

**MACON COUNTY BOARD
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MACON COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
COUNTY BOARD ROOM #514
121 S. MAIN STREET
DECATUR, IL 62523**

**December 30, 2019
5:15 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Jackson
Debra Kraft
Laura Zimmerman
Kevin Greenfield
Jim Gresham
Helena Buckner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Greg Mattingley

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Carol Reed Auditor
Lloyd Holman, Board member
Ed Yoder, Treasurer
Rocki Wilkerson, Workforce Investments
Dave Ellison, Public Defender
Sheriff Brown, Sheriff's Dept
Kim Fowler, S of A
Josh Tanner, County Clerk
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve minutes of the 12/2/19 Finance Committee Meeting, seconded by Dr. Zimmerman, and the motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

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

REPORTS

Audit Sub Committee – *no report*

Auditor –

Macon County Board Resolution Accepting One Year Proposal from Midwest Employers Casualty for Workers Compensation Excess Liability Insurance Coverage

Ms. Reed explained that this is the same carrier that has been used since 2015. Gallagher goes out to the market every year to compare prices. This year's premium will be \$80,000. That is up from last year's \$75,000 mostly due to the fact that payroll has gone up a little bit. It is based on payroll and is a 6% increase. Ted Miller with Gallagher thought that was pretty

reasonable. Ms. Reed said this should have gone to O&P, but they did not have a meeting so it is being presented to this committee.

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Dr. Zimmerman, and the motion carried 6-0.

Board of Review –

Ms. Fowler reported that the board has worked through about 470 cases so far on the appeals that have been docketed for 2019. Once they are all finished, there will be about 800 total docketed. She said they are a little over halfway. Everything that has been reviewed so far has had the tentative decisions mailed out. Chairman Greenfield asked if the 800 would be about normal. Ms. Fowler explained that last year was 550, but this year was Decatur Township's quad and they have a little over 26,000 parcels. She said she didn't think that was too bad. A little over 27,000 was published. So, out of 57,000 total parcels, 800 is pretty manageable.

Supervisor of Assessments –

Ms. Fowler reported that on December 20, 2019 the organizational meeting for the Township Assessors was held to give them their written instructions on completing the work for 2020. All of the Township Assessors plus one deputy showed up for the meeting. It is good when they all come so everyone is on the same page in starting the year off right.

GIS –

Ms. Fowler had no report. Chair Jackson asked if the outsourcing of the GIS system for the County had been finalized. Ms. Fowler confirmed that it is all up and running. There is some fine tuning with annotations and things on the website to be done, but for the most part, it is out there.

Treasurer-

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

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the full county board consent calendar, seconded by Dr. Zimmerman and the motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Yoder reported that on the 3rd distribution, he was able to get them all out today. Some were picked up at the office and some were mailed out. The 3rd distribution is when the one time mobile home for the year is done. For the year, the total for everything, including the mobile homes was \$18,016,062.83. Of that \$18 million, on the mobile homes, which is a challenge, there was \$79,625.84 for the year. The real estate is the main thing.

Citizen Remarks – None

OLD BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS –

County Clerk

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Transfer from County Clerk Elections Budget to County Clerk Budget

Mr. Tanner explained that this is a budget cleanup for the end of the year. He said he would like to transfer funds from the County Clerk Elections side to the County Clerk side. Also, the County Clerk Elections Revenue would be adjusted due to the receipt of \$27,604 more from the state than anticipated mainly due to cyber security upgrades. This is just a wash, transferring funds from one side to the other. In total, between the two funds, between \$50,000 and \$60,000 is being returned to the general fund just because of the municipal election and holding it as tight as possible since there was only the one election.

Chairman Greenfield asked if the \$27,000 would take care of the cyber security issues. Mr. Tanner said they had some and then were allotted a certain amount of funds based on size and the number of voters. He said he still has a small amount left that was allotted. That will be used to make any additional upgrades, but they had tried to stagger it out to make sure it was being used in the right place at the right time. With the March election coming up, they are looking at one more possible enhancement. If not before March, then before November. Those funds will expire in July of this year. So, if they are not used, another county will get them. He said he does not want to waste them, but we do have a couple of areas where improvements could still be used. It is a one for one. If we spend \$1, we get reimbursed \$1.

