

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
MACON COUNTY BOARD**

BUDGET SESSION

NOVEMBER 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.

Mrs. Taylor led the members in Prayer.

All led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENT:

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said there were a couple of things before we roll into the agenda. We have a couple of distinguished guests with us, Mrs. Lois Durbin who will be our new Circuit Clerk in few weeks and Kevin Greenfield who is going to force a whole reorganization of that front row. Additionally, as some of you may have noticed all of the pictures are up on the wall. We have got all the Lincoln that anybody could possibly want out there if you want to see him. We have the pictures of former board chairman and he would particularly call your attention to Mr. Jacobs and Mr. McGlaughlin who are on the wall. There are a couple that are blank and that is because we are having trouble locating the pictures, but we will. In the middle is a lithograph from Norman Rockwell it goes back to World War II, the Four Freedoms. This is Freedom of Speech. Mr. Sampson said it represents to him what the Macon County Board is all about. That is citizens, regardless of their wealth or influence, being able to take part in government. In the hallway cabinet outside the board office you will see the plaques the Building Commission rescued from some dark closet in the courthouse. There is an interesting story because when we got those plaques they were all tarnished and almost illegible. We asked a local firm what it would take to fix them and they said several hundred dollars. We were going to put them up anyway and then your new GIS person Josh Tanner took these things home, on his own time, and they look like new. He did a wonderful job, and the reason these things are up here tonight is because Tara hounded Hobby Lobby and the Herald & Review until they got them here or they weren't going to be on time otherwise. Also the Decatur Public Building Commission has helped. Mr. Sampson said when he was up here yesterday afternoon Jerry Lord himself was up here helping measure these things out. He wanted all of them to give thanks to the people who made this possible.

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2008 MEETING

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the minutes of the October 9, 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, Spent, Taylor, Westerman, Wilkins, Williams, Yoder

Nays: (None)

AYES = 21

NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

There were no zonings or subdivisions presented at the meeting.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

A request for a Special Call Meeting on December 1, 2008 for an organizational session to elect a chairman and vice-chairman and any other business which may properly come before the board.

Two letters from Comcast regarding changes in channel lineup.

A letter from Klingner & Associates P.C. regarding a permit renewal for an existing composting facility, Decatur Compost Inc.

A legal notice stating the general public is to be put on notice of the filing of an application with the Illinois EPA requesting approval of the application by Decatur Compost Inc. for renewal of their license for their existing compost facility. The notice states where to submit comments.

A Notice of Application for permit to manage waste from the Illinois EPA regarding Veolia ES Valley View Landfill Inc. regarding gas extraction system improvements

A letter from Representative Robert Flider regarding an Amtrak Informational Meeting that will be held on Thursday, November 20 at 5:00 p.m. in the Decatur City Council Chambers.

A letter from Governor Rod Blagojevich regarding approval of allocation of \$7,000,000.00 in Single Family Mortgage Revenue Bonds to the County of Macon.

A copy of the FY 2009-2012 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) from the Illinois Department of Transportation.

A letter from IDOT regarding approval of resolution adopted by the Macon County Board appropriating \$102,400.00 of MFT funds for payment of the salary of the County Engineer from October 11, 2008 to October 10, 2009.

A letter from IDOT regarding transfer of \$51,200.00 of Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for partial reimbursement of the Macon County Engineer's salary.

A copy of the Village of Mt. Zion, Illinois Annual Financial Report, Fiscal year ended April 30, 2008.

A letter and maps from AmerenIP regarding tree trimming they will be doing in the Decatur area.

A letter from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regarding the *20th Annual Toxic Chemical Report* which documents reported releases of toxic chemicals in Illinois for the calendar year 2006, the most recent data available, and where to access that report on-line.

REPORTS

Sheriff's Report – October 2008

Coroner's Report – September 2008

Treasurer Fund & Investment Report – October 2008

Macon County Collector Report – October 2008

Auditor's Report – October 2008

County Engineer of Highways Report of County Funds – December 1, 2007 thru
September, 30, 2008

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Dunn 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.

