

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
MACON COUNTY BOARD**

MARCH 13, 2008

**Robert D. Sampson
Chairman**

**Stephen M. Bean
Clerk**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. with the Sheriff and State's Attorney present.

The Roll Call showed all members present with the exception of Mr. Hogan, Mr. Snyder and Mr. Wolfe.

Mrs. Taylor led the members in prayer.

All led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENT:

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said we have visitors from Macon County 4-H. The 4-H members present for the meeting were, Zachary New, Jeremy Fain, Devin Brewster, Michael Brewster, Ember Workman, Morgan Malone, Josiah White, Joseph White, Daniel New, Breah O'Laughlin, and Courtney Thomas.

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2008 MEETING

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2008 meeting.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Ashby, Cox, Drobisch, Dudley, Dunn, Jacobs, Little, McGlaughlin, Meachum, Oliver, Potts, Sampson, Smith, Taylor, Westerman, Wilkins, Williams, Yoder

Nays: (None)

AYES = 18

NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

ZONING/SUBDIVISIONS

1. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution Z-1075-3-08 which is regarding Case R-01-02-08 , a petition submitted by Bryan C. Tomm to rezone approximately 5 acres +/- from R4 Single Family Residential District to RE5 Single Family Estate District on property commonly known as 3610 Christmas Tree Road in Whitmore Township. After hearing the evidence, the Zoning Board of Appeals voted in favor of recommending to the county Board that the petition be granted. The EEHW Committee met

and reviewed the petition as requested and voted 5-0 to recommend that the County Board approve the subject petition.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve Resolution Z-1075-3-08 by prior roll call vote.

The petitioner, Bryan C. Tomm was present at the meeting.

There were no objectors present at the meeting.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

2. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution Z-1076-3-08 which is regarding Case R-03-02-08, a petition submitted by David W. Lichtenberger to rezone approximately 2.5 acres +/- from R1 Single Family Residential District to RE5 Single Family Estate District on property commonly known as 3170 N. Westlawn in Hickory Point Township. After hearing the evidence, the Zoning Board of Appeals voted in favor of recommending to the County Board that the petition be granted. The EEHW Committee met and reviewed the petition as requested, and voted 3-2 to deny the subject petition. Also, staff recommended at hearing the at the petition be denied.

COMMENT:

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he voted against this resolution. He said it was a 3-2 vote by the EEHW Committee. He said there is a little problem with the second whereas, and we will need an amendment to that. The Zoning Board voted 3-2 to approve it, but it needs 4 affirmative votes, and it wasn't recognized at the time. When it comes up for a vote it will take 16 votes to approve this.

MOTION

Mrs. Cox moved, seconded by Mr. Williams to approve Resolution Z-1076-3-08.

QUESTION:

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs asked what we are voting, up or down. He said when you say vote for the resolution, if we vote yes are we denying the request, or what are we doing. He said this is very confusing.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said at the, Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, it is either approve or deny. He thinks Patty made the motion to approve it.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said a yes vote would approve it, and a no vote would not approve it. It will take 16 yes votes to pass it, but we need to first amend it to make it legally correct.

MOTION TO AMEND

Mr. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to amend Resolution Z-1076-3-08 at the third WHEREAS to say, the Zoning Board of Appeals failed to approve the petition by the required votes, by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED. (TO AMEND RES. Z-1076-3-08)

COMMENT:

Mr. Sampson said we do have a picture chart of where the property is.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said unfortunately Dan is on vacation. He said if he remembers correctly, all of the surrounding area was R-1. It is 3500 feet before you get to a different classification of zoning other than R-1. The owner doesn't live there, but is wanting to sell it and change the zoning, so that whoever buys it can keep horses. During our discussion that also includes pigs. The area is in blue on the picture. Staff was also not in favor of it, and the Zoning Board, at that time voted 3-2 to approve it. Since staff had recommended denial and it was such a close vote, that was the reason he voted not to approve it in EEHW.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said in EEHW she voted against this because she was told this was R-1, which it is; all of the green is R-1. It has been brought to her attention since then that quite a few of the properties surrounding this one currently have livestock. She said if anyone could shed some light on that she would appreciate it. She would also like to know if there were any petitioners or objectors that could shed light without having to go through all the questions first.

