

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Special Meeting – Budget Hearing #4
September 13, 2021 @ 5:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kevin Greenfield
Linda Little
Greg Mattingley
Jim Gresham
Ryan Kreke
Marcy Rood

MEMBERS ABSENT

Helena Buckner

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mike Day, Coroner
Carol Reed, Auditor
Brandi Binkley, Health Department
Sheree Zalanka, Health Department
Michelle Sanders, Public Defender
Bruce Bird, Highway
Judge Griffith
Sherry Doty, Circuit Clerk
Scott Rueter, State’s Attorney
Mark Scranton, Board of Health member
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Chair Kevin Greenfield at the Macon County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of prior 9/7/21 finance committee budget hearing #3 meeting was made by Mr. Mattingley, seconded by Mr. Gresham and motion carried 5-0 with Ms. Little voting present.

FY22 Budget Proposals

Circuit Court

Judge Griffith explained that there are 9 judges, 4 Circuit Judges & 5 Associate Judges. There are 11 clerks consisting of 1 clerk per judge plus 1 spare clerk in case someone is on vacation and 1 Court Administrator. There is one Law Librarian who spends a great deal of her time dealing with the public. The Judicial Clerks do a very important job and for the most part, do excellent work. The judges would all be lost without their respective clerk. They organize files, make all daily document entries which can sometimes be somewhat complicated, schedule cases, deal with the general public and attorneys. They keep the daily dockets. The clerks are not paid a lot. The low clerk makes about \$32,000 a year and the high clerk being the Courthouse Administrator makes just over \$41,000 a year. They have had no raises in almost 2 years. We need and want to be able to keep the good help. To newly train a clerk would be a big job because there is a lot that goes into it. These ladies have learned how to do this over the years. Judge Griffith proposed a 4% raise for all the clerks and the Law Librarian which sounds like a lot, but after no raise in two years and not being a part of any type of union contract, that is 2% for last year and 2% for this year. Judge Griffith also requested a \$600 bonus for each clerk and the Law Librarian. The Technology Administrator, Robert Bellah, in the line item budget, \$10,000 is included just for the clerks and judges to buy equipment to prevent malware and viruses. He is also requesting \$3,000 for training to deal with that type of thing. Those are items that were not included in last year’s budget. In speaking with Chairman Greenfield, there may be some federal funds that would help take care of both the equipment and the training allowances.

There are a couple of other little bump ups in the other lines. The attorney's fees expense is up by about \$3,000. That is to pay an attorney to do juvenile appeals. You never know how those are going to go. Sometimes it is over the figure and sometimes it is under. The Pro-Rata Judges salary is up a little. The transcript expense is up a little. That goes into preparing the transcripts that are associated with the juvenile appeals. Everything else is the same or below.

The Technology Administrator is actually an employee of the Courts, but his salary is included in the Circuit Clerk's budget. A 4% increase and the \$600 bonus is also requested for him. Ms. Doty will present the amendment to her budget.

Ms. Little commented that she was not worried about the 4% increase. It makes sense. But, why the bonus? Judge Griffith explained that it had been proposed to make up for the fact that they did not get a raise last year. Then, after meeting with Chairman Greenfield a month or so ago, he had been informed that they were already going to get the \$1,500 supplement. He said he just felt that it doesn't hurt to ask. They are good people that are not paid a lot. Ms. Little explained that she did not dispute that they are not paid a lot, but she is not in favor of adding the \$600 bonus. Mr. Mattingley agreed that he did not like bonuses either. Mr. Gresham agreed that it would not really be appropriate.

Ms. Little made a motion to approve the proposed budget and forward on for display, seconded by Mr. Mattingley. Ms. Little made a motion to amend the budget to remove the \$600 bonuses for the employees, seconded by Mr. Mattingley, and the motion carried 6-0. The vote to approve the budget carried 6-0.

