

**MACON COUNTY BOARD
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MACON COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
COUNTY BOARD ROOM #514
121 S. MAIN STREET DECATUR, IL 62523
August 1, 2022 5:15 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Greg Mattingley
Helena Buckner

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Rocki Wilkerson, Workforce Investments
Jessie Smalley, HR
John Jackson, Treasurer
Carol Reed, Auditor's Office
Brandi Binkley, Health Dept Administrator
Tamara Wilox, County Administrator
Kathy Wade, Health Dept
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Tammy Schneider, EMA
Jim Root, Sheriff
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. Kraft made a motion to approve minutes of the 7/5/2022 Finance Committee meeting, seconded by Ms. Little & the motion carried 5-0

CLAIMS

Ms. Little made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Kreke and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Greenfield announced that he would be switching up the order of the agenda.

REPORTS

***Macon County Board Resolution Correcting a Scriveners Error in Resolution G-5424-07-22
Setting the Salaries for Offices of State's Attorney and Public Defender Effective July 1,
2022***

Mr. Baggett explained that he had made an error on the resolution and needs to have it corrected for the Department of Revenue.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Kreke and the motion carried 5-0

Audit Sub Committee –No Report

Auditor –

Ms. Reed distributed information on how we are doing on Income Tax, Sales Tax and LEST Sales Tax. Things continue to come in at a larger pace than they have in the past and it is looking very good for FY22.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving an Equal Employment Opportunity Plan for the County of Macon

Ms. Smalley explained that the EEO Plan is a required plan that has to be put together every two years because we receive a grant from the Department of Justice.

Ms. Little made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 5-0

Board of Review, Supervisor of Assessments, GIS – No Report

Treasurer –

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

Motion to forward to the County Board meeting consent calendar with recommendation to approve was made by Mr. Kreke, seconded by Ms. Rood and the motion carried 5-0.

CITIZEN'S REMARKS -

Brandon Rarik with A.C.T.S addressed the committee. He explained that they do rural internet kind of all over the place. He said he wanted to bring it to the Finance Committee first and then he will bring it to the full board at their next meeting as well. He said he is going to put in a proposal for a grant from the ARPA funds to do the whole county, well actually just the northern $\frac{3}{4}$ of Macon County now; a bid to do the $\frac{3}{4}$ for fiber to the home for all the rural homes in the northern $\frac{3}{4}$ of Macon County. It would tie into their existing fiber network that they have in the rural area. He said they already have some stuff done in the southern quarter so this would tie in with that and continue north. He distributed a map showing where the main line would go. These are either proposed to be run or some of them have already been run. Currently, they are running fiber already in the rural area. There is already stuff in Warrensburg in town. There is some stuff going down 48 down to Blue Mound. This would tie in and be fiber to the home.

He explained that they are one of only two companies in Central Illinois that does 100 gig fiber. They use that for the backbone and tie in to all the major fiber exchanges around here. He said they have their own COLO already where two other companies meet A.C.T.S on their own property.

Chairman Greenfield asked if this would be line of sight. Mr. Rarik said no, the fiber is trenched in the ground. It is all buried underground. It is not line of sight.

Ms. Kraft asked about being in Warrensburg. Mr. Rarik confirmed. Ms. Kraft asked about Boody. Mr. Rarik said they have not started Boody yet, but that is part of one they are currently doing.

Ms. Rood asked if it connects to Shelby Electric. Mr. Rarik explained that technically, they are not a telecom like A.C.T.S is. They are actually a government utility. A.C.T.S already ties in to cell towers. They have already run to them. Shelby can tie into A.C.T.S network, but they are not a telecom so we cannot tie into theirs. They do not carry the network connections that are needed. Currently, the two main fiber connections are one direct to Chicago and one direct to St. Louis. They are both 100 gig circuits.

Chairman Greenfield asked about the Oakley area. Mr. Rarik explained that they have not – they have some service in the Oakley area, but have not started over there yet. They have the permits for it and everything. They are getting it ready to go. It is more kind of a money thing. All of A.C.T.S money is spent on expanding. Money is lost every year. Expanding is non-stop.