Vice Chair Kraft asked about the return of the \$50,000 to \$60,000. Mr. Tanner said that is about the amount that was unspent after this action. This would be decreasing budget expenses out of 2 line items to \$23,300 and increasing it \$23,300. It is just being moved from the elections side to the Clerk's side. Part of that is because of the new Real ID. A lot of vital records requests are coming in. For a woman that gets married, she has to have a birth certificate and a marriage license. For a man, it is a birth certificate. More marriage licenses are being sold than have been in a long time because they weren't needed before, but now because of the Real ID, they are. It's one for every time your name changes. That money does not come back to the Clerk's office. It goes to the general fund. More paper had to be ordered. The money normally had to be requested from the general fund, but this time, it is being transferred from the elections side to the vital record's side.

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

Highway

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the FY 2020 Fuel Bid

Chairman Greenfield explained that it was put up for bid and three companies responded. They were FS, Morgan and a company out of Indiana. The company out of Indiana was the low bid. The State's Attorney has advised that we go with that bid for right now. Mr. Bird was going to

talk to them and let them know our expectations, especially during the snow season and when oiling and chipping. They were the lowest, responsible bid, so we have to go with them.

Mr. Baggett said that the law is pretty clear on this. The fact that they are not local is not a basis in law to exclude them or to pick another bidder over them. There is nothing that would indicate, from our prior experience, that they would not be responsible. So, being the low bid, the Statute requires that they be accepted.

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Full Board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Jurisdictional Transfer Agreement with the Village of Niantic

Chairman Greenfield explained that there is county road that runs through Niantic. We are going to take part of another road and give them the inner city. This is basically a trade.

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Full Board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds for a Box Culvert on Schellabarger Road in Illini Township

Chairman Greenfield explained that the cost on this was \$196,000. Stark Excavating was low bidder on that contract.

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Full Board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Dr. Zimmerman and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds for the 2020 Annual MFT Maintenance Program

Chairman Greenfield explained that this is the money received from motor fuel. Mr. Bird makes the plan for the year for oil, chip, patch, culverts, etc... The good thing with MFT this year is that we will be getting about an extra million dollars due to the Capital Bill. We should be getting about \$2.1 to \$2.2 million in motor fuel money. That is good news.

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Full Board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds for Batch 2 PC Replacements at Highway

Chairman Greenfield explained that this is for computers and software.

Dr. Zimmerman made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Full Board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Gresham and the motion carried 6-0.

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

Chairman Greenfield explained that IDOT is recommending \$125,000. We pay half and the state pays half.

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Full Board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Dr. Zimmerman and the motion carried 6-0.

Emergency Management Agency -

Macon County Board Resolution Approving an In-Kind Donation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation of Atmos Weather Station, Data Logger and one (1) Year Cloud Data Subscription

Sheriff Brown explained that the benefits of the weather station to EMA are situational awareness to change of conditions and real time to Macon County. Being a cloud based system, the information can be assessed remotely. This will be a valuable tool for monitoring during various events that occur when the EMA office is not staffed. Data Sharing with partners, this service allows perimeters to be set as to what they can access. There is no limit on how many can be allowed to access it. It provides responders with wind speed and direction during various events to include, but not limited to, hazardous material incidents or a nuclear facility emergency.

One question on the application to the weather service as a storm ready county is whether there is weather monitoring equipment on site at both the primary warning point which is the CIRDC dispatch center or the EMA office. There was previously a weather station on the roof of the LEC above the EMA office, but due to the age of the equipment and years of exposure to the elements, it was no longer functional and has been disconnected. This will give us a new station at no cost to us.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Full Board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Dr. Zimmerman and the motion carried 6-0.

Sheriff –

Macon County Board Resolution for the Transference of Funds from At Risk Services Fund to Purchase Ballistic Vests

Sheriff Brown explained that this is for 37 vests at a cost of \$64,000. This money will come from the At Risk Services which isn't needed any longer. It will be moved to the equipment line so the vests can be purchased.

Dr. Zimmerman asked if the money from the sale of the land was supposed to be used for this. Sheriff Brown said the property has not sold and due to the fact that the vests are expiring, this

is one way to get the funds. Dr. Zimmerman asked if the money would be replaced or if the grant would just go away. Sheriff Brown said the grant is going away. The new Crossings Drug Treatment Center does away with the need to send individuals out of the county which is what the At Risk funds paid for. Therefore, there is no longer a need since we now have our own treatment center in the County.

