

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
MACON COUNTY BOARD**

JULY 10, 2008

**Robert D. Sampson
Chairman**

**Stephen M. Bean
Clerk**

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

The Roll Call showed all members present with the exception of Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Wolfe.

Mrs. Wilkins led the members in prayer.

All led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2008 MEETING

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Potts to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2008 meeting.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

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

Nays: (None)

AYES = 19

NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

ZONINGS / SUBDIVISIONS

1. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution Z-1080-7-08 which is regarding Case R-01-06-08, a petition submitted by Loren Doak for rezoning of approximately 2.0 acres +/- from R-1 Single Family Residential District to B-2 Commercial District on property commonly known as the North East corner of East Main Street and North Pine Street in Maroa 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. Williams to approve Resolution Z-1080-7-08 by prior roll call vote.

PETITIONER:

Mr. Doak: Mr. Doak said he is just out of storage space, and needs another building.

There were no objectors present at the meeting.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

A copy of the Macon County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2007.

A letter from AmerenIP regarding tree trimming that will be done in and around the Decatur area in the near future.

A letter from Enbridge Pipelines (Illinois) L.L.C. providing updates on Enbridge's Southern Access Extension Pipeline Project (Extension Project).

A letter from the Illinois Department of Transportation regarding the FINAL REPORT of the Surface Transportation Program for Macon County Section 02-00175-00-PV. This designated section has been closed.

A letter from Klingner & Associates, P.C regarding attached request for Permit Renewal for the existing Macon County Composting Facility that was sent to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

A copy of the Catalog of State Assistance to Local Governments providing a listing of state programs providing financial and technical assistance.

REPORTS

Sheriff's Report – June 2008

Coroner's Report – April & May 2008

Coroner's Annual Report – 2007

Macon County Tax Collector - Bank Report – May 2008

Auditor's Report – June 2008

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Drobisch 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.

2. CLAIMS

MOTION

Mrs. Cox moved, seconded by Mr. Yoder to approve the Claims by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said he wanted to introduce our new GIS staff member Josh Tanner. He comes to us from the Illinois Department of Revenue. He has been here about 2 weeks now. Mr. Sampson told them to stop by and say hi, and if they have a question about GIS Mr. Tanner is your guy. The other thing he wanted to mention under appointments is that he consulted with the State's Attorney because he wanted to make sure we handled the situation with Sheriff Dawson's resignation correctly under Illinois State Law. Therefore, upon the advice of the State's Attorney's Office, tonight he declared the Sheriff's Office vacant as of August 31, 2008. Tomorrow, as required by law, he would send letters to each of the respective party chairman notifying them of the vacancy. It is his intention to have a nomination to bring before the board at the August board meeting, with the appointment taking effect as of September 1, 2008.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said under board rules, it only takes a request from one board member for something to be removed from the consent calendar, and he has had that request. The Rockies Express East Pipeline resolution will go under the regular order of business. It will be the first thing under Mr. Meachum's report.

MOTION CARRIED.

The Justice Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

The EEHW Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

OPERATIONS, PERSONNEL & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

3. Mr. Smith presented Resolution G-3212-7-08 which is approving the election judges through March 2010.

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-3212-7-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

4. Mr. Smith presented Resolution G-3213-7-08 which is approving a lease between Charles Daniels Properties and the Macon County Clerk.

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-3213-7-08 by prior roll call vote.

QUESTION:

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby asked if we looked for competitive bids or for other property for this.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said he was looking for places with vast parking, mostly. He thought for the price.... He didn't know of anyone that had a place with that much parking available. Mr. Bean said if Mr. Ashby had someone else that he could tell him, he would have....

MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

5. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution G-3214-7-08 which is authorizing a Court Automation Fund fee increase to \$15.00.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder to approve Resolution G-3214-7-08 by prior roll call vote.

QUESTIONS:

Mr. Hogan: Mr. Hogan asked when we last raised these automation fund fees, 2 or 3 years ago.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he thought it was 2003 but he was not 100% sure.