Circuit Clerk

Ms. Doty explained that it comes from the automated records to propose the 4% raise and the \$600 bonus, but the \$600 bonus will be taken out. Nothing changes moneywise. ARPA funds covered the server so things were adjusted and this does not involve any additional monies.

Ms. Little made a motion to amend the proposed budget and forward on for display, seconded by Mr. Gresham and motion to amend the budget lines carried 6-0.

Coroner

Mr. Day explained the changes to the budget. This is a pretty important office and they try to be responsible in their requests. The Elected Official line shows an increase of \$835 by board action. The Deputy Coroner line shows a \$1,500 increase giving each of the two deputy coroners a \$750 raise. This does not reflect the Administrative Assistant. That union contract is still pending. In the past, those adjustments have been made by the Auditor.

Everything else remains the same. The office is a reactive office, but tries to be proactive in the few areas they can be. It is unknown how many autopsies will be needed, how many problematic issues there will be, how many indigent bodies will have to be taken care of per State Statute. In years past, when a problem was run into with those things, they come back and access the funds line, which is the restricted line for additional cash and sometimes, beyond that they have to come back to the board. He apologized in advance for if that happens this year. He said he did not yet know.

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve the proposed budget and forward on for display, seconded by Ms. Rood and the motion carried 6-0.

Highway

Mr. Bird presented each of his budget funds.

030 – Highway –

Revenues – the one thing that sticks out is the almost \$1 million negative from the refund payroll from MFT. The salaries have always been split with some coming out of MFT and some out of County Highway. At one time, it was 60/40 MFT to County Highway. In the new GATA process that IDOT goes through, there are certain things that MFT is allowed to pay for which includes payroll for anybody doing maintenance work on the road, not the ones doing the work on vehicles. So, the change was made so that all the maintainers that work on vehicles will be paid out of County Highway and everybody else gets paid out of MFT. The percentage went a little higher on MFT & lower on County Highway, but it makes it easier on the auditing part for IDOT. There have been some new lines set up by the Auditor's Office and this makes it so it reflects exactly how they are paid out now. The way it was handled before, the portion that came out of MFT came in as revenue on the split and everything was paid for out of County Highway. So, now they've been split up so it makes it easier to see.

Expenses – There are a lot of positions that have been zeroed out. The ones that are still in there are the ones that are coded out specifically in County Highway. There was a little bump down on the overtime because that overtime is meant to cover the overtime for those individuals and not everybody.

Group health & SS are up quite a bit.

The IT service has gone up the past couple of years, so \$3,000 has been added to actually reflect what the actual cost is.

Miscellaneous was also bumped up a little too because there are several things that come out of there.

The 9000 lines are more of the construction things. Those were modified and changed to reflect what was being looked at for actual expenses for next year. The machinery / equipment bumped it up \$25,000 due to a plan to get two pieces of equipment this year. A plow truck and a mini excavator to replace one of the two backhoes. The thought is that the mini excavator will be more useful for what is needed in a lot of situations and it also is \$75,000 less than a backhoe replacement.

Engineering equipment is \$20,000 more than last year. The total station, the piece of surveying equipment used to lay out all the bridges, has to be replaced. That piece of machinery is necessary, expensive and is a once in 15 years replacement.

Ms. Little asked about the IT expense and if it is an annual contract. Mr. Bird said it is an annual contract. They don't necessarily give a rate or say the prices go up every year. It seems like about an every 2 to 3 year thing when they do that. The prices have just crept up so the actual expense was put into the budget.

031 – Matching Fund

This is mainly a construction with a little engineering budget.

The biggest thing in the revenue side is that the State of Illinois is down \$5 million due to moving out of a grant for a previous project and taking that out of there.

Expenses - Warrants – County Share and Payments for Other Share are bumped up to reflect projects to be going on next year. That line, with the second round of property tax, as it sits right now, has about \$1.8 million balance in the account. Going into next year with the revenues, there will be plenty of money to cover construction projects.