Mr. Greenfield asked if the homeowners pay anything. Mr. Rarik said that the way this would work, is that if the Board wanted to approve this – so, it is 4.2 - You can depend on – you can do however you want to – you can do grants – you can do the whole thing as a grant or 75% or 50%. The way it works, this covers, as it says on the GIS map, it will go in front of 3400 homes approximately, but it goes by more than that. They do not have to pay for the hook into the fiber. That is all free. They just have to pay for the hook into their house and if they need a router. But to actually tie into the service, since the County is paying for it, they don't have to pay anything to tie into it. They just have to pay for the wiring they would need in their house – because the County paid for it. That is what they do in other counties.

Mr. Greenfield asked what the cost for that would be to homeowners. Mr. Rarik said \$100.

Mr. Kreke asked if there would be a monthly internet fee for them as well. Mr. Rarik said yes. Currently, the monthly fee is \$50 for 250 mg, \$80 for 500 mg, \$125 for a gig. That is actually changing because the current network is expanding to 2 gig to the home. So, they are kind of in between, but the prices would be cheaper. There is other stuff that will be even cheaper than that. There is also a basic plan at \$20 a month for for 50 mg for low income houses. It is a reach out program with the FCC. Anyone can do it, but it is more for low income houses.

Mr. Greenfield asked if there is a minimum number of houses that have to be on a road for them to go down it, like if within one mile you only pick up one house, would you still go down that road? Mr. Rarik said they had just currently done 3 miles in the country in Shelby County for 5 houses. There are parts of Christian County they are doing where there are 1 to 2 homes. He said they have kind of developed their own way of doing this. He said he is a farmer and uses his own farm equipment. They may need something to do it faster and better as far as putting it in the ground and installing it. It is not completely new. More companies are starting to do a similar thing – how to put it in the ground, some larger telecoms are, but that is just more the procedure of how we do it so it saves us a ton of money so we can go a lot faster and expand a lot further for less money. Mr. Greenfield asked if they put it on the Township right of way or in fields on the farmer's right of way. Mr. Rarik explained that this goes in the Township right

of way. He said A.C.T.S. already has state licenses. They have already gone under and down 51 and interstates. It has to go in township, county, public right of ways because that is where the permits from the State and Federal permits are already for. So, when they go across federal ground or state ground like they have, it is supposed to stay in that because they pay. They have 500 customers currently in Macon County and they pay 1.7% tax fee every month for those customers to go back to the County to use that right of way.

Ms. Little said, so, if you were to get \$4.2 million in ARPA funds, are you saying you will dig and bury fiber optic for every County road in the 75% of the County. Mr. Rarik said, for the rural area, yes. The map distributed only shows the main backbone lines and then they kind of spiker off of that, but yes, it will be for almost every County road. Ms. Little asked for clarification that the \$4.2 million does not just cover their fees, but covers going to everybody. Mr. Rarik confirmed. Chairman Greenfield asked for clarification that for \$4.2 million everybody in Macon County would have internet service. Mr. Rarik said the northern $\frac{3}{4}$, but yes whatever that percentage is. The county cannot count whatever the city limits is. Mr. Greenfield asked if all the villages pretty much have internet service like Niantic, Harristown, Warrensburg . . . Mr. Rarik said they are running fiber in those towns already. Fiber is run in towns to pay for the rural expansion. That is how it is done currently.

Ms. Rood asked if other federal opportunities had been looked into like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law because there is a lot of funding for broadband out there. Mr. Rarik said they are looking into it as much as they can. Some of them have some kind of funny stipulations but some don't. So, yes, they are looking into a bunch of them and applying for a whole bunch of them just to see what they can get. Ms. Rood said there is money through the state too. Mr. Rarik said yes, they are trying to get that, but the two they've applied for, they've lost out to bigger companies just because they look better, but their timelines are way longer than ours.

Chairman Greenfield asked if they are based out of Moweaqua? Mr. Rarik confirmed, saying that their two main fiber points are Moweaqua and Warrensburg which is the Macon County tie in.