1. 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

2. Resolution G-3247-11-08 – Re-appointments of Drainage District Commissioners to Friends Creek-Whitmore Union Drainage District #2

Robert Ferrill, 9861 Midway Rd., Oreana IL 62554
Term Expires: 1st Tuesday in September 2011

Gary McConnell, County Highway 25, Box 475, Argenta, IL 62501
Term Expires: 1st Tuesday in September 2010

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve Resolution G-3247-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Resolution G-3248-11-08 – Appointments to the Macon County Extension Board

David Williams, 750 E. Wise Rd., Maroa, IL 61756
Kevin Meachum, 1138 Cornell Dr., Decatur, IL 61756
Melverta Wilkins, 1880 W. Ravina Park Rd., Decatur, IL 62526
Term Expires: November 30, 2011

MOTION

Mr. Jacobs moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder to approve Resolution G-3248-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED. (MEACHUM, WILKINS & WILLIAMS SHOWED THEIR VOTE AS PRESENT)

There was nothing submitted on the Consent Calendar.

The Justice Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

The EEHW Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

4. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution G-3249-11-08 which is executing deeds to convey property on which taxes were delinquent.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-3249-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED. (MEACHUM, WILKINS & WILLIAMS SHOWED THEIR VOTE AS YES)

5. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution G-3250-11-08 which is approving an amendment to the FY2008 Budget for the State's Attorney's Grant Fund.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution G-3250-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution G-3251-11-08 which is approving amendment to FY 2009 Display Budget for State's Attorney's Grant Fund.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Dudley to approve Resolution G-3251-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution G-3252-11-08 which is approving a contract with Kerber, Eck, & Braeckel for professional services for a "Turnover" audit of the Circuit Clerk's Office.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-3252-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

**PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS BUDGET FOR
DECEMBER 1, 2008 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2009**

8. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-1-11-08 which is a statement to establish the budgets for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Dudley to approve Resolution B-1-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

QUESTION:

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little didn't want to pull these apart separately but asked when this is put up for a vote if she could vote on all but one.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said this is just the housekeeping thing that introduces it. It is not the actual budget. The actual budget is the last one.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little asked if this is the budget for the funds.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said this just establishes each....

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said it just names the funds. She apologized.

MOTION CARRIED.

9. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-2-11-08 which establishes the valuation of all taxable property in Macon County, Illinois.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder to approve Resolution B-2-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

QUESTION:

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith asked how much difference this is over last year. He asked if it is up or down.

Steve Bean: Mr. Bean said it is up a little bit. What we really got hit on was that the General Assembly and Governor approved another \$500.00 exemption for homeowners

and then there is another senior exemption, so there was a slight increase. These were basic numbers from September. He thinks the farmland adjustment was in there, most of it. That was the only thing that really went up this year.

10. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-3-11-08 which is establishing tax levy for General Corporate fund purposes.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Dudley to approve Resolution B-3-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

11. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-4-11-08 which is establishing tax levy for Retirement Fund purposes.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve Resolution B-4-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

QUESTION:

Mr. Hogan: Mr. Hogan asked why this particular budget year we are taking fringe benefits, retirement, and social security out of the Highway fund budget and levy. He asked that question at the Highway Committee meetings and never really got a straight answer for that.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said the Finance Committee chose to direct the department heads to do this so they would be aware that when they hire people and do their budgets they would be aware of what money is accountable for retirement. It is kind of like what we did with the insurance 3 years ago. We have been doing this for a number of years for some offices, and some of them we hadn't so we just tried to include everybody that we hadn't had doing that before.

Mr. Hogan: Mr. Hogan asked what offices we had been doing that for.

Ms. Stockwell: Ms. Stockwell said the ones that were previously included were Health, Solid Waste, Historical Society, and Workforce.

MOTION CARRIED. (COX, HOGAN, & MEACHUM SHOWED THEIR VOTE AS NO)

12. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-5-11-08 which is establishing tax levy for Social Security Fund purposes.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder to approve Resolution B-5-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED. (COX, HOGAN & MEACHUM SHOWED THEIR VOTE AS NO)

13. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-6-11-08 which is establishing a tax levy for Insurance Loss and Liability Fund purposes.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution B-6-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor

MOTION CARRIED. (COX, HOGAN & MEACHUM SHOWED THEIR VOTE AS YES)

14. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-7-11-08 which is establishing a tax levy for Judgment Fund purposes.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins to approve Resolution B-7-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-8-11-08 which is establishing a tax levy for Health Department Unit Fund purposes.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins to approve Resolution B-8-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-9-11-08 which is establishing a tax levy for County Highway Fund purposes.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins to approve Resolution B-9-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED. (COX, HOGAN & LITTLE SHOWED THEIR VOTE AS NO)

17. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-10-11-08 which is establishing tax levy for Matching Fund purposes.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve Resolution B-10-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED. (COX, HOGAN & LITTLE SHOWED THEIR VOTE AS YES)

18. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-11-11-08 which is establishing a tax levy for County (Special) Bridge Fund purposes.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Williams to approve Resolution B-11-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

19. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-12-11-08 which is establishing a tax levy for DPBC Lease Fund purposes.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder to approve Resolution B-12-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

20. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-13-11-08 which is establishing a tax levy for Historical Museum Fund purposes.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Williams to approve Resolution B-13-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

QUESTION:

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver asked if there are some services at the museum that are being done away with.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said they closed the Florence White Book Store. That is the only thing he is aware of.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver asked if this would take care of all the remaining services to be had at the museum.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said probably not. They have been running at a little deficit for several years but they have some reserves. The book store was having problems.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver said the Finance Committee has probably taken a good look at this, but he just wanted to make sure there is enough to keep that particular edifice functioning.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said they are at their maximum.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said we have worked over the years with the board and with Mr. McDaniel who has made a remarkable turn around out there.

Ms. Stockwell: Ms. Stockwell just wanted to clarify that the Historical Museum is actually 2 pieces. There is a piece that is carried by private donations and that is the reserve that is being referred to. What this fund, the Macon County Historical Fund pays

for, what the levy pays for, is personnel. So they have resources that are not on our books that are from their private funding sources. This levy, our fund 81 is just their personnel cost.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver asked if this is at the top of the levy.

Ms. Stockwell: Ms. Stockwell said yes.

MOTION CARRIED.

21. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-14-11-08 which is establishing a tax levy for the Veterans Commission Fund purposes.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution B-14-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

22. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-15-11-08 which is establishing a tax levy for Mental Health Fund purposes.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve Resolution B-15-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

23. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-16-11-08 which is establishing a tax levy for Macon County Extension Fund purposes.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Williams to approve Resolution B-16-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED. (SAMPSON SHOWED HIS VOTE AS PRESENT)

24. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-17-11-08 which is authorization of Tax Anticipation Warrants against levies for various funds herein.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Yoder to approve Resolution B-17-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

QUESTION:

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby said his question is with how the resolution reads. It says, "WHEREAS, there is not sufficient money...." He asked if it should state, Whereas, if there is not sufficient money....

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson asked the State's Attorney if we could consider the lack of the "if" merely a scribner error.

Mr. Ahola: Mr. Ahola said yes.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said they should consider the motion changed to include the "if".

MOTION CARRIED. (SAMPSON SHOWED HIS VOTE AS YES)

25. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution B-18-11-08 which is approving the 2008-2009 budget.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Dudley to approve Resolution B-18-11-08.

COMMENTS:

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she would like to be one of the first to agree that the Finance Committee has worked long and hard and for the most part, in good faith, to set the 2009 budget that is before us tonight. She believes the most responsible action was done about a month ago when we met and agreed to zero out two levies that are currently quite well funded, and to hold the General Fund levy to last year's level in order to keep the overall increase at a reasonable level of 3.2% instead of the original 7%. One year ago, in 2007 our investments were earning about 5% interest, currently our investments are earning less than 1%. This fact coupled with the recent drama on Wall Street, she believes now is the time to be overly cautious. She would rather sit through next year's budget thinking, wow we were a little over protective last year, than to have to face a sheet of numbers in red and wonder if we can make it without sacrificing jobs. Been there, done that, and we vowed never to do that again. Funds are being used to pay for things they have never been used for before. This should always make us question, is this the right thing to do,

or are we merely robbing Peter to pay Paul? While this makes a nice breather for the Paul accounts, she has to wonder what effect it is going to have on Peter's. Will services be cut? Will projects have to be postponed or canceled? Will there be layoffs? Designated revenue streams have been redirected to the General Fund. This is great for the General Fund, but the issue of lost funding is being quietly ignored. Her concerns in this budget also include the irregularity and seemingly non-uniformity of salary increases that were passed out. Last spring a majority of this board granted four officeholders increases of over 14% for the next year and 3% for each year after that, along with other stipends. While the reasoning was solid, and she doesn't dispute that the sacrifices made during the very tight times in the past are greatly appreciated, she is concerned that we are making it all up in one bite. This was done before budget hearings began so the committee could only work with it and not influence it. Another county salary is being increased 25% this year. She agrees with the need of this salary, of all the others, it deserves to be increased. However, the speed at which we are doing this in today's economy gives her pause. Two other administrative employees are receiving 12% increases this year. One supervisory position was given zero. Union contract employees are receiving between 2% and 4%. She is afraid this speaks volumes as to who Macon County values the most. She wished the 2010 budget committee the best of luck.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Ashby, Drobisch, Dudley, Dunn, Hogan, Jacobs, McGlaughlin, Oliver, Potts, Sampson, Smith, Snyder, Spent, Taylor, Westerman, Wilkins, Williams, Yoder