032 – MFT

Revenues - \$800,000 more after having a better understanding of them bumping up the MFT and also the additional bonded money that came in gave a really good idea of how much money there will be so it was bumped up to show what is actually going to be received.

Grant revenue was bumped down a little bit.

The 5000 lines are the labor. Those are the ones that are all being paid out of MFT that used to be paid for out of a mix of both. Those are the new line items. The same with the extra help and overtime. Those are the portions that are going to cover those particular positions.

The 7000 lines, contract and equipment rental & payment of other share & Maintenance Patrols are used to pay out for MFT to cover the expense for rock, oil, pipes, etc. Contract equipment rental comes out of MFT. We rent our own equipment from ourselves when doing MFT work and then use it as a way to transfer MFT funds into County Highway. That has always been allowed and the last several years, it has been about \$410,000 to \$415,000.

Project Expense – at \$1 million is \$300,000 less than last year – again, adjusted to show actual cost of construction projects.

034 - Special Bridge – mainly a construction & engineering budget.

Revenue – the only change is modifying a little on the current taxes

Expenses – The entire amount set up for construction last year was moved to County Share and the Township share went up by almost \$200,000 again, to reflect actual construction projects for next year.

035 – State Township Bridge –

For the past 38 years, we have gotten \$165,000. It pays for Township bridges. It shows the revenue coming in and the cost going out. This is an in / out budget. Sometimes some of it flows into the following year.

036 – Progress City

These funds are there because we are responsible for doing any maintenance work at Progress City. The amount that is there is a placeholder for anything that Richland would request as far as maintenance work on the roads out there. Mr. Bird said he was out there and looked at the roads and they are in pretty good shape. He does not expect having to use these funds.

Ms. Little asked if any of the employees are union. Mr. Bird said he, his assistant, and the two engineering techs. There are normally three techs, but they are down to two. They do not have plans to fill the 3rd position at this time. They have been able to cover everything with the two giving a cost savings, but sometime in the future it will have to be filled.

Chairman Greenfield asked about the rising cost of materials, if he anticipated having to put some of the projects on hold. Mr. Bird said they've gotten in touch with IDOT on cost estimates. They have their ongoing data base they have been sharing. The amounts in the budget were bumped up some to anticipate that. The costs seem to be leveling out, but they will keep an eye on it. They won't actually know until bids are opened. If there are issues, things will have to be pushed. Things are not bid out if the money is not there.

Ms. Little made a motion to approve the proposed budget and forward on for display, seconded by Mr. Kreke and the motion carried 6-0

Public Defender

Ms. Sanders explained that the budget shows quite a few changes because she has been shifting some things from line to line to try to make a little more sense of it.

The State salary reimbursement increase is statutory because of an increase in Ms. Sanders salary that she has no control over.

There is an expected increase in the Mental Health evaluations line. There have been a lot of those this year.

For the payroll lines, this year's budget had a payout built in for Mr. Ellison's retirement. That will not be something to be dealt with for the upcoming year.

There was a bit of an exodus toward the end of last year / beginning of this year. That is due to Mr. Rueter becoming the State's Attorney and taking senior attorney, Tom Wheeler with him to the State's Attorney's office. Mr. Ellison retired and Ms. Sanders moved into that position. That left quite a few vacancies and that has been an ongoing issue. One of the things that had to be done to address the problem was add on some private attorneys as contract attorneys to take some of the bigger cases. These murder cases and other class X cases get contracted out to them. There are two contracts that equal one of the full time salaries that the office had. As time has gone on, one of those attorneys has dropped off. That contract position was not filled, but they would like to keep the one person that is there now. At this point, the office would like to be at full capacity. The amount to do that, with a 4% raise and filling the two current starter vacancies with lower salary amounts. That also explains why the contract line looks so high. That line covers 4 contract attorneys. There are 2 that handle just plain conflicts. There are too many defendants to keep them in the office. That comes up pretty frequently right now as victims show up as defendants. They are very busy. There are two attorneys that handle Class X and murder cases. That is down from 3 earlier this year. They are keeping a busy caseload of a minimum of 12 cases. As one case is closed, more open. That helps keep the office afloat while they have not been able to hire anyone. Ms. Sanders said they would like to keep the \$104,000 on the contracts line for those 4 attorneys.