The Petitioners were not present at the meeting.

There were no objectors present at the meeting.

COMMENT:

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs said he is very, very familiar with the area. He has a son that live 3 doors north. He has a very good friend, which is his brother-in-law, Kevin Bird who lives 2 doors from it. Mr. Jacobs has done a lot of appraisal work in the area. The area does have livestock. You will find on each side of the property that there is livestock. Across the road you will find cows, and you will find bales of hay up and down the fence line. It is a mixed area, and what they are asking for, we already have there. A few years ago there was a property north of this that was existing, had a

horse, and we approved that, and allowed them to keep that horse there. We have a man here whose parents lived in this house, and Mr. Jacobs said he doesn't know this gentleman, but his parents lived in the house, and are now in a home. The petitioner has a house and 2 ½ acres, and is remodeling the house and wants to offer it for sale, and if somebody wants to buy it and have a pony for their children, they can not, but the next door neighbor can. Mr. Jacobs thinks we are taking the right of ownership away from this young man, to market his property, in an area that already has livestock. If you go out and visit this area you would see to the east of this that it is all timberland and creeks. This property also has a fence for livestock. He knows they are concerned about pigs, but that is always said in a situation like this. Mr. Jacobs knows the area, and has talked to several people out there who see nothing wrong it, and nobody objects to it, of which we are denying this young man of having some of the same opportunities that the neighbors have.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson asked if those were grandfathered in, or how did they get in at R-1.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs said it has probably been that from a study of many, many years ago, a comprehensive study.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith asked how far this is from the city limits.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams said the city would be a few blocks from it.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith said the city would have some jurisdiction in zoning matters if it is within a mile-and-a-half of their jurisdiction.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs said not with zoning.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said that is only on roadways.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith said they should check into that, because he thinks they might.

Mrs. Wilkins: Mrs. Wilkins asked if that was the only reason why the department denied that because of the livestock opportunity or possibility.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn could not speak for the staff and Dan is not here. All he could say was why he personally voted against it, and that was because staff denied it. It was a close vote 3-2. The petitioner was not there, but there were no objectors there either.

Mrs. Wilkins: Mrs. Wilkins said, so we don't know, other than that why.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little asked if someone could tell her what the minimum acreage is for RE-5.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said 2 acres.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she is on EEHW, and voted against it because absolutely no one volunteered the information that anyone in the entire green area on that map owned any thing other than a cat or dog. She said had this been brought up at EEHW, her vote probably, most likely would have been different.

Mr. Westerman: Mr. Westerman said he has been listening to his colleagues try to change his mind here. They have not put too much effort on leaning on him, but he thinks he is going to stick to his denial of this, though he has learned something here. With this map, it doesn't give us any clue, and he doesn't know what we could base any votes on, better judgement, than looking at the map, and listening to staff. That is what he bases his judgement on. He is not comfortable with the zoning we have now, when we have unidentified livestock on 2 ½ acres, which could be quite a bit of manure to be spread around. So, he is going to stick with his original vote, though he has been swayed some.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver asked if this is going to be a Special Use Permit for this property, or a straight....

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said it will be a rezoning.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver said the properties that have the livestock that have been mentioned, he wondered if they got their's under zoning, or were they grandfathered in. He asked how that happened.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said most of it out there has been a continuing use prior to the zoning ordinances, and it is just like a grandfather.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs asked how current the map is that they are looking at. In his investigations of the maps in the Zoning Department, sometimes they are not current.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said he did a recent appraisal out there, and did some research, and from what he could tell, most of it is all R-1. They are ½ acre plus.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs said it probably has a consideration of the existing non-conforming. He still goes back to his point that we have a family that owns a piece of property, why can he not enjoy the same privileges as his neighbors on each side of him. Why should 21 people be able to tell him that he can't do that?

