

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
MACON COUNTY BOARD**

DECEMBER 10, 2009

**Jay A. Dunn
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. Ashby, Mr. Dudley, Mr. Dunn, and Mr. Snyder.

Mrs. Taylor led the members in prayer.

All led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2009 MEETING

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Potts to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2009 meeting.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Baxter, Cox, Drobisch, Greenfield, Hogan, Jacobs, Little, McGlaughlin, Meachum, Oliver, Potts, Smith, Taylor, Westerman, Wilkins, Williams, Yoder

Nays: (None)

AYES = 17

NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMENT:

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said there was an item under Finance G-3388-12-09 which he was pulling from the agenda. The chairman suggested to him that this needs the full board's attention, so he pulled it from the agenda tonight. There are 4 county board members absent and we need the full county board's attention.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs asked if that is the legal way to handle this.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said he asked the State's Attorney and it is the Chairman's choice.

Mr. Hogan: Mr. Hogan asked if they could bring it up.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said you can discuss it and bring it up under...but it has been pulled from the agenda.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs asked if they could have the State's Attorney give us an opinion on this.

Mr. Ahola: Mr. Ahola said the chairman is allowed to do that.

Mr. Hogan: Mr. Hogan asked if a board member can bring it back. Since it is already on the agenda, could a board member bring it up to a vote?

Mr. Ahola: Mr. Ahola said no because then there is no point in having the chairman able to pull it. He said they could discuss it under new business.

PRESENTATION:

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said we have a presentation tonight from Farm Progress 2009.

Greg Florian: Mr. Florian is Vice-President of Finance at Richland Community College. He said Cindy Laegeler is also at the meeting and she is the Chief Operating Officer for Brush College LLC which operates Progress City. It is a sub unit of the college. Mr. Florian said the county has been a partner with the Brush College LLC and the college in the Farm Progress Show for the last couple of years, from the start of building the progress show, building the site and doing the maintenance on it. We just want to take a few minutes to thank you as a partner and show you some of the impact the show has had this year, what it has done for Macon County, Central Illinois, and Decatur. We would just like to have this opportunity to say thanks. He has a few slides that will show what has gone on and talk a little bit about the show and what we think this means to us. This was the largest show that Farm Progress has had, and we have information from the Farm Progress folks as well as some things that we have garnered together. We view this as a public/private partnership. We have corporate sponsorship that helps operate this. The site was actually built through government, through private entities, through public entities, and private individuals. To date, we have collected over \$9,500,000 that has been contributed to the construction and operation of the show site. It has really been a big piece of what we do, and we operate that as a limited liability corporation company so we don't use any of the college money or the student money. We do use public funds that we get from both the county and the city, in terms of in-kind actions and things that go on with us. We also are supported financially with donations from our sponsors. We have about 23 corporate sponsors that have signed on from the time we built the show site, putting the 5 ½ miles of roadway in, developing the 80 acres of the show site, and then the 250 acres around the site. It was quite a show this year, and the Farm Progress folks are still absolutely thrilled as well. In regard to the international visitors, the first show brought in visitors from 12 countries which totaled several hundred people. In the 2008 show, 39 countries participated in the show up in Iowa. For this year we had representation from over 58 countries. From Brazil alone we had over 1000 visitors. From Australia there were over 500 visitors from there. There were people from Asia, Europe, from all over. Mr. Florian said agro-tourism has become a big piece of this. So, it has really put this community on the map, and we are garnering a lot of international attention. It means a lot