Group Health Insurance looks like it had a typo last year. It was adjusted to be correct.

Telephone & postage remain the same.

IT services is something that the hope is to cover it with the federal COVID dollars. Ms. Sanders said she had reported at the Justice Committee meeting about the need for a case management system for the office. As of January, 2023, the Supreme Court is going to start requiring Public Defenders Offices and other agencies within the Courthouse to do data tracking. The office will need to know how many defendants they have, the ratio makeup, gender, etc. That information will need to be provided on a very specific basis. The current excel spreadsheets are not going to be adequate for keeping that information. Fortunately, Ms. Sanders said she had found out that the PC JIMS program already being used at the Courthouse happens to also provide Public Defender support. So, they can latch on to a system that already exists. After a run through with that, it looks really good and that is the increase included on the budget. It is approximately \$20,000 for the full four years and the program would then be owned outright. The full amount was put into the budget, but there is a possibility of paying by the year. That option is a little more expensive. But, it is hopeful that the COVID relief money can be used for it because having it will benefit everybody. This would be an IT expense.

Ms. Little asked about ongoing expenses and compatibility. Ms. Sanders said as long as they have the PC JIMS program at the Courthouse.

The other expenditures line has been eliminated.

The Contract & transcripts lines stay the same.

The Investigations line has a shift made by Ms. Sanders adding \$10,000 and taking it out of Contractual Services line because she wants the contractual services to only have the attorneys in it. The Westlaw bill is what is being moved to the investigations line. That puts it in there with another program through Westlaw that is used. That puts it all together in the same line.

Mental Health Exams, Court Costs & Transcripts for when dealing with people on fitness issues and expenses associated with those.

Witness Expenses, Publications, & Office Supplies stay the same

Equipment – shows a big bump up. Ms. Sanders explained that they were made aware several months ago that their computers are about gone. They cannot be maintained much longer. Mr. Bellah in IT is very concerned. Replacements are going to be needed. They have started looking into quotes, but right now, the prices are out of control. They decided to wait until the prices come down some. The hope is that they will be able to get laptops with docking stations for the office. That will allow taking the laptops into the jail to talk with clients. It will allow to schedule ZOOM meetings as needed in the courtroom. That was requested from the COVID money. Mr. Bellah also requested it. The hope is to cover the expense that way because it would be a benefit to the court system and make things much more efficient. Chairman Greenfield asked how many are needed. Ms. Sanders said 13, but some may be able to be desktops. She explained that Mr. Bellah told her she needed to double the amount, but she did not, saying she had kept it at \$20,000.

Ms. Little asked about salaries and if they were 4% increases and how long it has been since there were any increases. Ms. Sanders said yes, 4% and some of them got slight increases at the end of last year, but it wouldn't be fair to classify that as a raise because there was position shifting. People were not doing the same jobs with some going from misdemeanor work to felony work or minor work to more major work. The last regular raise was probably a couple of years ago as far as an across the board increase.

Automation Budget – This was based on the numbers received from the Clerk. It is not known if they are correct because changes are happening with fine and fees. That's the best estimate; to just keep it as it was before.

Mental Health Budget – A lot of this is reimbursed through the Mental Health evaluations.

Chairman Greenfield asked if the computers had been discussed in the Justice Committee meeting. Ms. Sanders said no, because they did not have any solid figures at that time. At this point, the only thing that has been done is a request on the COVID Relief money.

Ms. Reed explained that \$610,000 had been received last year as COVID Relief and it could be used for this. She said she was thinking that it could also be taken from the Building Commission Lease Fund which can be used to equip buildings.

