

**MACON COUNTY BOARD
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

**August 31, 2020
5:15 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Debra Kraft
Jim Gresham
Kevin Greenfield
John Jackson
Greg Mattingley
Via Teleconference:
Laura Zimmerman
Helena Buckner

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Carol Reed, Auditor's Office
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Ed Yoder, Treasurer
Kim Fowler, S of A
Sheriff Brown
Rocki Wilkerson, Workforce Investments

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

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 8/17/2020 Finance Committee Budget Hearing #2 Meeting, seconded by Mr. Mattingley, and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0.

CLAIMS

Motion to approve the report of the finance claims made by Ms. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Gresham, and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0.

REPORTS

Audit Sub Committee – No report

Auditor –

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Appropriation of Funds for Macon County Auditor's Office Accounting System Upgrade

Ms. Reed explained that a couple of months ago, they had been informed by the software provider that they would not be providing support for the payroll application after July, 2021. Their recommendation was to outsource it. That would cost about \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year. So, they looked for other providers. They got 5 quotes. Two of them did not have any counties

in Illinois that they service. One was over \$100,000. One was the current provider The 5th one is MIP Fund Accounting. They have given several demonstrations on their software. There are other counties in Illinois that have it. Tazewell, Vermillion, Kankakee are similar sized to us. Ms. Reed said they feel it is a very solid product. The resolution is for up to \$73,000. \$69,000 would be the costs that are currently known with \$23,000 for the software and training, which takes up most of the cost, is about \$44,000. This would be utilizing the Cloud so there would not be a need to purchase a new server in the next couple of years. The resolution would allow the Auditor's office to go to a different software accounting package. She said they would get right on it if given approval.

Mr. Gresham asked how long the other counties have been using the software. Ms. Reed explained that some of them have been for quite a while. Kankakee uses the accounting portion but not the payroll portion. MIP is a strong brand. Ms. Reed said she has spoken with other counties and they like it.

Mr. Gresham asked about the source of the money and if it is money that has already been received or if it is anticipated. Ms. Reed explained that these funds would come from the lease fund which has been accumulating a surplus within the fund over the last four years in order to do the recycling center. Since that has not happened, there is extra money there. We will probably reduce the levy for next year since we know the recycling thing is not going to happen, but there are still excess funds in there which can go for this. This is a legitimate reason for using those funds.

Chair Jackson asked if there is an annual fee for the cloud based storage. Ms. Reed said it is about \$1,500 which is pretty minimal.

Chairman Greenfield reminded Ms. Reed that the Board has just gone through kind of a bad deal with software at the courthouse. He asked if we are sure that this works. Ms. Reed said she can't be 100% sure, but is pretty confident since other counties use it. Unless they would tell us they aren't going to support it, but they've been around for a long time and they are currently updating it yearly. Mr. Greenfield said they had talked to other counties on the failed software and they said it was good, but he said he wasn't sure if they had actually gone out and visited the other counties and saw it working or what. Ms. Reed said they've had several demonstrations and she feels that it will work for us. She said they just have to assume they will continue to support it.

Ms. Kraft asked if the training would be in house. Ms. Reed explained that it would be mostly remote.

Mr. Gresham made a motion to forward to the full board with recommendation for approval, seconded by Ms. Kraft, and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Reed went on to report on the sales tax numbers. As of the June numbers, we received 89.5% of what we normally would receive. She said things are coming back a little bit. They have planned on 90% for the next couple of months and then 95% by the end of the year. So, if things stay on track, the estimated shortfall of sales tax will be about \$300,000. There are also

some Circuit Clerk fees and things that are down also. So, it will be more than \$300,000 but Ms. Reed explained that she does not anticipate it being over half a million loss for the year.

Board of Review – *No report*

They usually start picking up after publishing.

Supervisor of Assessments

Ms. Fowler reported that they are scheduled to publish the 2020 assessments on October 10th. Once that happens, the Board of Review will pick up. The Herald & Review requires the office to turn over the information 3 weeks prior to publication. That timeframe gets a little burdensome when you're trying to crunch the numbers and get everything finalized. Other than that, it is on track for publication on October 10th.

Mr. Gresham asked if there is an alternative to the Herald & Review. Ms. Fowler said that is what she would like to start exploring with some of the other counties. There are specific statutes that require publication in certain papers that meet the publication, target groups & circulation. She said she would explore that possible other options. Pushing it three weeks out does not give a lot of time. She said it is put on the website which may get more attention than the Herald & Review does. They are no longer publishing on Sunday & Monday, so now it will be moved to Saturday which is going to generate a lot of phone calls for the office. Mr. Gresham commented that given the status of printed media these days, there is probably going to have to be some change in how this is done. Ms. Fowler agreed saying that it also costly. With the cost of it, she said she could have another staff member. It is hard on the staff to see those kind of numbers.