Mr. Dudley: Mr. Dudley said he appreciated all of the colleagues comments tonight, and understood what Mr. Jacobs was saying. But on the other hand, we have zoning for a reason, and it seems that all of these properties are R-1. His problem is that he has not seen anything that really shows him that. He is really having a problem voting on this. We are just assuming that the others are grandfathered in. There are too many assumptions here, and there is nobody here from the Zoning Board to talk about this thing. He is in favor of tabling this until we can get some more information.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. Dudley moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to table Resolution Z-1076-3-08 until they can get more information.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Ashby, Cox, Drobisch, Dudley, Dunn, Jacobs, McGlaughlin, Meachum, Oliver, Potts, Sampson, Smith, Taylor, Westerman, Wilkins, Williams, Yoder

Nays: Little

AYES = 17

NAYS = 1

MOTION CARRIED. (TO TABLE RES. Z-1076-3-08)

B. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from AmerenIP regarding future tree trimming around the Niantic area.

A letter from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regarding a controlled prairie burn at the Bath Inc. Landfill that will be scheduled for late February or March 2008 depending on weather conditions.

A letter from Comcast regarding notice of price adjustments effective with the April 2008 customer bills.

A letter from the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding the annual assessment letter for the Clinton Power Station performance review.

A letter from the Illinois Department of Transportation regarding notification of jurisdictional transfer from Macon to Hickory Point Township.

Two letters from the Illinois Department of Transportation regarding bids they rejected on Project BROS-115(63), Contract No. 95530.

A copy of the 2007 Year End Financial Statement from the Decatur Public Building Commission.

REPORTS

Sheriff's Report - February 2008

Macon County Coroner Report - December 2007 & January 2008

Treasurer Fund & Investment Report - February 2008
Auditors Report - January & February 2008
Macon County Final Budget - December 1, 2007 to November 30, 2008

MOTION

Mr. McGlaughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Yoder to approve the Correspondence and Reports and that they be placed on file by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED. (LITTLE SHOWED HER VOTE AS YES)

3. CLAIMS

MOTION

Mrs. Cox moved, seconded by Mr. Williams to approve the Claims that have already been paid by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

There were no appointments presented at the meeting.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

4. Resolution H-1581-3-08 which is approving permission for Secure Energy Decatur LLC to install a new private industrial entrance.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mr. Dunn to approve the Consent Calendar by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

QUESTION:

Mr. McGlaughlin: Mr. McGlaughlin asked if this is the old Caterpillar Generating Plant.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said yes.

The Justice Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

The EEHW Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

The Operations, Personnel & Legislative Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

5. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution G-3156-3-08 which is a the third amendment to the Jury Parking Agreement.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution G-3156-3-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution G-3157-3-08 which is approving budget amendment for Workforce Investment Solutions FY08 budget.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins to approve Resolution G-3157-3-08 by prior roll call vote.

Mrs. Cox: Mrs. Cox asked how many employees have been laid-off between K's Merchandise and Internet.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn did not remember if she reported a figure on that.

Mr. Meachum: Mr Meachum thought it was a small amount like 20 or so.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution G-3158-3-08 which is approving a budget amendment for Workforce Investment FY08.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Meachum to approve Resolution G-3158-3-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

8. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution G-3159-3-08 which is approving an increase in appropriations in the Veteran's Assistance Commission (VAC) Fund.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Dudley to approve Resolution G-3159-3-08.