MOTION CARRIED. (HOGAN & OLIVER SHOWED THEIR VOTE AS NO)

6. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution G-3215-7-08 which is authorizing a Court Document Storage Fund fee increase to \$10.00.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Dudley to approve Resolution G-3215-7-08 by prior roll call vote.

QUESTION:

Mrs. Cox: Mrs. Cox said in the first whereas it says that the court document storage fee is not more than \$15.00, then down in the last part where it says now therefore be it resolved, it states that the charge and collection of court document storage fee is \$10.00.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said it is \$5.00 right now, and we are moving it up to \$10.00. We could move it to \$15.00.

MOTION CARRIED. (HOGAN & OLIVER SHOWED THEIR VOTE AS NO)

7. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution G-3216-7-08 which is approving an increase in appropriations in the Sheriff's budget for an agreement with the Village of Forsyth for Law Enforcement Contractual Services

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution G-3216-7-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED. (HOGAN & OLIVER SHOWED THEIR VOTE AS YES)

8. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution G-3217-7-08 which is approving a budget amendment for Workforce Investment Solutions FY08 budget.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins to approve Resolution G-3217-7-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED. (LITTLE SHOWED HER VOTE AS PRESENT)

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

9. Mr. Meachum presented H-1595-7-08 which is approving permission for Rockies Express East to bore a pipeline.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-1595-7-08.

COMMENT:

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said we had some problems earlier on with REX Pipeline in trying to work out a route that worked out with our engineer, and he is not sure we got that done to our satisfaction. One of the things he remembers when they came to town, was how they were going to be bringing all this work to Macon County. But in fact, they are building a \$35,000,000 compressor station over by Blue Mound that not one of his contractors has had a chance to bid any work on. He does not believe that any of the fitter's contractors or others has had a chance to bid on it. Mr. Dunn represents the building trades in this area, and he feels that these contractors that employ 2000 people who live around Macon County should have a chance to bid this work, and do this work, instead of people coming from out of state to do this. The prefab work that is being done, most of the cars have license plates from somewhere other than Illinois. He does not feel like the citizens of Macon County have been given a fair chance to provide manpower for this kind of work.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Potts to table Resolution H-1595-7-08.

ROLL CALL.

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

Nays: Hogan, Jacobs

AYES = 17

NAYS = 2

MOTION CARRIED. (TO TABLE RES. H-1595-7-08)

QUESTION:

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby asked Mr. Dunn what his course of action is now that we have tabled this. How can we resolve this? How can we get a chance for the local....

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he would like to see REX Pipeline come here with an action plan on what they are going to do to get local contractors to bid this work, and prove they are going to try and use people who live in this area that will keep the money in this area and spend it.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby asked if anyone has had any discussion with them concerning that.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he has had an assistant who has called about 15 times and has not gotten a reply. This is from a guy who is supposed to be taking care of all the media questions in this area for REX Pipeline, and is supposed to be on top of things. He has been on TV. But for some reason he won't return a message that has my assistant's name on it. Mr. Dunn said he would expect them to contact us, and let us know what they are going to do to bring that work back to these people and these contractors. Electrically, his understanding is that they are using a contractor out of Colorado. He talked to someone other than this gentleman early on, and they said we did not have anybody qualified to do this work. We have members that work on pipelines year around. We have \$30,000,000 companies here that have superintendents that have done this work for years. Mr. Dunn thinks they need to come to the table and sit down and talk.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby asked what the repercussions are if we do not act on this, or if we delay it. Will it delay the project, or how do we stand on this?

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said they won't have approval to tunnel under the road, until we give it to them, or they go to a higher power.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch asked if we don't give them permission to tunnel under, do they have the right to cut the road. He was told no. He didn't know because this seems to be handled more at the federal level, more than it is at the local level.

