what is allowed and not allowed is being closely followed. She encouraged anyone with questions to reach out for explanations. She said she is happy to give the information and their goal is never to close a business. Not much of that has had to happen. Some Cease and Desist Orders have been issued and compliance was achieved through those. She stressed that they just want compliance and to save lives.

Mr. Gresham asked, given the positive trends taking place in Macon County, where do we have to get to so the restaurants can reopen. Ms. Binkley explained that the Tier 3 mitigation measures are still in place across the State. This question is something the Health Departments have been asking as well. Our numbers are going in the direction we want them to. The Governor, possibly as long ago as a week ago, stated that he did not plan to take us out of these mitigations in the near future, at least for a few weeks ago. Ms. Binkley said it was her guess, and stressed that it is a guess because she gets the same communication that everyone else gets from the state, but her guess is that they will wait until after the holidays just to make sure there is not a spike or surge. It is very shocking that we, here in Macon County did not experience one over Thanksgiving, but she really believes it is because people chose not to gather and because these mitigation measures were in place. They have talked about waiting two incubation periods which would be 14 x 2 or 28 days to make sure it is actually a trend and not a fluke. She said that when everyone finds out that the mitigations are being lifted will be the same time she finds out, but she expects it to be after the holidays.

Environmental Management –

Ms. Sumpter gave an update on the past couple of months activity

October 17, was the last electronics collection of the season and it was well attended with approximately 9 tons being collected

October 31, was the last paint collection of the season and was also well attended. The last of the paint was picked up today and the recycling center has been cleaned and closed up for the winter.

Christmas light recycling is currently underway which began November 30th and goes through January 15. Ms. Little asked about hours. Ms. Sumpter explained that they can be dropped off anytime at the recycling container set up outside of the building which is labeled for that use.

U of I Extension -No report

Regional Office of Education - No report

Mental Health – No report

Historical Museum - No report

CITIZEN’S REMARKS – None via email or citizens present at the meeting

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS –

Review and Discussion of the Macon County Board Ordinance (O-136-01-20) which is the prohibiting Cannabis business establishments ordinance. This ordinance was passed for one year and is to be reexamined in January of 2021.

Chair Little said she would like to see the County continue in the status that it is in now. She said she has not seen anything to make her change her mind as far as missing the boat. She said she feels we need to go another year which is not allowing them in the County.

Mr. Jackson said that if that was in the form of a motion, he would second it. Ms. Little said she would make that a motion and then put it up for discussion.

Mr. Jackson went on to comment that especially in the event that we are closing down restaurants, why should marijuana be allowed to be brought into the county.

Mr. Gresham commented that he would like to see it die and join the rest of the world, it seems like, and allow this to take place in Macon County. He said he has seen nothing that looks like a huge problem for law enforcement. Sales have been extremely strong and he sees no reason to continue to prohibit it because in states where it has been put on the ballot, they are in favor of legalizing this which has already been done in Illinois. For us to be sitting on the sideline just does not make any sense any more.

Chair Little explained that this has to come up before the Board in January. It probably does not need to necessarily come with or without a recommendation from this committee, so she asked if the committee has a preference. The motion and the 2nd could be withdrawn and it

could just go to the board. Mr. Jackson said he would be in favor of not sending a recommendation and just move it forward for full county board consideration.

Ms. Little withdrew her motion.

Closed Session – None needed

NEXT MEETING Next regular meeting –1/28/2021

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made & seconded & the meeting was adjourned by Chair Little at 5:45

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office