QUESTIONS:

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she was the lone no vote in EEHW, and was unable to attend the Finance Committee meeting when this was brought up. Her concern is.... She is more than thrilled to do something for these people that drive this van. She appreciates them and they do a wonderful service. However, the fifth paragraph down says that this is an emergency situation that requires amending the budget. It is not an emergency situation. She would love to compensate these men. It was made very clear in EEHW that they volunteer. They want to maintain their volunteer status. They do not want to be paid for doing this. In an effort to show our appreciation, we want to do something for them. But, she doesn't think that should overrule the obligation we have to the taxpayers of Macon County, which is to adhere to the budget we have approved, whenever possible. Calling it a reimbursement is not entirely accurate. Any time she has ever worked with a reimbursement program she has had to provide receipts. Currently, if gas keeps going up like it is, it may not be unreasonable to show a \$30.00 receipt for driving from the west end to north end, but right now that is an unrealistic number. She has to vote against this again tonight and that is not because she doesn't want to show appreciation for these people and what they do for us. She does not believe it is a responsible thing to do as a county board member.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said in the Finance meeting the lady from the Veterans Commission had indicated that all of the gentleman involved in this volunteer task, did not want to be reimbursed, and did not want any pay for it. Even though he voted to send it on to the county board for approval, he was going to take the stand at this point to deny it. He thinks that Linda is right and this is not an emergency situation, even at the admission of the Veterans Commission Director. She indicated that none of the volunteers wanted this. He wondered why all of a sudden she feels she has got to provide this, when even by her own admission, they don't want it. Particularly, in calling it an emergency situation, he thinks we are not keeping mindful of our task to make sure these types of situations don't take place.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby said he is a veteran, and possibly these guys will be driving him to Danville

one of these day. He is on the Finance Committee, and he also has a problem with this because the proposal is to give these gentleman \$30.00 a day, a straight per diem would be the appropriate term. It is not a true reimbursement because somebody could be driving from Taylorville, and somebody could be driving from two blocks away. He definitely supports the veterans benefits and the veterans. He just does not think this is an appropriate use of the county's money. Maybe we could do something more appropriate, but just a \$5,000 per diem he could not agree with that. He is going to vote against it even though he agreed to pass it on to the full board during the Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he wanted to give a little history on this, and everyone can vote the way they want. Mr. Dunn approached Kathie Powless about her office because she has cut her levy for at least 2 years in a row, it might be longer. She also has a strong fund balance. He asked her why she wasn't supporting our veterans more in this time of need with Iraq war and everything. With the problems that we have had with the veterans of the Vietnam War that were left behind, the sense he got from her was that when she took over the idea was to not spend any money. He does not agree with that. He feels we should support our veterans in any way we can, especially in this time of need. He asked her to look into what her office really needed, and if she needed to utilize some money to update that office and make it more productive, and take care of the office, that she should look at that, and not to just focus on not spending any money. She did come before EEHW about buying a software program where she could take veterans records and scan them to put them on record. With all of the other things involved in the software, she could be more productive in keeping members records and getting their cases processed faster. He was fortunate enough to be invited to a program down at the Lincoln Theater a few months ago where he saw veterans stand up and say they had been driving these vans for 10 years, some of them 3 days a week, 8 to 10 hours a day, on a voluntary basis. He asked he why we couldn't give these people at least a little stipend. Most of them are older people. He knows from his retirement system in his local, that guys now are retiring fairly decent, but guys that retired 20 and 30 years had some pretty small retirements in this day in age. He wondered why we couldn't give them a stipend, and that was the word used then. It is the word used now. It is not mileage reimbursement. For some reason they did not want to lose their "volunteer status". He didn't see where giving them a stipend has anything to do with their volunteering. He appreciated their volunteering, but felt the we would be remorse in not taking care of our veterans, and the people that spend sometimes 30 hours a week taking veterans to Danville to the hospital. Mr. Dunn said in our whole budget process this is a pretty small amount of money. As most of us know, by State law we have to put in there that it is an emergency situation. Just because we approve this does not mean we have to approve the next resolution whatsoever. He disagrees with the ones who are going to vote against it. He is going to vote for it.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams said as the son of a veteran who has ridden this van many times, he would proudly vote for it tonight.