to get feedback from all of these different countries bringing this in and making it an international place. One of the things that happened this year was that Monsanto wanted to be a good community partner and sponsored a food drive, and it brought food and cash to Macon County right to Decatur. They sponsored it in conjunction and started with their own employees in St. Louis at their headquarters, and collected about 5,000 pounds of food down there. They brought that food to the show site. They matched 50/50 with what was brought to the site when people came and brought a can of food or some other type of food or gave cash donations. There was 42,500 pounds of food collected. There was \$4,100 in cash donations. Monsanto's match was \$20,000, and that all went to local charities. It went to Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army. So all that was collected internationally and from around the region came back to benefit the people here. The show truly has been a community asset and continues to grow with that. Farm Progress, over the years, has done different things with their food. When they first brought the show to Decatur, they had one vendor who ran all the food service out there. That was sort of a change from the way they used to do it 30 or 40 years ago, and they have kind of gone back and it didn't work very well. One of the things they have done is to work with all the local not for profits to operate the food vending out there. This year they changed things around a little bit. They offered up the food courts, and there are 4 food courts within the show site. The 4-H had sole responsibility for running one of the food courts. That meant they had to buy the food and find the volunteers to operate the booth for 3 days which takes about 60 people a day, but they also got all of the profits from it. So, rather than making 10% of the profits or the gross that comes through with the other groups, they took a bigger risk and got a better return. He didn't know what they made but wanted to say they grossed around 6 figures.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams said their net was a little over \$49,000. It was fantastic. Mr. Williams said he is co-president of the foundation this year and they appreciated the opportunity very much and looked forward to it in future years.

Mr. Florian: Mr. Florian said it has just been a great asset, but it is a lot of work.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams said yes, but it is a great way to raise money for the various 4-H groups.

Mr. Florian: Mr. Florian said it probably brings a lot of people together that probably would have come together but not in the same way. You build a lot of community spirit that way. So, it has been great to return that back to the community as well. That was some of the things that Farm Progress did differently as they put their show together. They don't ever tell us exactly how many people were on the show site. We guess a little bit. We have parking for 23,000 cars, and if you look back at the parking we used all but 2 acres of parking. There is 170 acres of parking, and we used all but 2 acres of it. You can kind of figure out how many cars you have on there and average a couple people to a car and see that this was the largest show they have ever had. He wanted to talk about some of the things that the county helped them with and that they do each year which absolutely helps make the show a great place. He said they get comments from all the vendors who say this absolutely is the best show site in the country. When you talk about putting on this type of agri-business show where you are bringing in the large equipment, this is the best show site. We do that because it is a community partnership.

Just with the things the Macon County Sheriff provided such as traffic and crowd control that sort of thing, he thanked them for that. It is a huge effort for us. The Emergency Services and coordinating all of that.... Bruce, the County Engineer has done a great job helping them build the site, maintain the site, and heading up the most fun part, the traffic meetings through the year. They started back in January pulling this together. It is a huge effort when you are parking 20,000 cars a day, moving them in and moving them out and keeping it together. One of the things that happened this year that was a tremendous success was the waste management. Luis has done a great job helping with that. We recycled many pounds of plastics, paper and cardboard and managed that so we don't do as much damage to the environment. We were being conscious about what was going on with the recycling. We got help coordinating all of the waste disposal, which you can imagine how much waste is going out there. There were a lot of 20 yard dumpsters being hauled out everyday. It usually starts about 2 weeks before the show. The vendors come in and everything is crated up, boxed up and shipped in, and there is trash all the time. So, it is a huge component of this keeping the place clean and sanitary. We also work with the county Health Department on that. They check out all of the food sites to make sure all the vendors are operating safely. It is just a great community partnership. We look at what the city does, what the county does, what the city police do, what the college has done and it is just a great partnership and a great community asset. It continues to build strength and recognition for the area and really shows what a can do attitude we have in this community. Mr. Florian said that is why we are here to say thank you for all of that. He said when you start talking about value that it brings it brings a lot of cash and a lot of notoriety to the community. There are economic benefits. There are local community groups like 4-H that benefit from this, as well as all of the other community groups that come in and park cars, hand out programs and, take tickets. It is a great asset to bring in. It brings money to those groups that are not for profits. He said as far as local businesses if you look at retail these folks start setting up their booths around the first of August because we turn the site over around the end of July. They are using all of our retail. They are at Farm & Fleet, Lowe's and Menards, and they are eating in the local restaurants. A lot of these crews start setting up about a month ahead of time and that really builds to the 3 days of the show. It affects the construction industry as well because they are out building things, putting up signs, rigging power that is out there for electricity and making sure it all works. If you look at a company like Monsanto and what they brought into this, they chartered two 727 jets to fly their people in, their customers from all over the country as well as some of their international people. As he understands it the airport was 2 parking places away from completely filling all of the slots they have. They doubled the number of flights they have with private planes, and they did that everyday of the 3 days of the show. It affects us in so many ways that you don't even think about. If you looked at the advertising on television and saw all these national companies advertising locally, and on the radios they were advertising. It brings dollars into the community. One of the ways to try and quantify that when you work with the Decatur Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau, by determining what this means to the community is to look at the nightly room reservations. He said one room rented for the night and the cost of that based on about 1200 hotel rooms in this central Illinois region. We need about 3,000 to 4,000 hotel rooms to operate just the show. Most of the people that attend are on a daily basis. But, those that come in and spend the night is around 9,900 room nights out there, almost 10,000 room nights. If you average about \$240.00 per day, per room night which includes paying for the hotel, buying food in the morning, afternoon and evening it gives you about

