

**MACON COUNTY BOARD
ENVIRONMENTAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE
COMMITTEE MEETING
Macon County Office Building
141 S. Main Street- Room #514
Decatur, IL 62523
May 25, 2023 5:30 P.M.**

Members Present

Linda Little, Chair
Jeff Entler
Mary Scott

County Personnel Present

Lindsey Munsterman, Health Department
Amy McKinney, P & Z and Environmental
Tamara Wilcox, County Administrator
Ed Yoder, County Board
Sheriff Atkins, Animal Control
Jill Reedy, Regional Office of Education
Crystal Hugger, County Board Office

Member Absent

Jacob Horve
Vivian Goodman

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, 4/27/23 made by Mr. Entler, seconded by Ms. Scott. Motion carried 3-0.

Approval of Claim

Motion to approve the claims made by Mr. Entler, seconded by Ms. Scott. Motion carried 3-0.

Zoning

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case S-01-05-23 A Petition Requesting A Special Use Permit Submitted By Eric Rubright

Ms. McKinney reported that a petition was filed by Eric Rubright requesting a Special Use Permit to allow the operation of the sale and transfer of firearms and ammunition business in (A-1) Agricultural Zoning. The property is situated on 5 acres and is legally described as:

Part of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section Twenty-four (24), Township Eighteen (18) North, Range Two (2) East of the Third Principal Meridian, Macon County, Illinois, with the said tract being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point on the South line of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 24, said point being 1070.00 feet Easterly of the Southwest corner of said Section 24, running thence Northerly for 660.00 feet; thence Easterly on a line parallel to the South line of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4) of said Section 24 for 331.00 feet; thence Southerly for 660.00 feet; thence Westerly for 331.00 feet to the point of beginning. (Except coal and other minerals previously reserved or conveyed and the right to mine and remove the same). Situated in Macon County, Illinois.

This property is commonly known as 1804 E Hampshire Road, Maroa, IL 61756
Maroa Township PIN 10-02-24-300-002.

WHEREAS, at the required public hearing on May 3, 2023 your Zoning Board of Appeals heard the testimony presented and voted to recommend approval to the County Board the petition be granted subject to the stipulations as set forth below.

1. This Special Use Permit constitutes a license issued to the named petitioners only. This special use permit is not property nor does it convey any property right. This special use permit is, therefore, not assignable or transferable.
2. Employees shall be limited to Mr. Rubright only and immediate family on the property.
3. No firing of firearms related to the business.
4. Said property and all operations shall be in compliance at all times with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Failure to be in compliance may result in the suspension or revocation of this special use permit.
5. The special use permit shall be for a 2 year period beginning June 8, 2023 and ending June 8, 2025.

Motion made for a discussion by Mr. Entler, seconded by Ms. Scott. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Entler asked if it was an actual full blown retail store out of somebody's home.

Ms. McKinney said no... he just does transfer so when they buy them online they send it to him and he does all the paperwork with the State and transfer them to the customer.

Mr. Entler said he wondered the case so it really won't have much impact to traffic.

Chair Little replied that there is no inventory other than what is being shipped to him. What about signage in this kind of business I can't imagine he would want signage. I notice the stipulation does not say no signage. I would like the stipulation to include there will be no signage. I can bring that up at the board meeting but it needs to go to full board, and it will but that is one of my concerns. The inventory was another one so thank you for addressing it. He is basically just a middle man so I am good with that but the signage one I will probably make a motion on the board floor to amend the stipulations because I believe we can do that.

Mr. Entler said what kind of signage would it be Linda.

Chair Little said none...I don't want any signage, but if it is not in the stipulation and he puts a neon sign out there that somebody pays him to advertise something we can't stop it if we didn't say you can't have signage. It limits the employees and that sort of thing. We have had our toe stubbed with signage issues before.

Mr. Entler asked what triggered him to ask for zoning change.

Ms. Wilcox said when he went to file for his dealers license.