MOTION TO AMEND

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to amend Resolution G-3159-3-08 at the last WHEREAS

paragraph replacing the word reimbursement with the word stipend by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED. (AMENDMENT TO G-3159-3-08)

COMMENT:

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver said the reason that some of the gentlemen did not want to change their volunteer status is because they are a very proud lot of folk who do this work. They do this because of their patriotism. That is why they don't want any kind of stipend, as they would say, for what they believe in, and for what they have been doing for all of these years. He is going to proudly vote for it.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Ashby, Cox, Drobisch, Dudley, Dunn, Jacobs, Little, McGlaughlin, Meachum, Oliver, Potts, Sampson, Smith, Taylor, Westerman, Wilkins, Williams, Yoder

Nays: (None)

AYES = 18

NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

9. Mr. Dunn presented Ordinance O-70-3-08 which is authorizing public approval of the issuance of certain Collateralized Single Family Mortgage Revenue Bonds and certain documents in connection therewith; and related matters.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Ordinance O-70-3-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver said we have been informed of a meeting of both parties next week.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson asked if that is for the Correctional Officers.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver said yes.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

10. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-1582-3-08 which is awarding the annual county culvert bid to Clark County Supply.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-1582-3-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

11. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-1583-3-08 which is awarding the annual county sign bid to Allied Municipal Supply.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-1583-3-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

12. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-1584-3-08 which is awarding the annual sign blank bid to Osburn Associates, Inc.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins to approve Resolution H-1584-3-08 by prior roll call vote.

QUESTION:

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little asked what a sign blank is.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said it has no reflective stuff on it. It is just the metal.

MOTION CARRIED.

The Executive Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

The Macon County Building Sub-Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

COMMENT:

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams wanted to introduce Mindy Peterson from the Extension Office, and she would like to say a few words.

Mindy Peterson: Ms. Peterson just wanted to take a few minutes and say thank you to each of you for allowing our 4-H'ers to come in and participate this evening. It is a great way for our 4-H'ers to see how local government works, and also gives them an opportunity to see how each of you give back to your community. Knowing that these are future voters, we want them to be able to give back to our community and the communities in which you guys are serving. We thank you from the University of Illinois Extension for all the hard work that you do, and the support that you give, not only us, but our 4-H'ers.

CITIZENS REMARKS:

Dean Padgett: Mr. Padgett said for all of the new faces here, he has been a regular here for about a year-and-a-half. He is just a private citizen who is fighting a campground that was closed in Macon County by a board of trustees that is appointed by the Macon County Board. He attends this meeting as well as a conservation meeting. We are one of five counties in all of Illinois that has a Conservation District. There is no campground other than the one they closed. We have been fighting, and have the campground reopened. We have it half electrified, and he is not giving up until we get it completed. You are welcome tonight, and he appreciates what your are doing. He wished he would have had some of that experience at that young age. Mr. Padgett said he is a former teacher, retired, and has nothing more to do than make a few complaints. He asked them to bear with him for a few minutes. They should all have a copy of the latest M&M by the Conservation District. M&M means management move, or better yet mismanagement, choose whichever one you like best. You also should have a white paper napkin. If you read that very short article, he took it upon himself to call that phone number at the end and volunteer a couple of you on the board here tonight, knowing that the workload is less than half what it used to be and really should be. To celebrate this management move and skill, he decided another treat was in order for all of you. It is a FUDGE Mis Bar. As you read the cover you will see that it is a perfectly fitting endeavor for how this simple project has been managed from the start to where we are now. Remember FUDGE. F is for Friends Creek. U is for under managed. D is for destroyed. G is for got. E is for evidence. At this point he was asking the State's Attorney if this gives us enough evidence to make a conviction. Trusting the answer is yes, therefore you have earned your treat. He asked them to please eat this mis bar so we can all continue to fight this useless and unnecessary battle until this awful wrong becomes a right. He thanked them for their time, patience, and help in whatever they could do in helping to get the other sites electrified.