Nays: Cox, Little, Meachum

AYES = 18

NAYS = 3

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMENT:

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he would like to take this time to thank the Finance Committee. We had 8 or 9 special budget hearings, and they put a lot of time and effort into this budget and he appreciates all the help.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said he would like to thank them as well having gone through that a few years ago himself. It takes a lot of time and we have been very fortunate to have outstanding people on the budget committee for a number of years and that continues. We appreciate it.

The Negotiations Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

26. Mr. Snyder presented Resolution H-1617-11-08 which is approving permission to John Paradee to install a new entrance at 72 South Shores Drive (CH 31).

MOTION

Mr. Snyder moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins to approve Resolution H-1617-11-08 by prior roll call vote

QUESTION:

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby asked what charges are involved and who pays for what in this entrance.

Mr. Snyder: Mr. Snyder said in this particular one the owner has bought the casing off of us and is having it installed by a contractor.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby said, then the county is not installing this at all.

Mr. Snyder: Mr. Snyder said no.

MOTION CARRIED. (COX, LITTLE & MEACHUM SHOWED THEIR VOTES AS YES)

27. Mr. Snyder presented Resolution H-1618-11-08 which is appropriating funds for a 50/50 cost share project with Austin Township.

MOTION

Mr. Snyder moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-1618-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

28. Mr. Snyder presented Resolution H-1619-11-08 which is authorizing disposal of audio records of past Transportation Committee meetings.

MOTION

Mr. Snyder moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-1619-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

MOTION TO AMEND

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Williams to amend Resolution H-1619-11-08 in the third whereas paragraph to state "closed sessions" in the place of "said meetings", and in the fourth whereas paragraph inserting "open and closed" between Committee and meetings by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED. (AMENDMENT TO RES. H-1619-11-08)

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED. (MAIN MOTION RES. H-1619-11-08 AS AMENDED)

29. Mr. Snyder presented Resolution H-1620-11-08 which is appropriating funds from Motor Fuel Tax Funds (FY 09) to cover the annual MFT Maintenance Program.

MOTION

Mr. Snyder moved, seconded by Mr. Yoder to approve Resolution H-1620-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

QUESTION:

Mr. McGlaughlin: Mr. McGlaughlin said there had been some discussion about the increase in the price of salt. We evidently ended up paying \$80.00 a ton. He asked how that varies from last year.

Mr. Snyder: Mr. Snyder said it has gone up a little bit but he doesn't know the exact amount.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said it has gone up but not as much as Bruce expected and he thinks it was in line.

Mr. Spent: Mr. Spent said the price was \$66.00 a ton.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said at the time when Bruce priced it he was anticipating it being around \$90.00 to \$100.00 a ton.

Mr. McGlaughlin: Mr. McGlaughlin said this is merely an estimate, not an invoice or anything.

MOTION CARRIED.

30. Mr. Snyder presented Resolution H-1621-11-08 which is appropriating funds to cover the installation of aviation lights and paint on the Highway Department radio tower.

MOTION

Mr. Snyder moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution H-1621-11-08 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

The Executive Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

MACON COUNTY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said they have had some information that has come in but he is waiting for a little additional and then they will probably have a meeting next month.

CITIZENS REMARKS:

Dean Padgett: Mr. Padgett lives at 3245 N. Susan Drive in Decatur, Illinois. All of you know that he is still fighting with the conservation district to restore the remaining electric sites at Friends Creek Campground. For nearly three years, management has operated with only two speeds, slow and slower, most often in the slower mode. There is plenty of money to complete this job, however the weaknesses are caused by management in their unwillingness and failure to deliver. Back in February of 2006 Cornbelt Electric concluded it would be wise for the district to let them replace three outdated transformers. They made it clear that the only cost to the district would be what it cost to run the wire and connect it to the load center, the transformer. As he speaks there has been no movement on this issue by the district manager. Each of you has enough common sense to determine if this is good or poor management. He thinks all of you know his answer. He wonders why it is that people in management think they are the only ones who have any brains. He loves the recent letter sent to the editor where the gentleman suggested the "been loved" not beloved Governor should sell the Governor's mansion because he never sleeps there anyway. Take that money from the sale and put that toward keeping our State parks open. Mr. Padgett thought that was a great idea and a good common sense approach. He has given the Executive Director some different names down this fighting road. Her latest is Kathy Killowatt. He said you can hyphenate that or spell it Kathy Kill a Lot. Spell it anyway you want. Her copycat 14 day stay policy cost the district much money during the past camping season. There were numerous people working on the pipeline who wanted and needed more than 14 days. She politely moved them down the road. Real good advertisement for Macon County. Where on earth is there any common sense in this goofy rule? Can anyone enlighten him, or would it be better to enlighten Ms. Killowatt who didn't know the difference between a transformer and a load center. A trustee had to correct her in front of her peers, and himself, at one of the regular monthly meetings. Moving on and looking at

