

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
October 30, 2017
5:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kevin Greenfield
Debra Kraft
Greg Mattingley
Tim Dudley (came at 5:21p.m.)
Patty Cox
John Jackson
Jay Dunn

MEMBERS ABSENT

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Josh Tanner, S of A
Kathy Powless, VA
Carol Reed, Auditor
Ed Yoder, Treasurer
Bruce Bird, County Highway Engineer
Steve Bean, County Clerk
Jennifer Gunter, P&Z
Pat Berter, Probation Director
Sheriff Buffett
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Rocki Wilkerson, Workforce Investments
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve minutes of October 4, 2017 meeting, seconded by Ms. Cox and the motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

Motion to approve the report of the finance claims as presented made by Ms. Cox, seconded by Ms. Kraft, and the motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS

Audit Sub-Committee – No report

Auditor

Ms. Reed reported that she had received a news release from the Government Finance Officers Association concerning the prior year audit. We have again earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. We've gotten this for about the last 11 years. With the help of our Auditors, we submit our CAFR to the Government Finance people and they run it through their criteria and it is found to be acceptable.

Board of Review

Mr. Tanner reported that the Board is still hearing decisions and will probably have hearings the rest of the year. Everything has not yet been documented, but we may have a couple hundred more than last year. Chair Greenfield asked if there was a particular area that stands out. Mr. Tanner said Long Creek had more than usual, but it was a quad, so it is kind of expected. Some commercial deals on some properties that are suffering. That's part of the economics.

Supervisor of Assessments

Mr. Tanner reported that the Senior Freeze postcards that are sent out to everyone to anybody that has not signed up yet have gone out. It's been kind of busy with all the last minute people signing up.

GIS – No report

Treasurer

Macon County Board Resolution to Execute Deeds to Convey Property on which Taxes were Delinquent

Mr. Dunn made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Macon County Board Consent Calendar for the Thursday, November 9, 2017 board meeting, seconded by Ms. Cox, the motion carried 6-0.

Citizen Remarks – None

OLD BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS –

Planning & Zoning

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds to Purchase Floodplain Properties on Kruse Road for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Project

Chair Greenfield asked if this was for 3 houses. Ms. Gunter confirmed saying 3 houses and an empty lot.

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

County Clerk

Macon County Board Resolution Authorizing Reduction of Election Judges for Primaries

Mr. Bean explained that the General Assembly gave a way to reduce election costs. They find that counties are having an increasingly harder time finding election judges, especially since there are a number of election judges who go to Florida & Arizona during the winter months. It gives the authority to only use 3 election judges per precinct. Mr. Bean said that South Macon stands alone and they may not do it there, but in a precinct or polling site like Maranatha where there are 6 precincts, rather than having 30 judges, 18 could legally be used. In the past, it's been hard getting 30 judges. This gives some latitude. It should also save a little money.

Ms. Cox made a motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft, and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations in the County Clerk's Election Budget

Mr. Bean explained that he knew he was going to overspend on overtime and election judges, so he offset it about \$8,000 by not immediately replacing an employee that left to go to the State's Attorney's office. That savings will be transferred from the County Clerk side to the Elections side to offset the cost of overtime, election judges, & miscellaneous on the elections side. That will not offset everything. Because of the large turnout for early absentee & grace period & provisional balloting, a lot more ballots, etc. had to be printed, additional stock had to be purchased. He said they are down about 2,000 to 3,000 voters in the main file. It used to be that all that had to be done was to mail out a voter registration card and if it came back in, they could remove someone from the process. Now, multiple mailings have to be done to try to chase these people down. It has driven up the mailing costs, supplies costs, etc... He said he has to ask for an increase to the supply line of \$24,000 from the General Fund balance.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and the motion carried 6-0.

Highway Department

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds for Engineering on Section 15-00233-01-BT, the Baltimore Avenue Bike Path Project

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

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds for the Salary of the County Engineer

Mr. Dudley made a motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Cox.

Chair Greenfield said that this came up at the Transportation Committee meeting and this in no way reflects on Mr. Bird. He said he thinks Mr. Bird does a great job, but IDOT had recommended 0% raise for the year to all County Highway Engineers. He said he was just giving the committee members some information. He said he thought that with the Assistant Engineer and Foreman were given the same thing the girls got, about \$1,070. Mr. Greenfield said he thought that Mr. Dudley, at the Transportation Committee meeting had proposed a 1 ½% raise. Mr. Dudley confirmed. Mr. Greenfield continued that he thought that amounted to about \$1,700. Mr. Dudley confirmed that it was \$1,700 plus some change. Mr. Greenfield said that since 2000, the County Highway Engineer and he clarified that he was picking on the job and not the person in the job, but since 2000, that job has received about a 3.3% raise every year from 2000 to 2017. He said he had voted no for it in the Transportation Committee meeting because he did not like to see office holders get more of an increase than their employees. He explained that when you give a percentage raise, because they make more money, then get a larger raise than everybody else. He said he would go along with the \$1,070, but he could not vote for the \$1,700. Right now Macon County's Engineer ranks 18th out of 102 counties. He said he doesn't know where that salary is capped, but he personally thinks we are there. The

