

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
MACON COUNTY BOARD**

**MAY 14, 2020**

**Kevin Greenfield  
Chairman**

**Josh Tanner  
Clerk**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with Assistant State's Attorney, Mike Baggett present.

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said this is the opening speech for everyone that is participating telephonically. Please remember, and this goes for the people in the room as well, please identify yourself before you begin speaking so that everyone knows who is speaking and so we can accurately reflect in the minutes who is making which comment. When you want to speak, please request to be recognized by the chair, wait to be recognized by the chair before speaking, and only speak once you have been recognized. Please don't cross talk or speak over anyone who is currently speaking, again with a telephonic meeting that will just make everything as clear as we can possibly make it. For the members who are participating telephonically, we ask and remind you to mute your phones when you are not speaking, so that we are not hearing any background noise which can prove to be distracting more so for the people who are also participating on the phone as opposed to the people here.

The Roll Call showed the following members present at meeting: Mr. Greenfield, Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Little and Mrs. Taylor. The following members were present via tele-presence: Mr. Bird, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Dawson, Mr. Drobisch, Mr. Gresham, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Holman, Ms. Joy, Mr. Mattingley, Mr. Oliver, Ms. Rood, Mr. Smith, Dr. Zimmerman.

Mrs. Taylor led the members in Prayer.

All led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 12, 2020 REGULAR MEETING & APRIL 16, 2020, APRIL 23, 2020 & APRIL 29, 2020 SPECIAL MEETINGS**

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2020 regular meeting and the April 16, 2020, April 23, 2020 and April 29, 2020 Special Meetings.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**ROLL CALL.**

Ayes: Bird, Brown, Dawson, Drobisch, Greenfield, Gresham, Hogan, Holman, Jackson, Joy, Kraft, Little, Mattingley, Oliver, Rood, Smith, Taylor, Zimmerman

Nays: (None)

**AYES = 18**  
**NAYS = 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**RECOGNITIONS:**

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said he had a letter he would like to read. It gives him great sadness to have to read it because she has been such a great worker and dedicated public servant. Mr. Greenfield read the following: Dear Mr. Greenfield, I would like to inform you that I am formally retiring on June 30, 2020. I have given considerable thought to this decision. I am proud of all the achievements I have made in the Circuit Clerk's Office since December 2008. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve the citizens of Macon County as Circuit Clerk. I also have enjoyed working with the Macon County Board past and present members. I look forward to the next chapter of my life with my family. Sincerely, Lois A. Durbin.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said Lois will, without a doubt go down as one of the best Circuit Clerk's Macon County has ever had. He wished her nothing but the best. He said he needed a motion to accept Lois' resignation.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Kraft moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson to accept Lois A. Durbin's resignation as Macon County Circuit Clerk by prior roll call vote

**MOTION CARRIED.**

There were no zoning or subdivision issues presented at the meeting.

**B. CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter from AT&T regarding AT&T Illinois Annual Consumer Video Services Report.

A letter from NewWave Communications regarding possible channel changes.

A letter from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regarding ADM Development Products (Illinois EPA BOA ID# 115015AKK) Construction Permit (20030026)

A Notice of Application for Permit to Manage Waste from the Illinois EPA for Rhodes Landfill regarding Supplemental Permit Application to revise the post-closure care costs pursuant to Condition 4 of Supplemental Permit No. 2018-145-SP.

A Notice of Application for Permit to Manage Waste from the Illinois EPA for Advanced Disposal Services Valley View Landfill regarding condition XI.8.