your new budget he senses that most of you are very upset with the current economic conditions. He personally loves it. If you think back he once was a part owner of a local hotel, motel. Remember that? Today he no longer has that investment; however his personal portfolio is now larger than he thought it could ever be imagined. He has houses everywhere. It is sort of like John McCain he doesn't know how many; he can't remember. Thank you Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. He also has billions stashed away in insurance, mostly AIG, another thank you is in order. Presently, he is hearing rumors that he just might inherit the Big 3, Chrysler, Ford and GM. Hello, and move over Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, any yes Barack Obama and sure why not include Ms. Killowatt. In closing, his personal common sense directs him to keep a low profile and continue to fight for electricity, since he was actually 13 years old himself when his farmhouse got electricity, that is a true story. Also, his good common sense causes him to believe that some day all of his assets will be like the once Continental Dollar. Good bye and thank you.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson wanted to remind Mr. Walker before he began speaking that this board could not take any action on this. If he has a problem he needs to go to the EEHW Committee. He is welcome to state his concerns but the board will not be able to do anything about it tonight.

Cody Walker: Mr. Walker lives at 3710 Christmas Tree Road. He owns the house at 3602 Christmas Tree Road. We did get someone out there to inspect it finally. They brought the plumbing inspector with them. The plumbing inspector told them that he was passing it and that everything was fine and that the house was an existing house so everything that was in it was fine. He forgot to leave us the inspection report for the plumbing and the next day we got a call from Mr. Van Natta saying that he needed to talk to us about the inspections. He told us that the plumbing inspector said that it did not pass. Mr. Walker told Mr. Van Natta that the plumbing inspector told them that he was passing it and it was fine. He gave us the number to call the plumbing inspector and we did. The plumbing inspector told us that Mr. Van Natta told him that he was not allowing him to pass it. Mr. Walker does not know how Mr. Van Natta can not allow the plumbing inspector to pass something if he is the plumbing inspector. There are some other things. We did not do anything to the house other than move it. So, we didn't change any of the wiring, any of the plumbing that is above the foundation. According to the code book we got from the library none of that needs to be inspected. If it wasn't changed it doesn't need inspected because it is an existing house. Mr. Van Natta wanted to go upstairs anyway. So, not wanting to cause any problems Mr. Walker let Mr. Van Natta go upstairs and he found a bunch of stuff that he said needs to be changed. If it needs to be changed he is willing to change it, but if it doesn't it is going to cost him a lot of money to change it. Mr. Walker said Mr. Van Natta told him that he has to have hardwired smoke detectors. Mr. Walker said he has talked to a lot of contractors and they all say that if it is not a new construction it doesn't have to be hardwired. Mr. Walker doesn't know why Mr. Van Natta would tell him it would if it doesn't. The stairs on his porch going down the stairs, Mr. Van Natta told them there has to be a backboard a kick-plate on the back of the stairs. We have talked to many contractors about that and they have all told us that they have never been required to put kick-plates on the back of the

stairs and they don't see how that would be safe because it would cause water to sit on the stairs and freeze, causing a slip hazard. Mr. Walker said the board chairman had stated they could not do anything but they did not know about the EEHW meetings or they would have already done something like that. He was just letting the board know so they could kind of wonder too, like we do, why he would tell us these things need fixed and not tell everybody else like the contractors that do it every day that it doesn't. He thanked the board.