Mr. Greenfield commented that there is a strong possibility that the computer purchase could be taken care of now, especially since they seem to be needed now, and then alleviate it from the budget.

Ms. Little made a motion to approve the proposed budget and forward on for display, seconded by Mr. Mattingley. Ms. Little made a motion to amend the budget to remove \$25,000 from the equipment line 9040. Motion to amend carried 6-0 and the motion to approve the amended budget carried 6-0.

Health Department

Ms. Binkley explained that this budget had been presented to the Board of Health last week and they did approve it. She referred to the FY22 Budget Proposal summary sheet and explained that department revenue is at \$6,873,015. Department expense is at \$6,986,518. That does show a negative \$113,503. This is the first time in at least 11 years that there has been a negative there.

There are reasons why and it is expected to move. Some of the things that are not in the budget that could make some differences to that negative bottom line is that there were some temporary expense increases.

One of them is fiber internet which they are moving to. This budget includes Comcast and Fiber internet. There might be an overlap of some services for a few months. That is a temporary expense of \$4,774.

An IT audit is being done. They had planned to do that in late FY20, but got derailed with COVID when it was no longer a top priority. They would like to do that now to make sure

everything is done as responsibly as possible in the building. That is a temporary expense of \$10,000.

The Health Department has to have a Medical Director. That person is not on the Board of Health and that person has to be paid an hourly rate. Due to the Pandemic, that has had to be done more often than usual. That was increased to \$4,000 but as we hopefully move out of the pandemic, that Medical Director will not be needed as much. The former Medical Director retired so a new one had to get up to speed. There were some things he wanted to do differently such as updating forms.

Microsoft 365 is now being used in the building and there is a monthly fee for that. It is \$264 per year per user. There are currently more employees than normal. Once the extra employees are no longer needed, that expense will go down.

Intelli Corps is used for criminal background and motor vehicle record checks at the Health Department. Because of the number of people that have been hired in the past year and a half, that has been higher. The Health Department is now doing their own motor vehicle record checks and audits that are required for the County's insurance.

Financial and time clock software has been switched over. There are some reports for grants and things that were not included and had to be added on at an extra cost. That was about a \$2,500 temporary increase.

This budget includes all vacancies to be filled the entire fiscal year, however, high turnover is experienced and often go for months with open positions while trying to find replacements. That is about \$25,284 decrease to expenses in future years.

There are also some potential increases to revenue. These were not put into the budget. If you don't know for sure if you will get a grant or something of that nature, it cannot be put into the budget.

An IDPH call today indicated that the Health Department will be getting more funds for Contact Tracing and Mass Vaccinations. The Mass Vaccinations grant ends November 30 so that is not in this budget at all and Contact Tracing has one month in this budget because it ends December 31. If more money is received, it will be added to this and will be brought through the resolution process.

A Delta Dental grant has also been applied for for the Dental Clinic and that would be \$133,000 that would be added to help cover the dentist salary and dental software.

The department has been notified that they will be getting the HIV Provide grant for FY22, but do not have an amount yet. That will probably be about \$15,000.

For Starting Point, a case manager was added. The case managers at Starting Point, which is the Aging and Disability Resource Center are only supposed to have a certain amount of people on their case load. So, additional dollars have been requested from the Illinois Department on Aging that will hopefully be covered by the American Rescue Plan funds that they got to fund

that Case Manager. If not, that person is in this budget because that person is needed no matter what.

The potential increase in revenue is \$209,485.

Ms. Binkley noted that if the \$113,503 has to be pulled, even though they do expect it to move and probably even go into the positive, it would come out of the Health Fund Balance.

Indirect costs are at 19% and that is what the budget is requesting for FY22

Information Technology upgrades – All are now using Microsoft 365. Thankfully, they converted to that at the suggest of the IT department prior to COVID and it ended up being a very, very smart move and allowed the staff to work, throughout the Pandemic, 7 days a week at whatever hours needed on documents, chats, serving the public. It has also allowed the Contact Tracing Staff and Advisory Staff to be able to serve adequately and accurately 7 days a week during several shifts of the days to serve the community. In addition, to the staff experienced benefits, the Board of Health meetings were able to be held virtually. Now, they are in person, but they are still being live streamed to have the most transparency possible for the community and to provide the accessibility for people who cannot attend in person. That really helped the community as well.