OFFICEHOLDER'S REMARKS:

Sheriff Dawson: Sheriff Dawson said the ETSB has agreed to pay \$500,000 toward the new radio system that we will be using with the City of Decatur. It is a State run system by Motorola. In the long run it is going to save the county and the city quite a bit of money. We are going to look at about \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year in radio fees, which is very reasonable. The portables will be purchased by Homeland Security so there won't be any large outlay from the county. On a sadder note, it has been a real tough two weeks with the passing of Sergeant Busch. He was a 27 year veteran. He hopes to have his family up here next month or the month after to present them with a plaque that he would have gotten when he retired.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby asked if the Sheriff anticipates any further funds from the Emergency....

Sheriff Dawson: Sheriff Dawson said it is actually supposed to be in 3 phases. Phase 1 was approved which means every Deputy Sheriff would have their own portable radio. As phase 2 and phase 3 come in, the other services that are not considered a first responder.... There was some controversy with the Fire Protection Districts, but most of them already have at least two of these Starcom Radios. The whole idea is interoperability. Once we have this system we will be able to talk to, not only the rural fire protection districts, but the FBI, and the State Police, Champaign Police Department, whoever might be coming to our aid. We will all be able to communicate, and that is the whole idea behind this system.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby asked what the time frame is.

Sheriff Dawson: Sheriff Dawson said we hope to be on it by late summer. We are looking at about August before we are actually on this. Those who are on the Justice Committee saw the demonstration from Lieutenant Culp. It is a public safety issue. Thank goodness the board approved upgrading the old Sheriff's Main because that is what we are using about 50 % of the time. When we had bad weather a couple of weeks ago we actually had deputies on Lost Bridge Road, which is not very far out, that could not communicate on the 800 frequency that we are currently using. So, we are going back to the old Sheriff's Main. When we go to this Starcom, we have even done testing in the basements of all the schools, so if we have a critical incident, we want to be able to communicate in the schools. We can talk to Carbondale with these things. We can talk to Chicago. They are just really amazing. Our time frame for the deputies is this summer.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch asked if we will still keep the Sheriff's Main.

Sheriff Dawson: Sheriff Dawson said we will keep that as a back up, and we will still use it as a storm watch. We are losing our 800 frequency, and we have about 5 talk channels, so we could even possibly put Probation on that. We had to update it, so it wasn't like we wasted \$150,000. We are basically putting all our trust in the State and Motorola Corporation.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said that they won't be on the 800 frequency anymore.

Sheriff Dawson: Sheriff Dawson said it is actually an 800 frequency that they leased from the City of Decatur. So, it is a higher frequency, but it is a series of repeaters. If you have one tower or two towers go down, it is just going to go to the next tower. Since we formed this alliance with Sangamon and Champaign Counties, we have something like a corridor in Central Illinois, and they are going to commit to more towers. Unless you have a tornado that is going to wipe out a very large path, he doesn't ever see communications being a problem because of severe weather. This thing is really amazing. They had demonstrations where you could talk to literally anyone in the State that is on this system.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch asked if they will all be on the same frequency.

Sheriff Dawson: Sheriff Dawson said they will have different talk groups. What is nice about this technology is that if we did have a disaster, our communications center is going to be able to key in whoever shows up to our aid. This portable will give us that kind of compatibility.

Mr. Dudley: Mr. Dudley wanted to thank Mr. Smith and Lieutenant Culp for their hard work in securing those grants for those radios. He also thought he could speak on behalf of the whole board that Sheriff Dawson's department has the board's condolences for Sergeant Busch.

Sheriff Dawson: Sheriff Dawson said there has been a lot of controversy, mainly that he has brought up, over the last two years about the problem with communications. Deputy Chief Smith, at least verbally, has told him that he thinks that this Metcad or Metcom, which are acronyms that McLean County and Champaign County use, is basically a system made up of the users and the users control the system. He has finally agreed that this is probably the way we should go, which is what he has been arguing about for two years. He thinks their motivation is that they think it would be easier to access money like the ETSB has, and other money that may be out there. He doesn't really care what their motivation is; he thinks it is good for the taxpayer, and it is good for public safety. It looks very promising, especially with their talks of a new building, that it will not be an issue, and we can move toward having a joint system where it is actually run by everyone who is a user.