Tom Greanias: Mr. Greanias lives at 1590 N. Main in Decatur. He passed out a handout to the board members. After attending many of your meetings he finally learned how to get some attention around here, he brought his own paddle tonight. He was at the board meeting to talk about assessments again. He would read from a prepared statement. They all have a copy of it and would probably want to look at page 3 which has an exhibit of a piece property he is talking about. He read: To the members of the Macon County Board, for several years he has been trying to get the attention of governmental units and other organizations to understand the property assessment system and how important it is to the economic development of our area. Improvements in our economic development mean more jobs and better quality of life for all. Along with census figures and sales tax reporting, assessments can be an important indicator of the economy – if they are accurate. Since they are used to calculate the property tax rates for taxing bodies, they are very important. Businesses and home-owners look at tax rates and assessments before investing in an area. What do they see here? Are there problems in our assessing system? Many groups think so. Home-owners, realtors, landlords, businesses and developers have expressed concerns and problems with the system. When he referred to the system he was not referring to any one person, office, or government. It is the failure of the system as a whole to live up to the laws of the State of Illinois and its failure to realize its responsibility to its citizens. It is not his intent here to explain the system and what all the problems are. For example, in the past he has presented evidence that the inner-city properties are being over assessed based on the county's own attempt to sell surplus properties at auction. He had pages of documents to explain the situation. But, no one took the time to look at them. Giving too much information was his mistake and he apologized to all. So, now he would keep it simple. He would only ask one question of you. He understands you will not give him an answer at this time. In fact, he is not the one you should answer to; it is all the citizens of the area. Why is it that you the County Board should answer the question? You as a board approve the Supervisor of Assessments and the members of the Board of Review who have the final say on property assessments at the local level. Therefore, you really have the prime responsibility as elected officials of your various districts to answer your voters concerns. So what is the simple question he has? Why do current official records show that the City of Decatur owns a strip of land that appears to be under that building owned by the owners of the Herald & Review newspaper? This strip is not valued or taxed. Who really owns it and should they be taxed? What is this costing people who must pay property taxes? Okay, so he asked more than one question! But, this is an interesting situation and raises many questions about our assessing system and potential problems. Why did the Decatur Township Assessor, who has primary responsibility to discover and list properties, not find this situation unusual? How did the Supervisor of Assessments, who has the maps,

not question the fact? (See attachment) Why is it listed on current tax rolls? It is on the public computer system at the County Office Building. There appears to have been appeals filed by the newspaper based on reductions in assessments in the past (see attached documents). Why did the board of Review not catch this during the appeal process? He asked a member of the staff of the newspaper about it and showed him the map. He could not answer the question. Yet, the newspaper published a list of assessments that showed the city owned this property. (See attachment) He asked a member of the city staff the same question. He was surprised and had no answer for Mr. Greanias. Yet the digital atlas on the city web site shows this belonging to the city. (See attachment) Do we have problems with the assessment system in Macon County? You tell me based on official records. Is this the tip of the iceberg? He has presented them with several pages. One shows the county assessor's map and the property they are talking about. They would notice a little circle in the upper right hand corner. This is a stretch of property and those familiar with that block, it goes right under the building owned by the Herald & Review. The next map is from the city's website and shows the same strip of property. In the paper where they list the annual assessments, you can see the City of Decatur owning that property. The final sheet is information he took about the newspaper's property and they would find some interesting information about the newspaper. They could see where the newspaper had reductions in their assessment. He knows they could not answer this question tonight, but asked if they had any questions for him.

Joy Wiggle: Mrs. Wiggle was at the meeting with her family. They have been battling a flood issue in Mt. Zion. Their address is 4524 N. Kruse Road. They have flooded twice in 3 months which has put them out of their home for 5 months. They have discussed with Dan Lightner some things they could possibly do and with FEMA. They have 3 options they can do which are elevation, relocation or demolition. She said they are not getting any answers from anyone. They took it upon themselves to do some research and found out from FEMA's website that they are eligible for one of these 3 options due to the fact that for one, they live in a flood zone area, two they have had repetitive flooding, and three they have flooded two times in under 10 years. She has proof from their mortgage company that they live in a flood zone area. It tells the flood map number and gives the national insurance numbers. It gives all of the criteria to show that they are in a flood zone area and that they do have to have flood insurance in order to have the mortgage there. They have also had a map printed off from FEMA that shows they are in the flood zone area. However, when they approached Dan Lightner he brought up a map that showed 3 of the homes that are there are not in the flood zone area, and one may be half in the flood zone area. When she contacted the mortgage company they said there was no doubt about it that they are in the flood zone area. With all of the repetitive flooding that they have had, they have flooded 3 times since 1996, and have flooded several times between 1996 and 2008. There are new homes being built all around them and they live in a dip so they get all of the runoff. Mrs. Wiggle thinks the only option for them is a buyout. They qualify for the buyout due to the fact they are in a flood zone area, have had repetitive flooding, and have had flooding two times in 10 years. It seems like every time they come to Macon County they don't give them any answers. They are finding all the answers themselves when they research it. They are not the only ones;