Chair Jackson asked what would happen to the funds when the property does sell. Sheriff Brown said he believed they would go back to the Foundation.

Mr. Gresham made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Full Board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Greenfield and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution for the Transference of Funds from At Risk Services Fund to Purchase Motorola Radios

Sheriff Brown explained that this is for the purchase of 54 radios at a cost of \$52,000.

Mr. Gresham made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Full Board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Court Security Officers Contract

Sheriff Brown explained that this contract has been settled. This is a 4 year contract. The first year's raise is 6.25%. The subsequent years are 3%, 2.75% & 2.75%. There is an individual that retired and is not being replaced. Therefore, this will not be a strain on the budget. This is actually paid through the Building Commission. Per the agreement, Sheriff Brown said they are allowed to increase the budget by 3% for the raises of 3%, 2.75% & 2.75% . Therefore this will not affect the department. The insurance will be the same as the deputies as well.

Chairman Greenfield commented that the 6% sounds really bad, but in the long run, it will not be bad at all. It will work out.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Full Board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Dr. Zimmerman and the motion carried 6-0.

Public Defender –

Macon County Board Resolution Amending the Public Defender's FY2020 Budget for the Payment of Expert Witness Testimony

Mr. Ellison explained that the witness is deemed necessary by the attorney handling the case. The amount being requested is \$1,600 which will cover travel and testimony time. There are 5 hours included. The actual report generated by the expert was paid for when one of the Assistants saw that the person needing the examination had a substantial amount of bond. They talked to the court and got the bond dropped so that there would be a refund of money. The report cost \$2080 that was paid for out of the return of the bond money.

Chair Jackson asked if it was necessary to amend the budget or if it could just be paid for out of the general fund. Can a note be made on the budget itself so we don't always have to amend the budget. Mr. Baggett explained that if there is any increase in appropriations, it has to be done by County Board action. Money can be moved from one line item to another as long as it does not affect personnel, but if there is an increase in appropriations, it has to be approved by the Board.

Mr. Ellison explained that it is early in the budget year. He has made the request because that is how it has always been done this way. Expert witnesses are not budgeted for. He said he could pay it and wait to see where it comes out later, but he would have to end up coming back if it is needed later. Mr. Baggett said that the reason it has always been done on an ad hoc basis is that right now, it is not an emergency. He can pay it out of his budget. Appropriating additional money to cover what he knows he is going to spend avoids the risk run by taking money out of other appropriated line items now, is that it will be an emergency later and he won't have the money to pay a claim when he needs it at the end of the fiscal year. You don't want to run into a problem where time is short and you're scrambling to try to make things work when you can fix it at the outset and prevent yourself from getting into an emergency situation later in the year. Chairman Greenfield commented that it seems early in the year to be appropriating more money. Mr. Baggett explained that the alternative would be that, for all the offices that deal with this including the Public Defender's Office, the State's Attorney's Office and the Courts, all come in during the summer budget season and ask for the appropriation to be made up front with no idea of what would actually be needed, but basing it off the prior year's needs and then use it or don't use it. That puts you in the situation where the county board is presented with what could be substantial upfront costs that may or may not be needed which is why this has historically been done on an as needed basis when they come up. Mr. Ellison said they are not put into the budget because they never know what they will end up being.

Chair Jackson said he thought they would use a historical average to account for it. Mr. Baggett said it has been done that way before, but the problem is that if you budget \$20,000 to \$30,000 for payment of expert witness fees and then you don't use it, then we've taxed for unused money. You can cut the budget by this amount by only appropriating those funds when absolutely necessary.

Dr. Zimmerman made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Full Board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 6-0.

County Board

Macon County Board Ordinance Establishing a County Cannabis Retailer's Occupation Tax in the County of Macon, Illinois

Chairman Greenfield explained that this is a 3% tax that would be implemented on any village or municipality that chose to sell cannabis.

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to forward the ordinance on to the Full Board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Ordinance Prohibiting Cannabis Business Establishments

Chairman Greenfield explained that this would opt the County out of the cannabis establishments and just implement the tax on municipalities.