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case S-04-05-23 A Petition Requesting A Special Use Permit Submitted By SolAmerica Energy LLC

Ms. McKinney reported that a petition was filed by SolAmerica Energy, LLC... requesting a Special Use Permit to allow the development and construction of a solar energy system on approximately 12 acres of an existing 38.33 acre tract of land in (A-1) Agricultural Zoning. The property is legally described as:

The Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section Twenty (20), Township Seventeen (17) North, Range Three (3) East of the Third Principal Meridian, Macon County Illinois, EXCEPT the following described tract:

Beginning at a nail on the South line of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 20, which is 607.20 feet easterly from the Southwest corner of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 20; thence North 1 degree 10 minutes 44 seconds West, 383.00 feet to an iron pin; thence North 88 degrees 49 minutes 16 seconds East, 190.00 feet to an iron pin; thence South 1 degree 10 minutes 44 seconds East 383.00 feet to a nail on the South line of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 20; thence South 88 degrees 49 minutes 16 seconds West, 190.00 feet to the point of beginning, situated in Macon County, Illinois.

This property is commonly known as Cundiff Road, Decatur, IL (the Northeast corner of Cundiff & Brush College Road)
Whitmore Township PIN 18-08-20-100-007.

WHEREAS, at the required public hearing on May 3, 2023 your Zoning Board of Appeals heard the testimony presented and voted to recommend approval to the County Board the petition be granted subject to the stipulations as set forth below.

1. This Special Use Permit does not constitute a license issued to the name Petitioner only. The Special Use Permit is intended to “run with the land.”
2. The Special Use Permit is assignable or transferable only upon the sale or transfer in ownership of the subject property.
3. Building permits shall be obtained from the Planning & Zoning Department as required.
4. Building permits will not be issued until a decommissioning bond is paid in full and a road use agreement is in place and submitted.
5. Said property and all operations shall be in compliance at all times with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Failure to be in compliance may result in the suspension or revocation of this special use permit.
6. This Special Use Permit will be voided if a building permit is not pulled and construction has not begun within 3 years from the date of approval. This permit will be reviewed periodically for compliance as frequently as is deemed necessary by the Macon County Zoning Administrator, but not less frequently than once every ten (10) years.

Motion made for a discussion by Mr. Entler, seconded by Ms. Scott. Motion carried 3-0.

Chair Little said her question is was this petition filed prior to the full board adopting the new solar policy and he is aware of that.

Ms. McKinney said yes...They submitted under the state guidelines as well as what our current ordinances required under the suggestion by Mr. Baggett.

Chair Little said filed under ours as we adopted them after his date of filing so there is no confusion.

Mr. Entler asked if there was any public opposition to this.

Ms. McKinney said no... that there was two calls to the office before the hearing but at the hearing there was none.

Chair Little said what the comments of the calls were.

Ms. McKinney said Tracy just has on here there were inquiry calls.

Reports:

Veteran's Assistance – No Report

(Mr. Collins sent out a Memorial Day agenda that was emailed out to everyone).

Planning & Zoning- No Report

Health Department –

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations in the FY23 Health Fund Budget for Covid-19 Vaccination Grant

Ms. Munsterman reported that the grant will be used and the cost will be associated with the Administration of Covid-19 vaccine it is also helpful for influenza, m-pox and other vaccines recommended by the advisory committee on immunization practices. We are requesting to amend our budget to include this new funding into our budget.

Mr. Entler made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Scott. Motion carried 3-0.

Chair Little asked if she was safe in assuming that most of this money will be used for other things other than directly COVID related.

Ms. Munsterman said yes...it covers many different vaccines like monkey-pox, influenza and also for salary infringe of employees that work within that division and other employees to like myself.

Chair Little said I just want to make sure we are not spending \$200,000 dollars on COVID vaccines.

Ms. Munsterman said no...a lot of the money will be going towards salary infringe of the employees that are involved in the vaccination clinics and of course some towards vaccinations as well.

Animal Control-

Sgt. Atkins said I believe everyone received an email from me with the press release of the alligator today. The Department of Natural Resources came and took it this morning and took it up to Chicago. They will be conducting an investigation as to how it ended up here likely illegally but I don't want to step on their toes as far as what they are doing. I don't see a legal way in which this animal got up here.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Microchipping Clinic

Sgt. Atkins reported that this states statutes does not have a specific mandate but it says that a clinic for microchipping animals for county residents should be conducted at least once a year. When the law says you should do it you should probably do it and it does cap the amount and \$15 dollars which I think is reasonable. I don't think we should ask for anything less than that.

Mr. Entler made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Scott. Motion carried 3-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Low Cost Rabies Vaccination Program

Sgt. Atkins reported that the statute says that we shall have a low cost rabies clinic. These two resolutions I am putting forward are simply to bring us up to state statute regarding those two issues.