NEW BUSINESS – **EMA**

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Hiring of Integrated Solutions Consultant for update to Mitigation Plan

Ms. Schneider explained that this would be to approve the funding and accept the contract with Integrated Solutions Consulting for the update of the Hazard Mitigation plan. The previous plan was adopted in 2014 and is now expired. It has to be updated or we lose out on funding opportunities and if there is a disaster, FEMA really frowns on not having taken the measures to mitigate disasters ahead of time. We have been awarded \$33,000 by the Federal government, FEMA for this update. That is expected to commence on August 30 and conclude March 18, 2024. The total price of the plan update is \$48,997. There is a \$14,000 difference. It had been estimated to be \$11,000. We are required to do a 25% match and \$11,000 was the 25% match. They also thought they might have the ability to use in-kind services and claim our time against

it, but we will not have that. So, we are going to owe \$14,000. After all of the grant funds have been expended, the remaining \$14,000 will be paid for out of LEST funds. The auditor has established an expense and revenue line for it and they are ready to go once the full board approves.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Little. Ms. Rood asked about there not being in-kind services allowed. Ms. Schneider said there are none allowed with this vendor nor with the other vendor which would have left them on the hook for \$30,000. The motion carried 5-0.

Sheriff's Office

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Police Dog Retirement and Transfer of Ownership

Sheriff Root explained that these two dogs retired last year and they would now like to transfer the ownership to the handlers who have accepted the responsibility for those canines.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Little and the motion carried 5-0

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Permission to dispose of Surplus Equipment

Sheriff Root explained that they have 52 radios and one refrigerator that they need to dispose of.

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 5-0

Transportation

Chairman Greenfield explained that Mr. Bird had gotten called out of town for a family medical emergency so he would be presenting tonight. These resolutions have not gone through the Transportation Committee because they could not get a quorum for the meeting.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving an Addendum to Agreement between Macon County and AFSCME Council 31, AFL-CIO

Chairman Greenfield explained that there were still two years left on the contract, but they had had to go back in and reevaluate because the starting salary was \$16 an hour and you are not going to get anybody with a CDL at \$16 an hour. That had to be changed and some other things in the pay structure were changed. Quite frankly, it was a pretty good raise for some of them but it had to be done. Mr. Bird could not find anybody to hire and people were leaving. We are still behind the state and the city, but at least we are now going to be somewhat competitive.

Ms. Little asked if this would be sustainable. Chairman Greenfield said yes, the highway is one of the few departments that has money.

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 5-0

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Construction Expenses for the CH 32 Andrews Street Resurfacing Project

Chairman Greenfield explained that this went from CH49 to Dalton City and was about \$1.1 million.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Kreke and the motion carried 5-0

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Construction Expenses for the 2022 Mt. Zion Township Chip Seal Project

Chairman Greenfield explained that this is a deal where the County pays and the Township reimburses. The job is done and looks good.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Rood and the motion carried 5-0

Macon County Board Resolution to Amend the FY 2022 County Highway Budget Line 030-000-8060 Gas & Oil

Chairman Greenfield explained that it is being amended for \$175,000. That sounds like a lot, but it is not just for highway, it is for the Sheriff and every department that comes in there and gets fuel. Unfortunately, we did not budget \$5 a gallon for gas. \$175,000 should be plenty, more than what we are going to need to get us through to the end of the year.

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 5-0

Macon County Board Resolution to Approve a Grant Writing Proposal from the Beckett Group

Chairman Greenfield explained that it is \$12,000 to write the grant, but it is for Reas Bridge Road. The feds came out with a couple of new plans. Ann Schneider thinks we have a really good shot at them. Without her and without a grant writer, we are not going to get anything. Even though we hate to spend that kind of money, that is the only way we're going to get anything.

Ms. Little made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 5-0

Health Department

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Digital Environmental Health Project Agreements and Increase in Appropriations in the FY22 Health Fund Budget for Salesforce. Com Government at Carahsoft and Equipment

Ms. Binkley explained that they have been talking about and working on this for several years to find the right fit at an affordable price that would meet the needs of not just the Health Department staff, but the community food establishments and partners as well. Both these first two resolutions are for Digital Environmental Health. This first resolution shows the annual software license, a little for consulting and some supplies. The consulting costs would be expected to go down as the program gets set up and running and the team learns it and become able to implement it on their own.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Little and the motion carried 5-0

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Digital Environmental Health Project Agreements and Increase in Appropriations in the FY22 Health Fund Budget for Summit Technologies for Zembretta Environmental Health Accelerator

Ms. Binkley explained that this is for the one time customizable software just to get the program the way we need it to be. This cost would not occur again in the future unless additional customization that our team could not do would be required.