Mr. McGlaughlin: Mr. McGlaughlin said he knows none of the 4-H members are old enough, but Mr. Bean, Mr. Speaker, and himself can remember when the Illinois State Legislature was actually not held in the high regard that it is today. As a matter of fact, upon one occasion, late at night, as the Chairman alluded to earlier, people actually went up into the balcony and tried to bend the hands of the clock backwards so the midnight adjournment could not take place. Thereupon ensued what is still known as the chicken bone war, in which the members began to fling chicken bones, and pizza disks, and he would euphemistically say "soda" cans at one another. It got so bad that the State Police were called in. They removed their badges and name plates, and put them in their pockets. When they were asked why they did that, they said these are the people that vote on our salaries. Mr. McGlaughlin said his point is that the salutary affect of having a group young people such as we have this evening from the 4-H or scouts or whatever, was recognized even by the legislature at that point when Speaker Powell said, in the future, that no laws would be debated without at least 200 school children in the gallery. He thanked those from 4-H for the positive effect, and the civility and

department that you had upon this body this evening. He thanked them for the good work that they do.

Mr. Westerman: Mr. Westerman said a different kind of communication problem than the one we had that the Sheriff alluded to, was the communications we have in committee meetings verses the communications we have at board meetings. The two issues tonight that were controversial could have really all been resolved if we would have had more communications at the committee level. Maybe it is incumbent upon each one of us to go out in zoning and look at the property, but we rely on staff to do that for us, or to go to a veterans meeting or whatever. It is a bit unnerving and embarrassing to make a stand at a committee meeting only to find out you didn't know what you were talking about, and at the board meeting you want to retract that and vote the other way. He doesn't know the answer to the problem, but hopes we can all be a little more diligent in knowing what we are talking about before we make a vote.

There was no old business presented at the meeting.

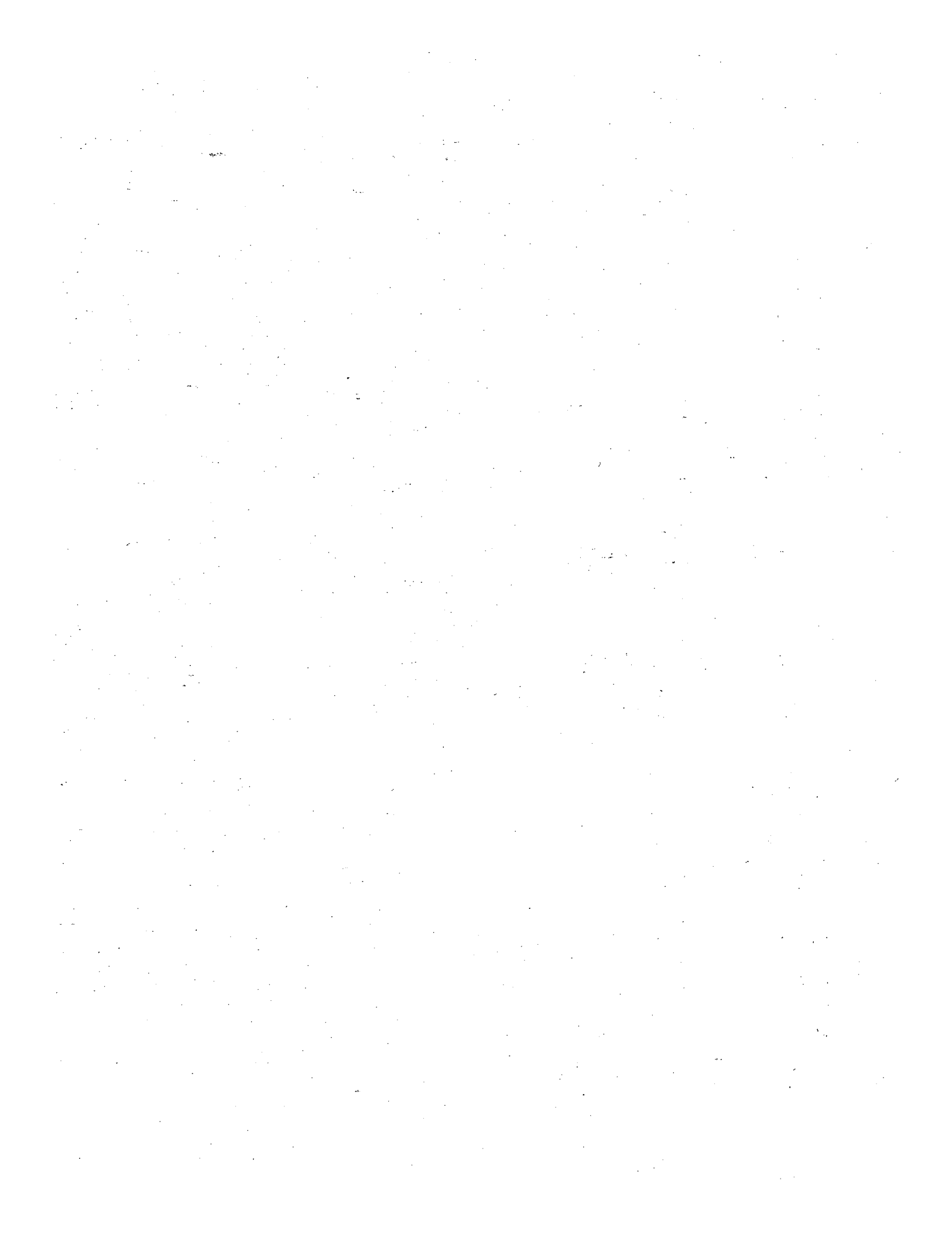
There was no new business presented at the meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Yoder to adjourn until Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 7:15 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



