

**MACON COUNTY BOARD  
ENVIRONMENTAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

**February 24, 2022                      5:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Linda Little, Chair  
Kevin Greenfield  
Jason Comer  
Jeff Entler

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Bethany Stapel, Health Department  
Lt. Scheibly, Animal Control  
Greg Collins, VA  
Kathy Wade, Health Dept  
Jennifer Gunter, P&Z  
Tracy Sumpter, Env Mgmt  
Jessie Smalley, HR  
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Helena Buckner  
Jim Gresham  
Kristen Larner

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting, 1/27/2022 made by Mr. Entler, seconded by Chairman Greenfield and the motion carried 4-0.

**APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS**

Motion to approve the claims made by Chairman Greenfield, seconded by Mr. Entler and the motion carried 4-0.

**ZONING –**

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Petition Filed by Drew & Brittany Burrows Requesting a Special Use Permit to Use the Property as a Venue for Weddings and Personal Events in (A-1) Agricultural Zoning***

Ms. Gunter explained that the property is commonly located at 12950 Connors Road in Friends Creek Township.

On 2/16/22, a public Board of Appeals hearing was held and based on the finding of facts and staff recommended approval, the ZBA voted 4-0 for approval of the Special Use Permit with stipulations found in the resolution. Ms. Gunter explained that the ZBA members had changed some of the stipulations. They removed the “employees shall be family members only”. They changed the hours of operation from 8 a.m. to 12 a.m. instead of 11 p.m. They also suggested

changing the maximum occupancy from 200 guests to 300 guests. Chair Little asked if the petitioners were ok with the changes. Ms. Gunter confirmed.

Motion was made to approve forwarding the resolution on to the full County Board with recommendation for approval by Chairman Greenfield, seconded by Mr. Entler, and the motion carried 4-0.

**SUBDIVISIONS** – None

**REPORTS**

**Animal Control**

Lt. Scheibly distributed monthly statistical reports for January, 2022 & January, 2021 for comparison and explained that most everything is right on the same track as the prior year. The income is showing more for last year than this year. That fluctuates depending on when the Foundation reimburses the Shelter for specials that are being run. All the other numbers remain fairly consistent. The numbers at the shelter are in very good shape right now. There are actually very few cats. It is very unusual to have more dogs than cats, but that is the case right now. Everything is going well.

**Veteran's Assistance –**

Mr. Collins distributed information with a picture of the new van and explained that they had ended up spending about \$46,000, but over \$50,000 was raised so it is paid for. He pointed out the pictures of the KIAs. It is electric. He said he had gotten a charger so he can charge it at his house. It runs about 40 miles on a charge. He said he drives it back and forth daily because that is what his commission decided they wanted him to do with it. It has effectively become a traveling billboard. Dynagraphics did a great job on the vinyl wrap. He said he and everyone that donated are very happy with it.

**Planning & Zoning – No Report**

**Health Department –**

Ms. Stapel reported that the Macon County Health Department's annual report will be published on their website in the next few days as well as being sent out to the media.

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving New Fees for the Cottage Food Operations in Macon County***

Ms. Stapel explained that this is the resolution that Ms. Binkley had brought to last month's meeting when this committee expressed the desire to have the Board of Health lower the inspection fee. She reminded the members of an email update sent out last week by Ms. Binkley informing them that the Board of Health did take this committee's discussion and questions into consideration and lowered that fee to \$200. Just as a reminder, Cottage Food Operations are already occurring but now local Health Departments are able to charge fees to cover the associated costs. Those proposed fees were for the Cottage Food Operations \$50 registration and \$200 inspections. The Board of Health requests the approval of this committee on these proposed fees.

Chair Little asked how many complaints they get on Cottage Kitchens. Ms. Stapel explained (confirmed by Ms. Wade) that there have not been any complaints to date. Ms. Little asked, if they were to get one and went in to inspect and end up shutting them down, what happens to them? What are the penalties for baking cupcakes without being registered with the County? Ms. Wade clarified that there is a difference between Cottage Food and the Home Kitchen Act. The Kitchen Act is the Cupcake Law. Cottage Food started in 2012. It was started simply to be able to allow non-potentially hazardous foods to go to Farmer's Markets. Now, it is expanding to do fairs, festivals, and those types of things. The Home Kitchen Act still allows that, but they are two separate entities. When you say it started with a cupcake, that was actually the Home Kitchen Act and not the Cottage Food. Ms. Little asked for an explanation of the difference. Ms. Wade said the Cottage Food started off allowing the sale of non-potentially hazardous foods. So, you might have been making fresh tea bags, spices, salsas, or those types of things from your home kitchen to be sold at Farmer's Markets. The foods were supposed to be all coming from your own farm or home. The Cupcake Law is strictly baked goods only. You cannot do spices, teas, garlicks & oils, etc. from your home. That is strictly just baked goods.