Ms. Little made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Kreke. Ms. Rood asked if this online portal would also be for food trucks. Ms. Binkley said yes, any food establishment will be able to get a nice, easy to read, very quick printed out document that they can review to see where they need to make any corrections as well as improving the experience and efficiency for the staff. The goal is to add in other departments such as wells, tanning, and septic, but they are starting with food. Ms. Rood asked about the outreach strategy that would be used to inform the food establishments and community. Ms. Binkley said they do a lot of outreach and regular communication with the food establishments in letting them know, especially around license renewal time, via phone and / or email so that they are always communicated with if there is any type of change. Those same types of things along with others would also be used with this change so everyone will know what they need to do and what to expect. And, of course, the communications will look differently when the team goes out as well. Chairman Greenfield asked if they have the \$35,000. Ms. Binkley confirmed that they do. The motion carried 5-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Lease Agreement for Postage Machine / Meter for the Macon County Health Department

Ms. Binkley explained that they have had a lease with Pitney Bowes that ends September 29th, so they did get quotes from 3 different companies. This is the best quote. There will be a change from a 5# to a 10# scale. Even with that change, there will be an annual savings of \$122. This is a 60 month lease and it has been reviewed by the State's Attorney's office.

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 5-0

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Contact for Electronic Medical Records
CUREMD***

Ms. Binkley explained that this resolution was discussed at EEHW. This is a project that has been a long time coming for the Health Department. It has been an audit recommendation for several years – that the Health Department get electronic medical records. One of the unique things about the Health Department is that it does not need a really big fancy electronic medical records package because they don't all the same things that hospitals do. She said they've been very careful to find the best package for the right price. The team went through several different demos. They also got a lot of quotes as well as visited other health departments to see how this particular system worked. She said they feel very confident that CUREMD will fit the needs the best. They have worked closely with Mr. Baggett who did some back and forth with CUREMD to get some changes to the contract made. The Board of Health did approve it as long as the company agreed to Mr. Baggett's requested changes. Today, they sent an email that they are agreeable and have made the changes. Ms. Binkley said she forwarded that email on to Mr. Baggett who has not had a chance to review yet. She said she did not know whether the committee would feel comfortable going ahead and forwarding it on to the full board knowing that Mr. Baggett is still reviewing it and if he has a chance to finish his review by the August 11 County Board meeting.

Ms. Little said that they had talked about it at EEHW and she would be comfortable with forwarding it to the full board with the understanding that it will be pulled from the agenda if it does not meet Mr. Baggett's approval.

Ms. Little made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve as long as it has Mr. Baggett's approval, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 5-0

Old Business –

Possible Discussion of and Possible Action on ARPA Funds

Ms. Wilcox explained that she had been asked to research what other counties are doing with the ARPA funds in response to First Responders Fire Departments because there has been one request come to the County Board from the Mt. Zion Fire and it got tabled because there were questions about what would be done for all the other fire departments.

She said she has reached out to all of the surrounding counties except for Shelby to see what they were doing. She said she also read a lot of stuff online. She distributed a proposal for the committee's review. One county said their worst mistake was to send out an application process and have people apply because they had \$3 million in ARPA funds and \$6 million in requests. Their suggestion is that across the board is the way to go. Ms. Wilcox said she feels that every rural fire department could spend it easily. She said she has been working with Mr. Jackson, County Treasurer, in finding what the allowable costs are and what we would need to do the reporting to meet the requirements. We still don't have an agreement done. Mr. Baggett has also been consulted. It is federal money and we want to be careful.