In FY21, staff took on many challenges with programs and software. In the midst of the pandemic, Sales Force, which is the Contact Tracing program that the State signed on with, had to be adopted. It had to be learned and all the new people coming in had to be trained as well.

Fiscal staff were trained to use the new accounting software with the Macon County Auditor's office.

Administrative staff also implemented the new time clock system. All staff employed at the Health Department use it. It links directly with the payroll software and is superior to what was being used before because staff is now able to clock in and out and record in a job code what they've been doing all day. It is much more accurate reporting and can be provided to State and Federal funders to be able to show them that what is being billed or requested from them is accurate based on the amount of work staff is doing.

IT and Dental Staff in the Dental Clinic have also looked at new software that is needed. If that grant is received, it can be purchased with that grant funding.

Environmental Health digital software is also being looked at. That will really benefit the whole community and is something the staff could use while out in the field. They would be able to complete reports while in the field, upload them to the website more quickly and get really nice looking reports to the people in the community, not only for viewing but also for the Food Establishment Owners. If that process moves forward it will be brought in the form of a resolution. A request for the American Rescue Plan Funding was put in because it is felt that that could benefit the entire community.

The new phone system has been installed, but they are still working on getting everything separated off from the old phones. It is a better system and is software based so staff can check their messages from home or in the field. That has been really helpful.

Fiber internet, as mentioned, is in process of moving to direct access which will give consistent 1 gig connection unlike the current broadband connection. With the new phone system communicating over the internet as well as the proliferation of online web based systems, they are required to access fast dedicated internet, so this is a necessity. In FY21, approximately \$1,500 per month was spent on the in house phone system plus an additional \$1,500 to \$2,000 a month for staff remote phone use. Broadband internet costs were approximately \$400 per month.

Chairman Greenfield commented that the County Board Representative, Mr. Entler, had sent him and Mr. Kreke and email just before the meeting which he would like to read for the committee members.

After going through my first Macon County Health Department budget review process, I would like to have had the documents for my own review at least 36 hours before the meeting and have the spreadsheets put into a summary format. I feel the budget was well thought out and thorough, but as a new member to the Health Board and the budget review process, I needed more time to fully support the numbers. Thank you, Mr. Entler

Mr. Greenfield said that he would feel a lot better if Mr. Entler was ok with it because he has sat through this and knows the numbers a lot better than us zipping through them real fast. He suggested tabling the budget until Mr. Entler and the board has a better opportunity to look at them. There is plenty of time to bring this back. Ms. Little said she would be comfortable with that.

Ms. Binkley commented that she had not heard this from Mr. Entler. He did say during the meeting that he thought it was very well thought out and it seemed like we knew what we were doing and what was going on and presenting all the information. That night, even if Mr. Entler had voted no, there would still have been enough votes to put this through to you this evening.

Chairman Greenfield said he understood, but Mr. Entler is the representative from the board and he would like for him to be able to come to the County Board and if there were any questions, to be able to explain and sell it. That is the whole idea of having a County Board representative on there. It won't hurt anything to table it. It won't change anything in the budget unless something else happens in the meantime, but it will give Mr. Entler more opportunity to look at it. Mr. Greenfield said he would feel more comfortable with him being ok with everything than us zipping through it here in a 25 to 30 minute session.

Ms. Little made a motion to table the proposed budget, seconded by Mr. Mattingley and the motion carried 5-0 with Mr. Gresham voting no.