\$2,300,000 almost \$2,400,000 for that. If you figure the number of people who attend, and we estimated about 200,000 attended the show over the 3 days, which is our number not Farm Progress' at \$40.00 a person brings in about \$8,000,000. So, just for the show time and the things that we can estimate, it has a total economic impact of about \$10,300,000 which is right on target with what we estimated when we were originally looking at the show. It is a great economic benefit to the area, and that is because of everyone who has pitched in, in the community and pulled together to make a great show. We just wanted to say thank you and bring you the information and talk a little bit about what it does. We talked about what this does in terms of recognition because it truly builds the community and gives us a community pride and support. It works locally within the community groups that are here. Regionally we have become known as the site to be.... We are starting, and when he says we he means the Brush College LLC is starting to see requests from groups outside of this area to use Progress City at other times than the Farm Progress Show. We hope to have 2 or 3 major shows this summer. We are looking at bringing in things like a car show and car auction, some activities that will put heads and beds in the area as well as use the show site. Nationally, we have vendors from national companies and international companies. They understand what this means for them to participate in this show in Decatur, and they know they can't survive without it. They spend the money out there. If you look at the kind of shows they put together he would guess that Monsanto, just for their exhibit probably spent over \$1,000,000 for the 3 day show. If you look at what the other companies have done like Case and John Deere, New Holland and the dollars they are spending for the show they are going to add up to the \$10,000,000 or more. So it is very important. They know what it is. We have provided a great site and are keeping it the way it is and maintaining the site, maintaining the roads, and maintaining the traffic flow into it. If you have ever been to a Farm Progress Show other than here traffic into the show is pretty slow. We had one day that was a problem but we got that corrected. The team came together and moved people in and out of the show site. It creates a positive community image. We get some of the surveys from some of the vendors that include nothing but glowing reports about their time here and working with the people and the community. The community support is incredible. We have talked about manning this with volunteers. In talking to the national show manager for the Farm Progress company, they can't get enough volunteers at the Iowa site. We coordinate the volunteers with the Convention and Visitor's Bureau and we have more groups than we have slots to fill so they rotate those through the show. It is just a great community effort and we have a great positive image that is being spread throughout the country. He said they are planning the next show date. It is every other year and we have it on the odd years. It will be August 30, 31, and September 1, 2011. You will see them start to show up the first of June and the official date is August 15th. Mr. Florian said he would be happy to answer any questions you might have. It has been great to have the opportunity to come up and say thank you for the continuing support the County Board has given us.

Mr. Potts: Mr. Potts said he had more of a complaint. When he talked to some of the vendors during Farm Progress their number 1 complaint.... They loved the people here. They loved the service. They loved everything about the show. He talked to two individual vendor groups and the big problem they had was the hotel rates and how they just gouged them. Mr. Potts said he brought that to the city manager's attention recently too. He thinks if we can do something about

that, because both of these groups said they were going to stay somewhere else like in Springfield where the costs weren't so exorbitant.

Mr. Florian: Mr. Florian said that is one of the complaints that we here. The room rates normally are \$80.00, \$90.00 or \$100.00, and they go up to \$150.00 or \$160.00, and are reserved a year in advance. So, that is really frustrating because we do hear that from the vendors.

Mr. Potts: Mr. Potts said there probably isn't much that we can do in this society to stop that gouging thing.