**REPORTS**

- Sheriff’s Report – March & April 2020
- Treasurer’s Fund Report – March & April 2020
- Collector’s Report – March & April 2020
- Coroner’s Report – February & March 2020
- Coroner’s Annual Report – 2019
- Public Defender’s Report – March & April 2020
- Auditor’s Report – March & April 2020

**MOTION**

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson 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. Little moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson to accept the report of the claims by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**C. APPOINTMENTS**

- 2. Resolution G-5131-05-20 – Appointment to the Macon County Conservation District Board of Trustees

David Castor, 6285 Angle Crossing Rd., Oakley, IL 62501  
 Term Expires: June 30, 2025

**MOTION**

Mr. Greenfield moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson to approve Resolution G-5131-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Resolution G-5132-05-20 – Reappointment to Macon County Mental Health Board

Jerry Johnson, 1490 Foster Ave., Decatur, IL 62526  
Term Expires: June 30, 2024

**MOTION**

Mr. Greenfield moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution G-5132-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Resolution G-5133-05-20 – Reappointments to Public Aid Committee

Kevin Greenfield, Long Creek Township  
Martha Dalton, Whitmore Township  
Lisa Stanley, Decatur Township  
Patricia Cox, South Macon Township  
Marcia Potrafka, Blue Mound Township  
John Trusner, Jr., Mt. Zion Township  
Jay Lawler, Oakley Township  
Terms Expire: May 14, 2023

**MOTION**

Mr. Greenfield moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution G-5133-05-20 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.

The Justice Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

The EEHW Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

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

The Legislative Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

5. Mr. Jackson presented Resolution G-5134-05-20 which is approving a Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance proposal from AJ Gallagher & Co.

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution G-5134-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

**COMMENT:**

Mrs. Reed: Mrs. Reed said the increase was 8% for the Gallagher coverage with Blue Cross Blue Shield. It started out at 22.4%, so we felt 8% was very reasonable.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said it was around 500k give or take.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield asked if it was a \$500,000 increase.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said yes.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield asked if it was that much.

Mrs. Reed: Mrs. Reed said actually it was \$357,000.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

6. Mr. Jackson presented Resolution G-5135-05-20 which is approving a one-year Delta Dental Insurance proposal from AJ Gallagher & Co.

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to approve Resolution G-5135-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

**COMMENT:**

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said this was no change in cost.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

7. Mr. Jackson presented Resolution G-5136-05-20 which is authorizing approval to close, dissolve and rescind the Macon County Working Cash Fund.

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to approve Resolution G-5136-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

Mrs. Reed: Mrs. Reed said this was a fund which was established to replace the revenue lost by abolishing the personal property tax back in the late 70's. There were two years where money was levied. It accumulated to be about \$280,000. Since that time 30 or 40 years ago it's grown to be \$318,000. To her knowledge the money has never been touched or used, so when it gets abolished the money goes back into the General Fund.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

8. Mr. Jackson presented Resolution G-5137-05-20 which is increasing IT Services line in the Circuit Clerk E-Citation Fund for Fiscal Year 2020.

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to approve Resolution G-5137-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

9. Mr. Jackson presented Resolution G-5138-05-20 which is approving an increase in appropriations in the FY20 Health Fund Budget for 2020 Census Advocacy.

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution G-5138-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

10. Mr. Jackson presented Resolution G-5139-05-20 which is approving increase in appropriations in the FY20 Health Fund Budget for Care Coordination Units (CCU) Technology.

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to approve Resolution G-5139-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

11. Mr. Jackson presented Resolution G-5140-05-20 which is approving increase in appropriations in the FY20 Health Fund budget for Emergency Assistance Services.

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to approve Resolution G-5140-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

12. Mr. Jackson presented Resolution G-5141-05-20 which is setting salaries for officeholders elected for the term beginning in 2020 and ending in 2024.

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to approve Resolution G-5141-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she would like to offer an amendment to this resolution. She thinks the numbers presented in the resolution are unrealistic and irresponsible on our part at this time.

**MOTION TO AMEND**

Mrs. Little moved to amend Resolution G-5141-05-20 to make the increases for each of the four years to be 0%.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield asked if everyone heard the amendment to the officeholder's wages. Several board members said they did not hear what she said,

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she was recommending 0% increases in each of the four years of the term.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said they were waiting for a second to the motion. He said if there wasn't one he would second the motion to amend Resolution G-5141-05-20. He asked Mr. Baggett for verification that they vote on the amendment first.

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said they vote on the amendment first and then depending on the outcome, moving on.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield asked if everyone understands what they are voting on at this time.