there are two homes beside them that flood also. One of those homes does not have flood insurance because their mortgage is paid so they don't have to have flood insurance. The neighbor next to them on the other side is in the same situation they are in. The problem is once they are out of the home the insurance company does not give them enough money to have contractors come in and rebuild; they have to do all of it themselves which takes more time. They feel like the only option is a buyout. So, that is where they want to go, with the buyout. Their neighbors feel the same way.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said they need to take this to the committee that oversees that department because bringing it here really doesn't do anything. They have to take it through the committee to get action and look at their concerns. If there is going to be action taken they will have to recommend it to the full board.

Mrs. Wiggle: Mrs. Wiggle asked if he was talking about the township.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said it has to go to the EEHW Committee.

Mrs. Wiggle: Mrs. Wiggle said her only problem has been that they have been told they are not in the flood zone and she has proof that they are.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said it does not matter because if they want to start action they are going to have to take it through the EEHW Committee.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said the EEHW Committee meets next Thursday at 5:30 in this room.

Susan Walker: Mrs. Walker lives at 3710 Christmas Tree Road. She spoke with several people out here, but she was not going to mention names, and was told that she and her son needed to get a punch list for Mr. Van Natta. Once that punch list was done he could not come back in and say there were more things. Upon his leaving the other day, Mr. Van Natta told her that he does miss things on the final inspection and can find things. She asked if they have any suggestions on how they could get that final punch list so that he could not continue to come back and find things. How many punch lists do they have to have? She was just looking for suggestions if they have any.

Mrs. Wilkins: Mrs. Wilkins asked if the Walkers got a new building permit.

Mrs. Walker: Mrs. Walker said yes, they purchased a new permit.

Mrs. Wilkins: Mrs. Wilkins asked when the Walkers go that new permit.

Mrs. Walker: Mrs. Walker said they got it about 3 days after the last meeting, that following Monday. It was October 20th.

Mr. Spent: Mr. Spent said like they told her son, the best thing they could do right now is to go to the EEHW Committee meetings, and let the committee take the actions and try to get everybody's head together.

Mrs. Walker: Mrs. Walker said she appreciated that, and if they had known that before they would have done that, but tonight was the first they had heard about it. She said they will act upon that.

Tim Walker: Mr. Walker lives at 3710 Christmas Tree Road. He said this is getting just as tiring, actually probably more so for them, than it is for the board members. They have been putting up with this for 4 to 5 years now. Some comments have been made by Mr. Van Natta to some people and they concerned Tim Walker himself, and seem to be personal. He doesn't have any idea what it is. He just knows that the comments made seem.... Mr. Van Natta told Mr. Walker's daughter-in-law and her grandmother that this all started with her father-in-law Tim Walker. Mr. Van Natta also made the statement to them that if Mr. Walker wants to come up and talk to him, he is not shy. Mr. Walker did not know what that comment means. Mr. Walker said his purpose for being at the meeting and sharing this was that the full committee needs to understand that there is something wrong. Mr. Walker said he spoke with some committee members who seem to share, knowing all the details, not just one side, that there is something wrong. He said now that they know the process they will address the EEHW Committee. He would like to know, because they don't seem to get to much cooperation out of Planning & Zoning Department, he was sorry but that is just a simple fact. If Dave was here he could tell them that. As matter of fact when he went to talk to them on the Walker's behalf he was told that they don't tell people what the code is, that they have to find it themselves. Mr. Lightner told him where to tell the Walker's to find it. They did go and get the International Building Codes which is what is supposed to be followed. Mr. Walker said his daughter-in-law and her grandmother were informed the other day that the new code book requires that any improvements on a home require that the whole home be brought up to current standards codes. Otherwise, this is making the excuse of why they would have to rewire and existing house that had been approved in 1972. It also says why they would have to bring the plumbing up which hasn't been touched and has been working since 1972 and now we have to bring it up to new code even though the plumbing inspector said it didn't have to be. There is something wrong and he thinks it needs to be looked into. Again they will go to the proper committee, but he thinks the whole county board needs to understand that there is something wrong. He appreciated their time for listening and hopes and prays that he never has to come up here and speak about this again. He knows they probably hope the same thing. He thanked the board.

Betty Underwood: Mrs. Underwood lives at 3 Redlick Court in Warrensburg. She said Lacy is her granddaughter. She said this is third maybe fourth time they have all been here on this and she wondered why they didn't tell them earlier about the EEHW Committee until now.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said if she checks the minutes from last month's meeting he told Mr. Walker to go to the EEHW Committee.