County Highway Engineer in Macon County makes about \$15,000 more than the Sheriff does in Macon County. He said that Mr. Bird would probably argue that he has just as many responsibilities, but Mr. Greenfield said he would argue that he does not. Mr. Bird commented that he doesn't have a jail. Mr. Greenfield continued saying that he thought they need to go through and look at some of the salaries and decide that they have to start putting a cap on some of them. IDOT didn't give a raise this year, but what they've done in the past, then next year maybe they'll give you a little more. It seems like every two years, you get the raise. Mr. Bird said that this is the 2nd time in about 5 years that they've given zero. Back in the early to mid 2000's, there were several times it was 3 %, but typically when it has been a raise, it has been 1 ½% to 2%. He said he didn't think it has been 3% in 10 or 12 years. Mr. Greenfield said that in 2000, the salary was \$76,855. Today it is \$119,100. That comes to about a 3.4% raise on the average from 2000 to 2017. Mr. Bird said he thought the difference was probably in the compounding. Mr. Greenfield said the point is that it is a pretty darn good raise.

Mr. Greenfield said he would entertain a motion to amend the resolution to a raise of \$1,040 or like everybody else got. Mr. Mattingley so moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Mr. Dudley commented that the salary is paid by the state and does not come out of the general fund. If the state is not giving raises, shouldn't it be left to them to zero it. If they'll allow the raise, what is the problem? Chair Greenfield said the state is the one that recommended no raise. Mr. Dudley said that they could zero it. When they get the request, if they don't like it, they can zero it. Chair Greenfield said that he didn't think that is how it works. Mr. Dudley asked if they would grant the raise. Mr. Greenfield said yes, because it is coming out of our Motor Fuel money. Mr. Dudley said ok, but it doesn't come out of the general fund money. Mr. Greenfield agreed that it does not come out of the general fund, but it still comes out of the Motor Fuel money plus some federal money. Mr. Bird confirmed that it is half & half. Chair Greenfield called for a vote; Mr. Dudley requested a roll call vote. The motion carried 5-2 with Mr. Dudley & Mr. Dunn voting no. Mr. Baggett explained that a motion and a second had been made on the resolution, then there was discussion with a motion and a second on the amendment, so there is no need for another motion. He said they are now ready to vote on the resolution. The motion carried 6-1 with Mr. Dudley voting no.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the Macon County Quality Based Selection Process

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Dunn and the motion carried 7-0.

Veterans Assistance

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations for Help 4 Heroes Program

Ms. Powless explained that she needs to move money from line 4970 to 7358 so the money can be used to pay for things for the veterans through the Help 4 Heroes Program.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Mattingley, and the motion carried 7-0.

PROBATION –

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Donation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to Fund the Macon County Drug Court Probation Officers for FY18

Mr. Berter explained that this funds two full time Drug Court Probation Officers and allows the department to supervise a higher caseload for the program. Currently there are about 75 individuals in the program and with this generous donation, about 100 can be served.

Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Mattingley, and the motion carried 7-0.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT - None

Chairman Dunn commented about Chair Greenfield's earlier comments about the Sheriff's salary saying that the Sheriff's salary in this county has been far short of what it should have been for years. There have been issues in the past of getting someone to take a Chief Deputy job or a Sheriff's job. He said the last time he checked, the Sheriff had about 9 people making more money than the Sheriff. One was a sergeant and the rest were lieutenants. He said he would appreciate it if Mr. Greenfield would check with other counties. The Sheriff gets two salaries; one is for the Sheriff and one is for the Safety Officer for the County. Next spring when that salary is set, he said he would like to address the issue because he felt that it should be made right so that if current employees run for that office, they don't take a pay cut. Mr. Greenfield agreed saying that combined, the Sheriff's salary is somewhere around \$104,000. He said that in the past they had tried to keep all office holder salaries the same. That doesn't work. A lot of office holders have a lot more responsibility than other office holders. He said that the last time the Sheriff's salary came up, he was one of the few that had voted against it. He said he had made a mistake. He was wrong. He said he would not make that mistake again because the sheriff should make, with the responsibilities the sheriff has, more than what the people that work for him make. He said he agreed with Chairman Dunn and they should look into that.

CLOSED SESSION - None

NEXT MEETING – 12/4/17

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Dunn and the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, County Board Office