

**MACON COUNTY BOARD
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MACON COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
COUNTY BOARD ROOM #514
121 S. MAIN STREET DECATUR, IL 62523
February 28, 2022 5:15 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kevin Greenfield, Chair
Ryan Kreke
Marcy Rood
Linda Little, Vice Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT

Greg Mattingley
Debra Kraft
Helena Buckner

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Robyn McCoy, Workforce Investments
Karl Coleman, Co Board Member
John Jackson, Treasurer
Carol Reed, Auditor's Office
Kim Fowler, SofA
Jessie Smalley, HR
Tracy Sumpter, Env Mgmt
Sherry Doty, Circuit Clerk

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING

Ms. Little made a motion to approve minutes of the 1/31/2022 Finance Committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Kreke & the motion carried 4-0

CLAIMS

Ms. Little made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Mr. Kreke, and the motion carried 4-0.

PAYROLL

Payroll, normally approved at O&P, was not ready for O&P or for this meeting. It will be sent to O&P next month.

REPORTS

Audit Sub Committee –

Ms. Reed reported that the audit is currently in progress. May, Cocagne & King were here for 2 weeks, at the Health Department last week & maybe this week, and will spend some time in other departments such as Workforce and then back here a little. So, it will be another month or so before the field work is done.

Auditor – No Report

Board of Review –

Ms. Fowler reported that the 2021 assessments were closed out on 2/9/22 and the values were turned over to the County Clerk's office on 2/22/22. That is a little ahead of schedule compared to last year.

Supervisor of Assessments –***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Intergovernmental Agreement Between Macon County Board and Oakley Township Board for Township Assessing***

Ms. Fowler explained that these three resolutions are for when the Townships do not have a Township Assessor. The Townships contract with the Supervisor of Assessments Office on behalf of the County as a whole and then the office completes the assessments for the 4 years of the contract. All of the contracts have always, typically, been for 4 years.

Oakley's is a township that the County was already doing the work for. This is to continue the assessment work for 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025 assessment years.

Mr. Kreke made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Rood and the motion carried 4-0

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Intergovernmental Agreement Between Macon County Board and Long Creek Township Board for Township Assessing

Ms. Fowler reported that Long Creek Township does not currently have a Township Assessor so this four year contract is for the same four years, 2022, 2023, 2024, & 2025.

Ms. Little made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Rood and the motion carried 3-0 with Chairman Greenfield abstaining from the vote.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Intergovernmental Agreement Between Macon County Board and Hickory Point Township Board for Township Assessing

Ms. Fowler reported that Hickory Point Township has no Township Assessor for this same four years, 2022, 2023, 2024, & 2025 so the Assessor's Office will complete their work as well.

Mr. Kreke made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Rood and the motion carried 4-0

GIS –

Ms. Fowler reported that they are working on the splits and combinations for the 2022 parcel changes.

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

Mr. Jackson reported that this will be pulled from the agenda as he does not have any for this month.

Macon County Board Resolution Authorizing Plan to Execute Fiber Optic Project within Macon County with Shelby Electric as Provider and Finley Engineering as Support that Falls under the American Rescue Plan Act Guidance

Mr. Jackson explained that he had shared information that came out last week from the Governor's office where they have money earmarked, \$420 million, to go into projects that are started. There is a cohort that they were trying to get in certain counties, maybe 6 that they were going to let in. Mr. Jackson said he could have gotten in, but didn't need to at the advice of Finley because both Finley & Shelby are project management groups and are on the board. They said that once we get a project going, they can pull the additional funding in. It would super cede the cohort.

Ms. Rood asked for clarification in regard to the Alliance on the Broadband Infrastructure, saying that it is also money for consulting. Mr. Jackson confirmed. Ms. Rood continued, asking if then for the next cohort, we could get / hopefully apply for it / be a part of it to assess the other parts of the County? Mr. Jackson said we have that consulting with Finley. Finley will be that now, for that project. We would not have to seek, work that far ahead with Finley. They play that role.

Mr. Jackson said he had one citizen present that would like to speak.