Mr. Florian: Mr. Florian said it just happens. We draw it and they get the advantage of it.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams said we appreciated Mr. Florian's recognition of all the county agencies that were out there and helped, but he greatly appreciated the Solid Waste Department because Luis Perez puts his heart and soul into that. Luis has so much enthusiasm. Mr. Williams said he spent an afternoon at the show helping Luis change bags around and clear things. He just has such a passion for that. Mr. Williams said he wished Luis were here tonight to hear Mr. Florian's presentation.

Mr. Florian: Mr. Florian said he did a great job.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams said he and the whole solid waste department did.

Ms. Laegeler: Ms. Laegeler asked if they had seen his plan for two years from now. He has already got a plan for two years from now to make it even better.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams said Luis has been asked by the Farm Progress folks to go to Boone, Iowa.

Mr. Florian: Mr. Florian said once again we are teaching them how to do their show so it is a great thing.

ZONINGS / SUBDIVISIONS

1. Mr. McGlaughlin presented Resolution Z-1100-12-09 which is regarding Case R-03-11-09, a petition submitted by Patsy C. Johnson for rezoning of approximately 2.76 acres from A-1 Agricultural District to R-4 Single Family Residential on property commonly known as 1269 Koshinski Lane in Decatur Township. Staff recommended at the November 4, 2009 public hearing that the petition be approved. After hearing the evidence, the Zoning Board of Appeals voted in favor of recommending to the County board that the petition be approved. The EEHW Committee met and reviewed the petition and recommended by a 4-0 vote that the County Board approve the subject petition.

MOTION

Mr. McGlaughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Potts to approve Resolution Z-1100-12-09 by prior roll call vote.

There were no objectors present at the meeting

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

Two letters from Sudden Link regarding channel changes and price changes.

A letter from the Illinois Department of Transportation regarding repairs to a bridge carrying County Highway 41 (Wyckles Road) over US 51 as part of the resurfacing contract for US Route 51 around Decatur.

Two letters from Comcast regarding channel changes and adjustments to the administrative fee for late payments.

Two Notices of Application for Permit to manage waste from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for the Veolia ES Valley View Landfill – Unit 2 and Veolia ES Valley View Landfill Inc. The first subject application addresses condition IX.6 of the permit and the second is an application for significant permit modification for landfill expansion.

Two letters with maps from AmerenIP regarding tree trimming that will be done in and around the Decatur and Mt. Zion areas in the near future.

REPORTS

Sheriff's Report – November 2009

Coroner's Report – October & November 2009

Macon County Treasurer Fund & Investment Report – November 2009

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins 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. Drobisch to approve the Claims by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

C. APPOINTMENTS

3. Resolution G-3377-12-09 – Re-Appointments to the Macon County Historical Society Board

Ritchie Barnett, 207 Delmar Ave., Decatur, IL 62522
Term Expires: December 31, 2011

Nancy Torgerson, 17 Surrey Lane, Forsyth, IL 62535
Term Expires: December 31, 2011

Robert Ohlsen, 135 South Lake Shore Dr., Decatur, IL 62521
Term Expires: December 31, 2011

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded Mr. Oliver to approve Resolution G-3377-12-09 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

4. Resolution G-3378-12-09 – Re-Appointments to the Macon Mosquito Abatement District

Peter Kwasnik, 6025 N. Coulters Mill Rd., Oreana, IL 62554
Term Expires: December 31, 2013

Lisle Ellis, 847 W. Cushing, Decatur, IL 62526
Term Expires: December 31, 2013

Robert Parrill, 2120 Richmond Rd., Decatur, IL 62521
Term Expires: December 31, 2013

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve Resolution G-3378-12-09 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

There was nothing presented on the Consent Calendar.

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

5. Mr. Baxter presented Resolution G-3379-12-09 which is approving the designation of the Office of the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor to act on behalf of Macon County.

MOTION

Mr. Baxter moved, seconded by Mr. Drobisch to approve Resolution G-3379-12-09 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

EEHW COMMITTEE

6. Mr. McGlaughlin presented Ordinance 0-81-12-09 which is amending the Macon County ordinance regulating the siting and construction of Wind Energy Conversion Systems.

MOTION

Mr. McGlaughlin moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins to approve Ordinance O-81-12-09.