Chairman Greenfield asked Mr. Baggett what the ramification would be if they did not put it in the Herald & Review and put it in the Tribune or something. Mr. Baggett said that without reading the specific Statute that is applicable to the Board of Review, he could not say exactly what the Statute requires in terms of circulation numbers. A lot of publication requirements that are mandated by Statute use generic language saying it has to be published in a newspaper with general circulation within the County which would include the Tribune, but given the nature of what Ms. Fowler is doing, there may be a Statute with respect to the Board of Review that is more specific that requires a wider circulation than what the Tribune may have. He said he would be happy to look into that with her to see if there are options. He said he knows that in other instances, he has advised County Officers to use the Tribune over the Herald & Review because we don't need to go with something with as wide a circulation as the Herald & Review to be compliant with the Statute. Obviously, as the committee has indicated here, you are well aware that the requirement that is in State Law that requires publication in a newspaper is not necessarily in this day and age, to have the same effect as it did when the Statute was first adopted. Most people hear about things in alternative manners than a newspaper. It is not an effective way of notifying the public any more, but the Statute has been on the books for more than 100 years. As far as the answer to the direct question, the effect, if the Statute requires that these types of notices be published in a paper as wide as the Herald & Review, we have to comply with that Statute regardless. It is an unfunded mandate, but to be not be compliant with it would risk opening the County up to significant exposure. Mr. Greenfield said that if the two of them could take a look at that, it would be great. Both agreed.

GIS- No Report

Treasurer-

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

Mr. Gresham made a motion to forward to the full board with recommendation for approval, seconded by Ms. Kraft, and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0.

Citizen Remarks – No citizen’s remarks were submitted via email by the deadline for today’s meeting. No citizens were present that wanted to address the committee members.

NEW BUSINESS –

Workforce Investments

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Budget Amendment for Workforce Investment Solutions FY20 Budget – Community Foundation

Ms. Wilkerson explained that she was requesting approval on a \$98,000 grant that Workforce received from the Community Foundation. She said it was exciting to get this grant because this grant is not tying the department up the way federal funds do. She said they get to be a little creative with this money. Some of the things they are able to do is to help some people that are not eligible for the regular Workforce programs, that are working full time, single moms, working as CNA’s for example. There was one recently that got accepted into Millikin’s RN program that made \$2,000 a year more than what qualified her for regular Workforce assistance. With this other pot of money, they can help her with her tuition. A class is going to be held at the Oasis so some pathways for the homeless can be provided.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward to the full board with recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Mattingley. Mr. Gresham asked how this came about. Ms. Wilkerson explained that Natalie Beck had approached her and asked if she had any creative ways to use the money for employment opportunities. Ms. Wilkerson said she had immediately thought of the population that they cannot serve based on those strings attached to the federal money. Roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0.

Sheriff’s Department

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Intergovernmental Agreement For Macon County Sheriff’s Police Services For the Village Of Long Creek, Illinois

Sheriff Brown explained that this is the same agreement they’ve always had except it changes as far as the dispatch fees. The county will now be reimbursed for that cost of services.

Mr. Mattingley made a motion to forward to the full board with recommendation for approval, seconded by Ms. Kraft, and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Renewal and Revision of License Agreement with Macon Conservation District for Firearms Range Land

Sheriff Brown explained that this is for improvements to the County range off of Hilvetty Road.

Chair Jackson asked if there is any cost to the county. Sheriff Brown said no, not to the Sheriff's Office.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward to the full board with recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Mattingley, and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0.

State's Attorney

Macon County Board Resolution Granting Permission to Dispose of Surplus Equipment

Mr. Baggett explained that this is a request to dispose of computers and other equipment that is either obsolete or broken.

Chairman Greenfield asked where they were going to get rid of the stuff. Mr. Baggett was not sure. Mr. Gresham suggested the recycle events. Mr. Greenfield suggested they call the Environmental Management Department.

Mr. Mattingley made a motion to forward to the full board with recommendation for approval, seconded by Ms. Kraft, and roll call vote showed the motion carried 7-0.

COMMENTS

CLOSED SESSION None needed

NEXT MEETINGS -

Next Regular Meeting –9/28/2020

Finance Committee Budget Hearing #3 – 9/8/2020

Budget Hearing #4 – 9/14/2020

Budget Hearing #5 – 9/22/2020

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Mattingley, and the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, County Board Office