Mrs. Underwood: Mrs. Underwood said she must have missed that and if so she was sorry.

OFFICEHOLER'S REMARKS:

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson wanted to thank somebody he only got to serve about two months with but he thinks he is a heck of a good board member and that is Mike Spent. Mr. Sampson said they will miss him.

Mike Spent: Mr. Spent said it had been great working with them even though it had been cut short. Life is going to go on. He hopes all of you work together to try and solve some of these problems for Macon County. Everybody needs to keep in mind that we are elected and even though we are elected from a district you still have the concerns of all the citizens of Macon County. Keep in mind that people need help and look to you to help them. Don't just come here to say yea and nay. Get out there and help them.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said for those who are interested the annual Father Martin Mangan Lecture on Social Justice will be at 6:30 p.m. December 10th at the Decatur Public Library. The topic this year is Father Mangan's work in the Decatur war zone in the 1990's during the strike and lockouts. He said if they are interested in that they should feel free to stop by.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she didn't think that Kathie from the Veterans office was at the meeting. She wanted to give a big thank you to Kathie because she went to the Veteran's Day event on Tuesday evening. She knew Amy was there but was not sure who else was able to make it. It was wonderful and very well deserved and could not have been over done if it had been a thousand times better. She also thanked the veterans who were in the room who have served or are currently serving in the reserves or whatever.

Mrs. Wilkins: Mrs. Wilkins said Mr. Bean had mentioned that Bob Flider sent some information on the Amtrak and she was just wondering if she could get that information. Mr. Bean didn't read it and she was just wondering if she could get that.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said he read when the meeting was.

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said the meeting is at 5:00 p.m. Thursday, November 20th in the Decatur City Council Chambers.

Mr. Potts: Mr. Potts said since they are talking about Veterans, they know that every year he collects money for Operation Enduring Support. Last year they raised \$2240.00 and if anybody wants to make a donation he is here.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean said everybody thinks the election is over and it is not over until 10:00 on the 19th of November. He said under State law we have to do a re-tab of 4

precincts and at that time we will count the provisional and absentee ballots. We had roughly over 51,000 people vote part of which we either did absentee, early voting, grace period voting or the nursing homes and so forth through our office, so that was close to 6,400 votes out of the 51,000 that voted. On the last day of early voting we had almost 800 people vote in our office. To put it in perspective that week we had at least 500 people voting each day. If you take the elections where we had to stay open last year for early voting on Easter Sunday, we didn't even have 500 people vote early, absentee or grace period for the off year elections last year for the whole 30 day period of absentee. The election will be official next Wednesday at 10:00 for those who have been waiting to get sworn in and everything.

There was no old business presented at the meeting.

There was no new business presented at the meeting.

COMMENT:

Mr. Sampson: Mr. Sampson said as this is his last meeting in this chair he would like to say very briefly that he has felt for many years that in a democratic society the true measure of distinction is not how much money you pile up, which is a good thing because he never piled any money up, and not that there is anything wrong with that, but public service. To be a part of a group like this for the last 6 years and as your chairman for the last 2 years, to him is one of the highest honors any citizen could have. He also thinks it is a high honor for all of us to be in public service. He has tremendous respect for those of you who serve as well as those who run and don't succeed because we all know what it is like to put your name on the ballot and go out there and go door to door and put up with all you have to put up with because you want to make your community a better place. He is particularly proud to have chaired this particular unit of government in Macon County. When he was with the Herald & Review, back when Adam was pup, perhaps the county board didn't have the highest image. He said that was probably more a problem of the beholders than the board itself. If you look at county government and this county board you find an agency, a unit that has balanced its budget and paid off its debt - that has done tremendous advances. Macon County has the most progressive wind power ordinance in Illinois and some day that is going to make a big difference. He could count countless other things, good things, for the people of Macon County that have come to pass because of this board. He emphasized that is because of Republicans and Democrats working together on this board. It is a remarkable, remarkable thing and we don't often give ourselves the credit we should for doing that. Certainly, though his public career has not been particularly distinguished, it will certainly be distinguished in his memory because he had the honor and privilege of serving with each and every one of them.

MOTION TO CLOSE SESSION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to go into closed session to discuss personnel issues and pending litigation by prior roll call vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION TO OPEN SESSION

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mr. Snyder to return to open session by prior roll call vote.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins to adjourn until Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 7:15 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