COMMENT:

Mr. Westerman: Mr. Westerman said he apologized for not knowing what he was doing at the last EEHW Committee meeting. After reading the minutes, the discussion seemed to be centered around the need for sending this back to the resolution committee and then to the EEHW Committee. He voted for the passing of this amendment thinking he was voting for sending this back to committee. He doesn't know about the rest of you but voting on an incomplete document makes him somewhat nervous that we would approve something and then send it back after it was already approved. Whatever happens to it was already approved. The last sentence in the minutes stated by Chairman Dudley said, "Then we will send this ordinance back to the RPC for more work." He thinks we need to send this back to the resolution committee now and have a complete and accurate document before we vote on it.

MOTION

Mr. Westerman moved, seconded by Mr. Drobisch to send Ordinance O-81-12-09 back to committee.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean asked if that is a motion to table.

Mr. Westerman: Mr. Westerman said no. He does not want to table it; he wants to send it back to committee, to our resolution committee.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said there is already a motion to approve on the table.

Mr. Westerman: Mr. Westerman said he understands that. He was asking for counsel on sending this back without having to vote down the ordinance. He doesn't want to vote it down. He wants to send it back to committee.

Mr. Bean: Mr. Bean thought they could vote to table it and the chairman could direct it to go back to committee.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said if you vote to table it then it stays on the table as presented and we can't change it.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said if they withdraw the motion and second then he can pull it and send it back to committee.

Mr. Westerman: Mr. Westerman said that would be fine, but it would be up to the motion maker.

Mr. McGlaughlin: Mr. McGlaughlin withdrew his motion, and Mrs. Wilkins withdrew her second to Ordinance O-81-12-09.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said they would pull the ordinance and send it back to committee.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said the minutes indicate that it was to be sent back to the Regional Planning Commission for more work.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said it has to go back the county board EEHW Committee first.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little asked why, because the committee already said they are sending it back to the RPC.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said it is a board resolution so it has to go back to the committee first. He asked Mr. Ahola if that were correct.

Mr. Ahola: Mr. Ahola said the EEHW Committee can then send it back to RPC.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said the EEHW Committee will then send it back.

7. Mr. McGlaughlin presented Ordinance O-80-12-09 which is approving amendments to the Macon County Nuisance Ordinance.

MOTION

Mr. McGlaughlin moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Ordinance O-80-12-09.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Baxter, Cox, Drobisch, Greenfield, Hogan, Jacobs, Little, McGlaughlin, Meachum, Oliver, Potts, Smith, Taylor, Westerman, Wilkins, Williams, Yoder

Nays: (None)

AYES = 17

NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

8. Mr. McGlaughlin presented Resolution G-3380-12-09 which is supporting the establishment of Amtrak Passenger Rail Service for the City of Decatur.

MOTION

Mr. McGlaughlin moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins to approve Resolution G-3380-12-09 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

OPERATIONS, PERSONNEL & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

9. Mr. Smith presented Resolution G-3381-12-09 which is accepting a two year proposal from Safety National for Workers Compensation Excess Liability Insurance Coverage.

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-3381-12-09 by prior roll call vote.

COMMENT:

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith said we are self-insured in our workers comp, and this would be covering any excess in case there would be a catastrophic claim in excess of that amount we're covered in self-insured.

MOTION CARRIED.

10. Mr. Smith presented Resolution G-3382-12-09 which is approving a two year agreement with RAC Risk Services for Worker Compensation Third Party Administration Services.

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-3382-12-09 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

11. Mr. Smith presented Resolution G-3383-12-09 which is approving an Equal Employment Opportunity Plan for the County of Macon.

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-3383-12-09 by prior roll call vote.

QUESTION:

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little asked if he could tell them in a nutshell what this plan is.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith said it should be in the attachment you have there. Basically, this is required when we apply for grants. Federal grants and things like that require that we have a plan in place. We have to do it every two years.

MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

12. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-3384-12-09 which is approving an amendment to the FY2010 budget for the Probation Department.

MOTION

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mr. Baxter to approve Resolution G-3384-12-09 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

13. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-3385-12-09 which is approving an increase in appropriations in the State's Attorney's DUI Grant budget for FY 2009.

MOTION

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-3385-12-09 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

14. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-3386-12-09 which is approving transfer of funds for the FY09 Circuit Clerk Automation Fund budget.