Chair Little said my observation in the million years I have been affiliated with animal control is the microchipping it is wonderful. You don't end up with dogs that just got lose being at the pound for a long time because don't nobody know who they belong to. I think the microchipping thing is wonderful and the rabies as well.

Mr. Entler replied this basically means we have a clinic once a year or is it more than once a year.

Sgt. Atkins said what we are looking at is doing would be more of an ongoing or extended window once a year to were a person will be able to make an appointment and bring their animal in and have these services done. In the past they done low cost rabies were they have taken veterinarians out to the Argenta firehouse and people from the community could show up. We have not had enough interest in veterinarians to participate in that and keep it going and by state statute rabies vaccination can only be administered by a veterinarian and we cannot pick up that short volume of shelter staff and at the shelter we only have one vet. Looking at that we feel that is probably the best way to move forward is to set up appointments and have they come to us.

Mr. Entler said it has to be during the window of the clinic it won't be twelve months a year.

Sgt. Atkins said I don't anticipate that we would do it on an ongoing bases but I wouldn't want to rule that out either because I am not sure exactly how it is all going to work out because we haven't done this in the past. I think we are going to have some trial and error involved in it.

Mr. Entler replied we just need to wait for a public announcement.

Sgt. Atkins said correct once we get everything finalized we will make a public announcement on how we are going to do it.

Mr. Entler made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Scott. Motion carried 3-0.

Environmental Management-

Ms. Wilcox reported that two flyers has been set out that members can pick up about two events they are having. One is for tire recycling and the other is for free paper shredding day on June 24th out at our recycling center on 21st street.

Chair Little asked if an email can be sent out to all the board members of the events.

Regional Office of Education –

Ms. Reedy reported that she had some good news to share. Our office runs Milligan's Academy and Futures Unlimited and we have graduated more students than we ever have. I looked at the numbers last night and we have graduated 107 DPS61 students through our program and 58 county students. This is impressive when you look at the overall and our number are included in DPS's and all the county schools graduation rates. When you see their graduation numbers we are at 107 of that total and if you do the math the percentage we are graduating a lot of kids that has been very successful in our program and I can't say enough about our teachers and staff that run that. We have kids that want to come to this alternative school because they find a safe place and they are successful and focused on moving to a trade or career. We moved to a new space a year ago at Stevenson and we rent from Stevenson elementary from DPS and we are already outgrowing that but we are in that space for a while. That is a good problem to have and we are at capacity.

The other piece of good news is our truancy officer we hired is a retired police officer from the Decatur Police James Calloway. He has been phenomenal with helping kids find what their barriers are, why they are not coming to school and getting them back to school. We have even used retired Judge Little to hold some truancy hearings that has not been held in years. That has been effective working with parents and families to try and get kids back in school. The other exciting piece is we are hoping by October 1st since we have been in the same location for 28 years and have out grown that building and constantly trying to rent or find space for our professional development events and other things that we do are currently working with Tony Romano and are going to be moving hopefully October 1st into the old Seno warehouse. He is doing a build out for us and we are going to have an amount of space to be able to hold Teacher Professional Development events we do a lot with Law Enforcement in the reunification that we have done with Tammy Schneider and Jim Root and all of the county law enforcement. We even have this section of the building for future use that had my big vision or dream is to create a therapeutic elementary lab school that will have some classrooms that teachers can use for

observation and learning to work on their practice but also serve the needs of K-5 children that right now there is definitely a need. I have talked to all the Superintendents and we don't have an alternative placement or therapeutic placement I like to call it for the K-5 age group. There are no funding models through the state for it and we run the 6-12 program where there is TAOEP (Truants Alternative and Optional Education Program) funding, RSSP (Regional Safe School Program) funding but there is nothing for that particular group. We are trying to be trailblazers and find some solutions for that. I have been doing a lot since I took over October 1st and I am very excited and will keep you updated on the new location we are hoping to offset the cost with the grant funding we have sought out. We will keep you posted.

Mental Health – *No report*

Historical Museum – *No report*

U of I Extension – *No report*

New Business: *None*

Old Business – *None*

Public Comment - *None*

Closed Session – *None needed.*

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

Minutes submitted by Crystal Hugger, Macon County Board.