AGENDA
MACON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
March 13, 2008
7:15 P.M.

**The Macon County Board is honored to have Macon County 4-H Club Members present
this evening to job shadow.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

* Out of respect of this public meeting, please turn off all cell phones.

2. ROLL CALL

3. OPENING PRAYER

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. APPROVAL of MINUTES of PRIOR MEETING

6. ZONING/SUBDIVISIONS

Z-1075-3-08 Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case R-01-02-08, a Petition for Rezoning Submitted by Bryan C. Tomm

Z-1076-3-08 Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case R-03-02-08, a Petition for Rezoning Submitted by David W. Lichtenberger

7. CORRESPONDENCE

8. CLAIMS

9. APPOINTMENTS

10. CONSENT CALENDAR

H-1581-3-08 Macon County Board Resolution Approving Permission to Secure Energy Decatur LLC to Install a New Private Industrial Entrance

11. JUSTICE COMMITTEE

12. EEHW COMMITTEE

13. OPERATIONS, PERSONNEL & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

14. FINANCE COMMITTEE

G-3156-3-08 Macon County Board Resolution Third Amendment to Jury Parking Agreement

G-3157-3-08 Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Budget Amendment for Workforce Investment Solutions FY08 Budget

G-3158-3-08 Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Budget Amendment for Workforce Investment FY08

G-3159-3-08 Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations in the Veteran's Assistance Commission (VAC) Fund

O-70-3-08 An Ordinance Authorizing the Public Approval of the Issuance of Certain Collateralized Single Family Mortgage Revenue Bonds and Certain Documents in Connection Therewith; and Related Matters

15. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

16. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

H-1582-3-08 Macon County Board Resolution Awarding Annual
County Culvert Bid

H-1583-3-08 Macon County Board Resolution Awarding Annual
County Sign Bid

H-1584-3-08 Macon County Board Resolution Awarding Annual
County Sign Blank Bid

17. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

18. MACON COUNTY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE

19. CITIZEN'S REMARKS

“PUBLIC COMMENT”

Will be limited to a total of 20 minutes, 5 minutes maximum per person.

20. OFFICEHOLDER'S REMARKS

21. OLD BUSINESS

22. NEW BUSINESS

23. CLOSED SESSION Personnel Issues and Pending Litigations

24. ADJOURNMENT