MOTION

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-3386-12-09 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-3387-12-09 which is approving the transfer of funds between the Witness Expense and Supply Expense lines to the Assistant Public Defender line.

MOTION

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-3387-12-09 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

QUESTION:

Mr. Hogan: Mr. Hogan asked Mr. Meachum if he gave us a reason why he took G-3388-12-09 off the agenda.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said the chairman felt that it would be in the best interest of the full county board that since he himself was absent and not be able to answer Mr. Hogan's questions particularly, and 3 other board members were not present that he felt that it needed the full board's attention to discuss it in detail. Mr. Meachum said that was what he was asked to do and that was why he pulled it.

Mr. Hogan: Mr. Hogan said, but the other remaining resolutions are fine to vote on.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said yes that is correct.

The Negotiations Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

16. Mr. Potts presented Resolution H-1690-12-09 which is approving permission for Verizon to bore under the Mt. Auburn Blacktop (CH 28).

MOTION

Mr. Potts moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins to approve Resolution H-1690-12-09 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

17. Mr. Potts presented Resolution H-1691-12-09 which is appropriating funds from Motor Fuel Tax funds (FY10) to cover the annual MFT Maintenance Program.

MOTION

Mr. Potts moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-1691-12-09 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

18. Mr. Potts presented Resolution H-1692-12-09 which is approving an engineering service agreement between H.L. Chastain & Associates and the County of Macon for 2010.

MOTION

Mr. Potts moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-1692-12-09 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

19. Mr. Potts presented Resolution H-1693-12-09 which is approving an engineering service agreement between URS Corporation and the County of Macon for 2010.

MOTION

Mr. Potts moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins to approve Resolution H-1693-12-09 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.

SITING, RULES & ORDINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said the Siting, Rules & Ordinance Sub-Committee meeting was canceled. We are going to have a meeting in January, but we haven't set the date yet on that.

BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said we finally had a meeting after over a year of not having any because we finally had something that we could meet on. Because of the office vacancy in this building, we went ahead and approved it so 3 different departments could get additional space. Plus, we voted on a proposition from an outside political official that wants to rent office space here. We passed on all that and after we passed on it several people on the Republican side of the aisle had questions as to why we went ahead and rented that to an outside entity other than using people within our own county government. The reason he thinks the committee did that was because if we have vacant space here then the county has to end up picking up those costs. There is some reluctance from several members and if they would like to speak of that that can. He has no problem with it because the more space we have filled, then it won't revert back to the county having to pay for that space being vacant.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs said luckily we get the newspaper so we can find out what is going on around here. In this article where he stated he was going to lease this property to Mr. Hare, he called Jay Dunn personally. It was his first call. If he has a problem with you, you will be the first person he talks to. Mr. Dunn assured him there wouldn't be any politicking going on. He told Mr. Dunn that he didn't fall off the turnip truck yesterday. He told him they can't do any kind of fundraising and that kind of thing. What would Mr. Hare want with this office other than to run fundraisers because he is from northern Illinois? It would be a satellite office. It is not

because he is a Democrat because he doesn't want a Republican in here either. He doesn't want that type.... He thinks county government, we get voted in to run county government. He thinks we should drop our politics at the door which never happens, but David mentioned we would have money coming in. We are in competition with people in Decatur who own offices. Look at the office space downtown that Mr. Hare or any politician could find and probably get cheaper, and then we wouldn't have him in the county building. He doesn't think they should be here. That is not what our county government is for. He said that is his story. Mr. Jacobs said he didn't say anything he hasn't already said to Chairman Dunn.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said we will have another opportunity to discuss this at a later time and date.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little asked how the rent that we will be charging is comparable to say One Main Place.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said he would have to refer that to the Auditor because we don't have an agreement yet. He doesn't think there is a contract or anything like that to bring to the full board. He could not tell her what that is at this time because he has not seen the paperwork. He thinks it will go through committee, Finance or Building Sub-Committee.