Cheryl Wise, 11876 Woodcock Road, Macon, IL 62544

Ms. Wise stated that the fiber optic internet would be a very big bonus to all citizens in the entire Macon County. Right now, there are several kids who do home school learning on their computers. She said her daughter is one. Both of her classes at college this semester are internet. She, for the 4 to 5 days after the bill gets paid, has really good internet and then there is nothing for the rest of the month. So, she has to find somewhere to go to do homework and some of her tests are in the evening at very odd hours. She is far enough away from Richland that that is not a reliable thing. But, as she said, this is all school children dealing with this as well as the fact that many of these families cannot stream Netflix or Hulu or any of the other number of ones that are out there. They have to pay the big dollars for the satellite companies that just keep adding on and adding on and adding on as well as the internet providers that will come as far out to houses that are not in line sight with an elevator. That is 2 or 3 possibly, and they charge a lot for very little. In the long run, basically, this would be very cost saving to a lot of residents. Ms. Wise said she realizes that people in the city already have all of this awesome stuff, but this is a very good plan and needs to be implemented. There are also a lot of companies that are retaining their people at home to work even after COVID release.

Chairman Greenfield asked if the County costs were at \$2.3 million. Mr. Jackson confirmed, saying that is with the easement costs of \$200,000 and adding fifty in for escrow for just in case at four, five eight seven with the initial outlay of 50% due at signing two, one six eight. Chairman Greenfield clarified that that would be over a three year period. Mr. Jackson said correct, and then you've got 35 monthly payments over 3 years and at 10% holdback at signoff

of completion of project. Chairman Greenfield said 35 payments . . . Mr. Jackson said at around \$50,000 and roughly \$433 at signoff. Mr. Greenfield asked Ms. Reed if she saw any issues with this. Ms. Reed said no. We've only gotten the first \$10 million, but the other \$10 million should come sometime around May. Most of the first \$10 million is still in the bank. The money is there. Mr. Jackson said that even if the money for the bridge were to come due tomorrow, you could still pull this and have money in the bank. Mr. Greenfield said that is providing that the bridge comes in at what they say it will. Mr. Jackson agreed, but said, even if you had to pay it all up front, you'd have it now even with paying this \$2 million out. Ms. Rood asked what the balance of the ARPA funds is. Ms. Reed said that so far, \$10 million has been received and less than \$1 million has been spent. Mr. Jackson said the exact amount is about \$750,000. Ms. Little added that the bridge money has been dedicated. Chairman Greenfield added that over \$6 million has been dedicated. Mr. Jackson agreed and added that if the bridge came due, even with this outlay, there would still be plenty left. Mr. Greenfield said his only concern is if the price for the bridge comes in higher than expected. The city just put the overpass up for bid. They were expecting it to come in around \$40 million. It came in at \$56 something. That is \$16 million over what they expected. Our bridge started at \$14 million and now it is at \$20 million. Mr. Bird assures that that is more than enough money, but until it goes to letting and it goes in March, we will not know. Regardless of what it is, we have to replace that bridge. There is no kicking that can down the road. Ms. Reed asked if we've committed \$6.5 million and there's a chance they'll come back and ask for more. Mr. Greenfield said there is that possibility unless we get some money from some of these other possibilities. If the feds pass a budget and different things, there is a lot of money hanging around out there and a lot of possibilities, but as of money in the bank right now, this is all we've got. Mr. Jackson asked if Mr. Bird hadn't said that he was rewriting the grant because they changed the format of the grant and that is why he didn't have it. He had it all secured ahead of this, but he had to redo it and he is in that process. Mr. Greenfield said that Ann Schneider has been working diligently on it. Mr. Jackson said that Mr. Bird thought it would come back the full amount of the grant before. Ms. Rood asked if there would be a possibility with the bi-partisan infrastructure law that some of the money that is going for broadband could complete the project? Mr. Jackson said that is a good question. The \$420 million that is earmarked here is all towards broadband, but there was infrastructure money, yes, there were three buckets and infrastructure was on the outside of broadband. Ms. Rood said that might be an option. Mr. Jackson agreed, saying he is always scouring.

Chairman Greenfield said he wished there were a couple more board members present, but asked what their thoughts are.