Ms. Wade explained that what the new law is doing is expanding it and allowing these people to have a bigger and better business making the community better able to serve more local businesses.

Chair Little commented that last month the committee was told that \$350 would cover the cost of having to do an inspection and things. Now, has the cost of doing an inspection suddenly gone down? Has there been a cost study done so we really know what the costs to do an inspection and follow up on it are? Ms. Stapel said that originally, the staff had proposed the \$150 fee to the Board of Health. After discussion, the Board of Health changed it and voted on the \$350 and that is what was brought to this committee last month. After last month's meeting of this committee and the recommendation of \$150, the staff brought that back to the Board of Health. Ms. Little asked what the cost of doing an inspection and following up on it is. Ms. Stapel said that if there were a complaint and if there were a food borne illness associated with it and a pleather of things would have to be done, it could be expensive in the amount of time and resources that are spent on it. It could be a situation where they go out and not very much time is spent. There has not been a situation yet.

Ms. Wade explained that for a Category 3 Restaurant such as an annual restaurant that they would be going out to inspect once a year, the fee is \$200. Ms. Little asked if that was for a complaint. Ms. Wade said no, that is for the annual food permit and in that, it includes the annual inspection and complaints as they come in. However, a Category 3 facility is someplace like Dollar General or Big Lots because it is all pre-packaged food and there is not a whole lot of things that could go wrong.

Chair Little expressed concern that someone may be charged \$200 every time they get a complaint whether the complaint flushes out to be legitimate or not. It is understood that the Health Department needs to cover their expenses, but she said she is not completely comfortable with the whole thing. She thanked them for answering her questions. A lot was clarified.

Chairman Greenfield asked for Board Member Entler who serves on the Board of Health to comment.

Mr. Entler said he thinks the \$200 is adequate. There has been considerable discussion about it. The actual cost of in person hours to do that inspection is more than the \$200 by the time you prepare, write it up, travel, inspect and terminate it. That really holds to bear with a number of things this department does. There are issues around parity with other counties. That is where the Board of Health came up with the \$300. The comments from this group were taken back and heard. Ms. Binkley did a good job of explaining that. A lot of time was spent going over it. You won't see a lot of these. If there get to be more, it might have to be relooked at, but he said he did not think this would be an issue.

Motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve was made by Chairman Greenfield, seconded by Mr. Comer, and the motion carried 3-1 with Chair Little voting nay. Ms. Little commented that by the time it hits the Board floor, she may change her vote, but at this point, she is not ready to. Ms. Staple encouraged Ms. Little to contact them with any questions.

#### **Environmental Management -**

Ms. Sumpter reported spring clean up applications have been mailed out to municipalities. The deadline for turning those in is March 1, 2022. So far, four have been received back with knowledge of one more being on its way.

The invoices for the recycling box agreements have also been mailed out to the municipalities. All of those payments, except Niantic who has said they will send it after their monthly board meeting, have been received.

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

Ms. Sumpter explained that nothing has changed except the term. That was changed from one to two years. Mr. Baggett has reviewed the contract and has no issues with the agreement.

Chair Little clarified that the rent will remain the same. Ms. Sumpter confirmed.

Motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve was made by Chairman Greenfield, seconded by Mr. Entler, and the motion carried 4-0.

#### **Regional Office of Education – No report**

#### **Mental Health –**

Ms. Little reported that Mental Health is conducting their every 3 year Focus on the Future that involves a lot of the agencies that deal with mental health issues and behavioral health issues in the county. That will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. COVID has had a huge impact on employment in those fields all the way from nursing down to home care. It has been a struggle,

but it looks like things are trending up. She said she has asked that Mr. Macken come and give this committee a better update on what is going on with them at maybe the March or April meeting.

**Historical Museum** – No Report

**U of I Extension** – No Report

**CITIZEN’S REMARKS** – None

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**OFFICEHOLDER’S REMARKS** - None

**Closed Session** – None needed

**NEXT MEETING** Next regular meeting – 3/24/2022

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned by Chair Little at 5:50 p.m.

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