Mr. Baggett explained that this is currently on the table for the Finance Committee, so the motion would need to be made to take it from the table before it can be considered.

Chairman Greenfield made a motion to untable, seconded by Mr. Greshman.

Dr. Zimmerman said that she did not think they should do that. The committee members had a plan and all voted to send it to EEHW. It has not been discussed there. She said she knows it is not binding and that the Finance Committee cannot force the EEHW Committee to, but they had all agreed that that was the plan. This is still short notice right after the holidays. She said their caucus has not had a chance to discuss it. She said there was a plan and she felt they should stick to it.

Chair Jackson asked Mr. Baggett for clarification saying he thought there were two things being discussed. What she is talking about is one thing and untabling for discussion is another? Mr. Baggett explained that the motion before the committee is to take it from the table. If that carries, then, assuming there would be a motion to pass it on to the full board, that would need to be seconded and voted on. As of right now, her argument is simply to defeat the motion to take from the table. Dr. Zimmerman confirmed that that was her thought because there was a reason that this committee tabled it in the first place and that reason has not been addressed yet. She said she did not see why it was being untabled. Chairman Greenfield commented that it had been sent back to EEHW and it was given to Mr. Dudley. Unfortunately, Mr. Dudley resigned before it went to the committee and he didn't have it on the agenda which Mr. Greenfield said he thought he did, but apparently he did not. It was going to be discussed in EEHW. This is not something we are trying to hide or get by with. He said he really feels that everybody discussed this till the cows came home and the plan is to have dialogue and it can be discussed at the full County Board meeting in January so all 21 Board Members will have opportunity to participate in the discussion. It has to be sent through a committee to get it to the County Board and this is the committee that is closest to the January County Board meeting and that is why it was sent here.

Roll call vote on the motion to untable showed yea votes for Greenfield, Jackson, Kraft, Gresham and nay votes for Zimmerman & Buckner. The motion carried 4-2.

Chairman Greenfield made a motion to forward the ordinance to prohibit business establishments on to the Full Board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft. Roll call vote showed yea votes for Jackson, Kraft, Greenfield, Gresham and nay votes for Zimmerman & Buckner. The motion carried 4-2.

Ms. Buckner commented that her thoughts as to the reason some of them oppose this is simply because they want the citizens to be able to come. Just like tonight, it would be nice if the citizens were there just to hear what both sides have to say. That's not saying you're opting out for a certain reason, you don't want cannabis in the County limits, but it is just important that

our service is to the residents of Macon County and it would be good if we had the opportunity to have those individuals present to hear both sides.

Chairman Greenfield said that the Herald & Review did call him about this and when he explained to her that Mr. Dudley had resigned, that was all she wanted to talk about and he said he thought that was the only story she wrote. He said he couldn't control the paper, but they were told about this. She came up and got a copy of the ordinance. He said he really thought the story would have been written.

Chair Jackson said that now that the motion has carried, he had a question for Mr. Baggett. Can a person still apply through the ZBA (Zoning Board of Appeals) or any other facet of the county to establish a business? Mr. Baggett explained that no, this would be an amendment to the zoning ordinance which would prohibit the operation of any such cannabis establishment within the unincorporated parts of the county. So, they could not apply to ZBA because it is banned by ordinance. If they did apply to ZBA, they would not be able to grant the petition.

Mr. Gresham commented that he agreed with what Dr. Zimmerman was saying earlier and was surprised to see it on the agenda when he got it. It is regretful the way it turned out. He said they had agreed to pass this back to EEHW, but are here now and it will go before the full board so anybody that wants to be there to talk about it, can.

Ms. Kraft agreed as well, however, whether it was miscommunication or whatever, it didn't go to EEHW. She said her biggest concern is that the Department of Revenue set the deadline as June and they have now moved it up to April and her concern is that they have to act on this. If it keeps getting tabled and put off, it is worrisome.

Chairman Greenfield said he and Ms. Kraft had discussed it because it did not make the agenda. It could have been discussed in EEHW, but not voted on since it was not on the agenda. He said that at this committee, they had felt that they could vote on it. There was no conspiracy, no trying to get around something. That's just the way it is.

COMMENTS

CLOSED SESSION None needed

NEXT MEETING – February 3, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Gresham, the motion carried 6-0, and the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, County Board Office