Ms. Stockwell: Ms. Stockwell said she doesn't know what the proposed rent is and she doesn't have a comparison. She does know that Representative Hare approached us, so obviously they have done shopping on the market.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said his understanding is that by giving permission to rent this out only says we are going to negotiate on it. It did not give a positive commitment to anyone. When we do come up with some figures based on what the actual cost to us is, and if we want to make a profit on top of it, county government can do that. All it is at this point is to negotiate with interested parties.

Mrs. Wilkins: Mrs. Wilkins said if we open this up publicly to be able to rent that space she thinks we should be careful about how we discriminate or how we determine who gets that space. So once it is open, it is open by fair criteria, regardless of who that person is or the politics. We should just keep that in mind.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs asked who has the authority to rent this space. Is it county government or the Public Building Commission? He thinks we do not have the authority to do that.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said we as a county board obligated ourselves. It is just the same way with the courthouse, the County Office Building and any other buildings that we have directed the Building Commission to build or remodel for us, we are the base tenant. In other words, anybody else that rents space here becomes a subtenant, but we are the controlling interest. To answer the question, yes we have direct control over who goes into these spaces.

Mr. Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs said he thinks there is some disagreement with that.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said he better read the lease because the lease says that we are the primary tenant.

Mr. Waks: Mr. Waks said the lease of this building is pretty much controlled by statute. There is a Public Building Commission statute that controls the whole situation. The Public Building Commission has leased the space to Macon County. Macon County can then, through the county board, sublease the space but only to certain entities. He has gone through the statute with the attorney for the Public Building Commission and subleasing the space to the United States Congress or any of its subdivisions is acceptable under the Illinois statute, whether you want to or not is a different issue. Whether you can legally do it has been determined at least by two attorneys, that it is legal.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said we are the primary tenant.

Mr. Waks: Mr. Waks said that Macon County, through its board will be doing the subleasing.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver said Board Member Wilkins makes a very valid point that this rental space would be available to anyone to rent it who may approach. It could be anything from lawyers to any other kind of politicians who want it.

Mr. Drobisch: Mr. Drobisch said no. It can only be a governmental agency.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said he is hoping that every board member that has concerns will voice their concerns to the chairman by e-mail or by a phone conversation. The chairman will then know where everybody stands on this issue. It is going to come to the full county board before it happens.

Mr. Waks: Mr. Waks said there is a list in the statute of who you can rent it to. A law firm is not on the list. A support group, however, that supports the activities going on in the building would be permitted, for example a coffee shop would be ok. If it is considered a support group for the activities going on in this building it would be permitted. The only reason a coffee shop came to mind is that there have been coffee shops in the court house in the past.

CITIZEN'S REMARKS:

Mr. David Williams: Mr. Williams respectfully asked who was involved in drawing up this Equal Employment Opportunity Plan. One of the things that he was disappointed with is on the second page it lists categories of underutilization. He was disappointed that it does not address the Native American population in Macon County.

Mr. Waks: Mr. Waks said he drafted the plan. This is the third draft that he has worked on since he has been working for the county. We had not had one in some time prior to that. He asked Mr. Williams if he was referring to the utilization chart.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams said what he is referring to is that we do have a Native American population in Macon County. It is a small minority and probably not even as much as a percentage of the population. He also does not know what percentage of Native Americans Macon County employees. As such, he is just making a general comment that....

Mr. Waks: Mr. Waks said if you have the chart there you can tell exactly what percentage of Native Americans there are in Macon County and what percentage are being employed by Macon County and determine then whether there is an over utilization or an under utilization. These figures were provided to us by the Census Bureau.

OFFICEHOLDER'S REMARKS:

Mr. McGlaughlin: Mr. McGlaughlin wanted to commend Mr. Westerman on his photographic memory from the last meeting. The minutes do very clearly state that the EEHW Committee is to direct the actions back to the Regional Planning Commission. It does also state that one of the reasons we went ahead and passed it was to insure that there was at least part of it in place should another firm wish to make a preemptive move, if that is the correct term. He said Mr. Westerman is exactly correct as he quoted that the very last part of this says that chairman stated it shall be returned to the Regional Planning Commission. He thinks we concurred with that and he has no problem with it.

There was no old business presented at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

20. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution G-3389-12-09 which is amending Holidays to coincide with the Circuit Courts.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-3389-12-09 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Potts to adjourn until Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 7:15 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