Mr. Westerman: Mr. Westerman said the question on the floor really has nothing to do with labor contracts, it is whether they are going to be boring under the highways or not. He had the same concerns that Mr. Drobisch did that if we do not give them permission to drill under, and they have a big federal hammer, may they just bull their way through like they are anyway and cut the county highway. So, maybe we are not quite as smart as we think are.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said we sent a pretty clear message that we are standing up for the working people of Macon County.

Mr. Westerman: Mr. Westerman said we sent a pretty strong message about a year and a half ago about them putting it where they are, and we failed miserably.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said he would not dispute that.

Mrs. Cox: Mrs. Cox said she could tell them that when the residents cut into the road down in the township, they are fined. It is illegal to cut the roads

10. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-1596-7-08 which is appropriating funds for a 50/50 cost share project from Austin Township.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mr. Williams to approve Resolution H-1596-7-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED. (HOGAN & JACOBS SHOWED THEIR VOTE AS YES)

11. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-1597-7-08 which is appropriating funds for additional expenses on Section 03-00178-00-BR, a bridge on the Cerro Gordo Blacktop (CH 24).

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mr. Yoder to approve Resolution H-1597-7-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

12. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-1598-7-08 which is appropriating funds for additional expenses on Section 06-11116-00-BR, a bridge on Fort Daniel Road in Mt. Zion Township.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve Resolution H-1598-7-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED. (OLIVER WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE)

The Executive Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

MACON COUNTY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said if you read in the newspaper, the City Council did take some action in regard to the new police headquarters. We have contacted the city and repeated our position that we are more than willing to work with them and do anything we can to help them resolve this, whether it is a space within the existing Law Enforcement Center or a new building. Hopefully we will be getting some feedback and involvement. We also had a meeting on the joint communications center. It is way too early to say if there was any substantial progress made. He thinks the tone of the meeting was positive. So, he is hopeful that both parties at least understand each other better at this point, on that issue.

CITIZEN'S REMARKS:

Dean Padgett: Mr. Padgett lives at 3245 N. Susan Drive in Decatur, Illinois. He informed them last month that using only Macon County fees, at the campground, which is \$15.00 a day for electricity and \$10.00 a day for non-electric sites, the Conservation District took in \$2,275 in May, and last month in June it was \$3,225. Keep in mind that this is less than half of what it could be, or somewhere around \$11,000. At one time a lack of revenue was the reason for closing Friends Creek Park. Good management? You make the decision. In the newspaper recently there have been quite a few articles concerning camping. The article he had with him was not about camping, but about something going on at Rock Springs, Vintage Baseball. He addressed Kathy and the board last month at the meeting, and tried to get them to put something in the newspaper that would indicate that the campground is open, and is half electrified. Kathy said they send this to the newspaper and they print what they want. He asked Kathy if she wanted him to go to the newspaper and put something in there, and she said not at this time. He asked if that is a red flag, or you make up whatever you want out of that. About a week ago there was a big article about camping. "A Camping We Will Go", "Camping Fun". This is in the newspaper all the time, and we closed the only campground in Macon County for what reason. He asked if anybody knew. There was an article just the other day about camping with kids. At the last regular Macon County Conservation District meeting he suggested to Kathy and management that they put something in the newspaper so we could notify the people down the road as to when this project will be finished. As you can imagine he had no movement from good management. After that meeting seeing nothing concrete, in the 2008 – 2009 budget, he provided board members with a copy of that which has two lines underlined in yellow. He went back to Rock Springs Road for more information. He told Kathy he would like to know more detail on what is above underlined in yellow. What, how, and where is this \$143,100 going to be spent? Her comment was that this is to upgrade the electricity at the campground. Mr. Padgett said he almost fainted. It is a wonder he didn't call 9-1-1. He was elated and glad but is not walking away until 2009. This budget is for 2008 and 2009. The quicker we get it done, the quicker you will get rid of him. In college he first heard and learned about yellow journalism. One of his reasons for using yellow to underline this and the reason they each have a copy of this is that if you happen to see Kathy or any of her supporters start turning yellow it is not that they have jaundice, but that they have egg on their face, and they are eager eating their yellow pads. He held up a pad of yellow paper

OFFICEHOLDER'S REMARKS:

Jerry Andrews: Mr. Andrews said he brought mosquito repellent with him tonight so that if any of you are out in the evening you should grab some. He also brought information on how to prevent mosquitoes from causing problems for you in your yard and your house.