Ms. Rood said she is in agreement with the assurance that they can look at other parts of the county and see what their needs are and that possibly some funding from the bi-partisan Infrastructure Law could be sought. Mr. Jackson said he looked at other parts of the county and they had kind of earmarked some things for like the Argenta Schools and stuff. That is where they are falling through. So, they are in need of another option. Both the IT guys at the Sheriff's Office said that it would open up an opportunity for them to get somebody to bid other than their certain one provider.

Mr. Kreke said he felt it needs to go to the full board.

Ms. Little agreed saying the only thing she doesn't like is having to pay for any of their easements, but that is pretty piddly when you start looking at how many zeroes are in this. She said she does think it needs to go to the full board with good representation to explain what exactly is being talked about and the potential for expansion. She said she agrees with Ms. Rood that she has to be confident that it is going to go to more than just where we are starting. Mr. Jackson said he agrees.

Ms. Little made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board for consideration, seconded by Ms. Rood and the motion carried 4-0

CITIZEN'S REMARKS - None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS –

Workforce –

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Budget Amendment for Workforce Investment Solutions FY22 Budget – Illinois Works Grant

Ms. McCoy explained that Workforce has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$499,831.55 through the Illinois Works jobs program. This particular project is designed to provide pathways and manage the transition from pre-apprenticeship to full apprenticeship in the construction trades. Currently, there is a program called Youth Career Pathways that was just designed for youth. This particular grant is going to expand the age group. It is about the same type of program in the multi-core construction curriculum, but it is going to expand the numbers. Fifty individuals will be trained through two cohorts of 25 and adults will be added. It could be youth as well. It is a fast turn around. It started in January, with recruitment starting now and it ends in December. This is going to be tough. Chairman Greenfield asked if the Labor Unions will take these people. Ms. McCoy said they are all on board. They have met with the individual unions a number of times and they are all willing to provide mentors, talk to the groups, have some work experiences, etc...

Ms. Rood asked about the recruitment strategy. Ms. McCoy said it is being done a number of ways. She explained they are going out into neighborhoods talking to the churches, schools are on board, local non-profit agencies, social media, word of mouth, clubs, etc. They've already started and this grant is not just for Macon County. It is regional. They are being encouraged to recruit into Springfield as well. Most of the construction trades now have gone regional. They are not just Decatur / Macon County. Chairman Greenfield asked if that is the group that is currently at the Library. Ms. McCoy confirmed that they currently have 12 individuals going through the Multi-core Craft Curriculum supported by the national Building and Trades Council. They've been in class a couple of weeks and will go for 12 weeks Monday thru Thursday and then they will go out to do their work experiences.

Ms. Little made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Kreke and the motion carried 4-0

Health Department

Macon County Board Resolution Approving New Fees for the Cottage Food Operations in Macon County

Ms. Little, Chair of the EEHW Committee where the Health Department personnel originally presented this resolution, spoke in the absence of Health Department representation. She said that they had presented the resolution that was recommended by the majority of the EEHW committee to send on to the full board establishing fees for Cottage Food Operations inspections. They get called out on inspections for Cottage Foods. Chairman Greenfield said he felt that they might as well go ahead and pass it on to the full board for consideration.

Mr. Kreke made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Rood and the motion carried 3-0 with Ms. Little voting present.

Environmental Management

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Lease Renewal at 1710, 1750 & 1760 N. 21st Street, Between the Wicker Real Estate Trust and Macon County Environmental Management

Ms. Sumpter explained that the only change made was in the term which went from one year to two years.

Ms. Little made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Kreke and the motion carried 4-0

Mr. Kreke asked about electronic recycling events and when they would be. Ms. Sumpter said he and so many other people want to know. She said she would post the dates mid-March for the upcoming events. They will be sent out to board members and media and posted on the website along with several locations in the County Building.

Circuit Clerk

Macon County Board Resolution Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property by the Circuit Clerk's Office

Ms. Doty explained that she is cleaning house and is requesting permission to dispose of outdated / broken items.

Ms. Little made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Kreke and the motion carried 4-0

CLOSED SESSION – None needed

NEXT MEETING - 4/4/2022

ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kreke, seconded by, Ms. Little, motion carried 4-0 and Chairman Greenfield adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m. Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, County Board Office