Chairman Greenfield asked for the committee's thoughts on the proposal. Ms. Rood asked what the money would be used for. Ms. Wilcox said any kind of First Responder equipment, volunteer stipends which restrictions could be placed on so they don't do huge amounts, training, or volunteer recruitment. Those are always needs in rural fire departments. We said up to \$100,000 just because there are actually 2 requests even though only one went to the board. The other one is for about \$70,000. It is not a problem for these rural fire departments to spend that money.

Ms. Little asked if this is approved, if they would be cut a check and then not monitored as to how they spend it. Ms. Wilcox said they would be monitored. They would have to send copies of the bills back to the County. Ms. Little asked if it would be a reimbursement process. Ms. Wilcox said they don't have the money to spend, so they would be cut a check and then have to send details and receipts on how they spent the money. They would have to sign an agreement that they will turn in every bill for the spent money. We can do a list of allowable costs. It is just like Mr. Jackson said, the ARPA fund guidelines change all the time so they never put a list of allowable costs out there. But, we have looked up what other counties have done and that is what they've done. Mr. Jackson added that you have to call it a sub-award and they have to reconcile that. So, if it goes down as an audit function, they have to be able to quantify the spending. Every day it changes a little bit. Ms. Little said she is not against any of this, but if we give fire departments \$100,000 and they start turning in things that don't qualify, how do we get our money back. Ms. Wilcox said they would have to pay it back. Fire equipment is pretty easy to spend that amount of money on real fast. With any type of fire equipment, they're going to be ok. We can have them get pre-approval for any type of volunteer stipend or training. Ms. Little stressed that her concern is how the County protects themselves in getting the money back if they don't spend it correctly. Chairman Greenfield said that what he thinks they need to do is give examples of how they can spend it. Those fire chiefs all know what is good and what's bad. Ms. Little said she would like to provide some kind of a list and if it doesn't hit that list, then they can call and ask. Ms. Rood asked if each fire department on the list had been contacted. Ms. Wilcox said no. Ms. Rood said then we don't know exactly what they need. Ms. Wilcox said that she had spoken with the outside auditor the other day and she said that their turn out gear is about \$5,000 each and that she knows a lot of rural fire districts need to replace those. Ms. Wilcox said she had spoken to a couple of firefighters that she knows about what is on their needs list and the response was, "what isn't?" They always have a long list. What this does, is fill a gap. She said that after making some phone calls, these fire districts have not gotten any ARPA funds. This is a gap that the county could fill and it is a huge need. Chairman Greenfield asked if they could give a timeframe. Ms. Wilcox said yes, she thinks a year would be good. With this proposal, they can decide what they need the most. Ms. Little agreed that she would not want to tell a small fire district what they need. The question is, could this be done in a way that we are sure that the current tabled resolution goes away. Chairman Greenfield said he would like to see the tabled resolution be pulled and then put everybody into this new resolution. Ms. Little agreed, saying yes, she would like to legitimately get rid of that old resolution so it doesn't come back later. Ms. Rood agreed saying she also agrees that there should be a list of items sent out along with the agreement.

Chairman Greenfield commented about the list of additional fire districts that come into Macon County. Cerro Gordo is a large one. Cisco and some of the others are part of it. They don't

have a lot, but they've got some of Macon County. This way we are not leaving anybody out. Ms. Little asked where those numbers had come from. Ms. Wilcox said she had developed them. There is one district that is getting an ambulance, but the rest of them did not get any funding from their County.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve the proposal as presented by Ms. Wilcox, seconded by Mr. Kreke. Ms. Rood asked about the balance of the ARPA funds. Ms. Wilcox reported that \$12 million has been obligated. This would be just over \$1.1 million and maybe not all of the districts would spend the \$100,000. Chairman Greenfield said they would make sure the tabled resolution gets pulled. The motion carried 5-0.

CLOSED SESSION – None needed

NEXT REGULAR FINANCE MEETING - 8/29/2022

FIRST BUDGET HEARING MEETING – 8/15/2022

Presenting Departments: U of I Extension, County Clerk, S of A / Bd of Review / GIS, Circuit Court, County Board / P&Z

ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Little , seconded by Ms. Kraft, the motion carried 5-0 and Chairman Greenfield adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, County Board Office