Mrs. Wilkins: Mrs. Wilkins asked if he had any comments on the West Nile Virus cases they found in Illinois.

Mr. Andrews: Mr. Andrews said they found a bird positive for West Nile Virus in Winnebago County. There are a couple of counties that have had positive mosquito pools. We have had neither one yet in Macon County. Cross your fingers and do whatever you need to do. He said it is people like you that are helping us prevent this from happening by emptying out water containers and things like that, that you may not have done years ago. The bottom line is that we don't have any here in Macon County yet, and we hope we don't get any.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby asked if we see a dead bird in our yard should we call the Health Department.

Mr. Andrews: Mr. Andrews said yes they should go ahead and call 423-6988 and ask for the Environmental Health Department. Tell them you have a dead bird. He said they are only taking certain types of birds such as Crows, Blue Jays, and he thinks it is Robins, although he is not sure. If the bird has been there for days and its eyes are bugging out, it is too late. It needs to be a, "fresh bird" that hasn't been run over or anything like that. He said to go ahead and call because they do try to keep track of where they are coming from. He said that would help them out if they did that.

Mr. Dudley: Mr. Dudley thanked Mr. Andrews for a very successful Macon County Health Department Prostate Screening at the center last month. Mr. Dudley said they did a good job and he just wanted to thank Mr. Andrews for it. There was a good turnout.

Mr. Andrews: Mr. Andrews thanked Mr. Dudley as well because he helped with the turnout and it was quite successful.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby had a question for the County Clerk. He noticed that the fees are approximately \$35,000 below budget. He asked Mr. Bean if he expects that to continue through the year, or does he expect it to recover.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said part of the reason we are down \$35,000 is passports. Homeland Security is the reason we lost passports. Even if we continued to process them we would see a decrease in fees because the federal government now takes a larger portion of the fee charged for passports, and gives the people who process the passports less money. Instead of getting \$30.00 like it was when we did them, now they only get \$15.00. So, that would have cut it in half, and we would have had a \$15,000 loss. The

other place where we are not taking in as much money in our situation is because of a decrease in redemption of back taxes. We take in \$57.00 every time there is redemption of back taxes, so we have had a decrease there. That is the only two areas where we have seen decreases. Mr. Bean said we also have had less marriage licenses. He was upfront with the Finance Committee when we lost passports a year ago. He explained that we would never be able to do as much in passports because of the restrictions placed on us by Homeland Security.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby asked if Mr. Bean sees ending the year under his budget as far as fees go.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said he thinks we put in less money than we did... We ended up being well over budget if he remembers right, with fees. He thinks we will probably come in a little less because of passports and that.

Mrs. Wilkins: Mrs. Wilkins asked if they took that away from them or he didn't want them because he didn't want the cut.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said they pretty well tied our hands on doing passports. For example if Mrs. Wilkins and her spouse came in and were born somewhere else, but had 3 kids who were born in Macon County, we could process their passports, but would have to turn away the 3 kids. They really wanted to get away from people who dealt with vital records processing passports. He knows in the case of Coles County, the Treasurer took it over. In most counties the Circuit Clerk does passports. Now both of the post offices in Decatur process them. It used to be that just the post office out north did them, now both post offices do. We would have lost \$15,000 anyway with just the cuts in what the Federal Government would have given us. They raised the price to the customers, and then cut what they were allowing the agents to receive. Also, there would have been a need for more computer equipment for more online procedures. They are trying to move to more federal agencies.

There was no old business presented at the meeting.

There was no new business presented at the meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. McGlaughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Yoder to adjourn until Thursday, August 14, 2008 at 7:15 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.