Ms. Binkley asked what that looks like for the next step then. Chairman Greenfield told her to take it back to her budget hearing and go over it again, have them ok it again. Get with Mr. Entler and make sure he understands it. Ms. Binkley asked if the expectation would be that they have to gather their board together and have an entire additional meeting when they have already approved it. She said she has no problem going over it in detail with Mr. Entler or any

board member. Chairman Greenfield said it would be no different from this committee denying the budget at any other time and sending it back for review. Ms. Binkley said she had a quorum that approved it, so she isn't sure with one vote changing, it would be any different. So, she was just asking for guidance. Chairman Greenfield said it was fine, to bring it back just like they have it, but he would suggest she sit down with Mr. Entler and make sure he is ok with it. That would be the same thing you would have done with Ms. Zimmerman. Ms. Binkley asked when they would come back to the committee. Chairman Greenfield said October 4.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT -

Mark Scranton, Board of Health member, said he was the only person to vote against the budget last week. He had done it for 2 reasons; 1) He is not going to vote for something he just got as he walked in the door for the meeting. The budget is pretty extensive. There are a lot of departments with budgets. As Mr. Entler said, it looked like Ms. Binkley and her team had done a good job of going through and putting the numbers in where they needed to be, but he had some concerns about some gaps that he needed answers to his questions. It needs to be understood, for the committee's benefit also that half the board is brand new. Mr. Entler and another person that just joined the board just started this month. He said he and another person just joined the board in June. They are still learning the process of how everything works within the Health Department. There is a lot to absorb. Ms. Binkley has been very good about answering questions and responding to requests for additional information, but he said he felt that looking at a brand new budget, being a business guy for 30 years and knowing his way around budgets and financial reports . . . He said he also asked for a summary report which he has not yet gotten which would have made it a lot easier to make his decision about supporting the budget as presented. The biggest concern is the length of time to digest this. Normally they get documents well in advance of the meetings. At least that has been the experience with most boards he has been involved with and with something this comprehensive, getting it and voting on it an hour and a half later is not sufficient in his mind. He said that is why he voted against it. He said he just wanted to make the committee aware of that.

Ms. Binkley asked to respond to the public comment as the Health Department Administrator. She said she wanted to address that they did address the gaps that Mr. Scranton is talking about. All of the revenue in the Clinical Nurses section, if this could be reviewed before they bring it back, was all combined into one line. It has now been broken down into estimates of what type of revenue will be gotten from different types of vaccinations. The summary report is actually a salary assessment that they conducted, after talking about that for a couple of years now, which is planned to be presented during the September board meeting.

She said that, yes, they did bring the budget – there is a finance committee that meets prior to the full Board of Health meeting. They did go through it with that finance committee and then brought it to the entire Board of Health and were ready to stay there all night if there were questions. She said she understands that to get something and have to make decisions on it in that moment can be difficult. So, she does take the feedback from the board members. Mark was the only one that expressed that at the time. She said she does want to advocate for her staff. The people working on this budget are working 7 days a week right now. Almost all hours of the day. They are doing their best and she said she asks for the compassion and grace for the Health Department. She realizes that it is not ideal, but like she said, hopefully next year

they will be in a much better spot. But, that is not due to anybody being neglectful or not doing their job.

Ms. Little said that she does not think anyone on this committee thinks anyone is being negligent at the Health Department and if anyone gives you that impression, then you have misunderstood. The Chairman was correct. We have a representative on your Board and he has hesitations. He didn't say he doesn't approve it. He just has some questions and wants those addressed. Ms. Little said she has to agree with that, but she does not think anyone on the committee thinks anyone at the Health Department is slacking and if you think that, then you have misunderstood.

Ms. Binkley said she appreciated that. Some of the things that have transpired make her wonder about that and so she can not not speak up for her team. She said she would not feel right about that.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS -None

CLOSED SESSION - None

NEXT MEETING -

Budget Hearing #5 – Tuesday, 9/21/2021
(Sheriff/jail/Courtroom Security, EMA)
Regular Finance Committee meeting - 10/04/2021

ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn made by, seconded by and the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m. *Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office*