Ms. Rood: Ms. Rood asked the chairman to repeat it one more time.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said that Mrs. Little's amendment is that the officeholder's salary increase will be 0, 0, 0, 0, and there is a second to that motion. He asked if there were any other questions. There were no other questions asked by the board.

**ROLL CALL.**

Ayes: Brown, Greenfield, Hogan, Holman, Jackson, Little, Mattingley, Smith

Nays: Bird, Dawson, Drobisch, Gresham, Joy, Kraft, Oliver, Rood, Taylor, Zimmerman

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett asked Mr. Tanner to call the names of the three board members that didn't answer at the roll call, just to ensure that they haven't since dialed in.

Mr. Tanner: Mr. Tanner asked again if Ms. Buckner, Mrs. Cox or Mr. Noland were now present at the meeting. None of them were now dialed into the meeting.

**AYES = 8**

**NAYS = 10**

**MOTION FAILED. (AMENDMENT TO G-5141-05-20)**

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson asked if they would now vote on it as the resolution as presented.

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said he didn't believe there had been a motion and a second on the resolution. He was told there was a motion and a second on the resolution. He asked if there was any other amendment. The motion to amend has failed, unless there is another motion to amend made by a board member, the next vote would be on the resolution as originally drafted which would be a 0% increase in year one, a 2% increase in year two, and 3% increase in years three and four.

**ROLL CALL.**

Ayes: Bird, Gresham, Kraft, Rood, Taylor, Zimmerman

Nays: Brown, Dawson, Drobisch, Greenfield, Hogan, Holman, Jackson, Joy, Little, Mattingley, Oliver, Smith

**AYES = 6**

**NAYS = 12**

**MOTION FAILED.**

**COMMENT:**

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said the effect of the vote will continue the salaries as they are currently, through 2024. So, the ultimate result of the vote on the resolution is that Mrs. Little's amendment did pass, or at least the intent of it did.

13. Mr. Jackson presented Resolution H-2212-05-20 which is approving and appropriating funds for construction for the CH 27 Damery Road Bridge Replacement Project.

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft approve Resolution H-2212-05-20.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**ROLL CALL.**

Ayes: Bird, Brown, Dawson, Drobisch, Greenfield, Gresham, Hogan, Holman, Jackson, Joy, Kraft, Little, Mattingley, Oliver, Rood, Smith, Taylor, Zimmerman

Nays: (None)

**AYES = 18**

**NAYS = 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

14. Mr. Jackson presented Resolution H-2213-05-20 which is approving and appropriating funds for the TR 1A Lake Fork Road Bridge Replacement Project in Friends Creek Township.

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to approve Resolution H-2213-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

15. Mr. Jackson presented Resolution H-2214-05-20 which is appropriating funds for the Safety Improvement Project on CH 20 west of Forsyth.

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to approve Resolution H-2214-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

16. Mr. Jackson presented Resolution H-2215-05-20 which is appropriating funds to purchase Right of Way Parcel 004 from Raymond E. Luka and Patricia Ann Luka for the CH 27 Damery Road over Spring Creek in Blue Mound Township.

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to approve Resolution H-2215-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

17. Mr. Jackson presented Resolution H-2216-05-20 which is appropriating funds to purchase Right of Way Parcels 001 & 002 the Pistorius Family Limited Partnership for the CH 27 Damery Road over Spring Creek in Blue Mound Township.

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to approve Resolution H-2216-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

18. Mr. Jackson presented Resolution H-2217-05-20 which is appropriating funds to purchase Right of Way Parcel 003 from Zachary R. Luka and Mary G. Luka for the CH 27 Damery Road over Spring Creek in Blue Mound Township.

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to approve Resolution H-2217-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

19. Mr. Jackson presented Resolution H-2218-05-20 which is appropriating funds for the Beckett Group for the BUILD FY 20 Grant Development proposal.

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution H-2218-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

20. Mr. Jackson presented Resolution H-2219-05-20 which is approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Macon County Board and the Argenta Sanitary District.

**MOTION**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to approve Resolution H-2219-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**QUESTION:**

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson said she needed a point of clarification. She asked why there was no transportation meeting to deal with the transportation issues.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said there is a transportation meeting coming up that they will have, but when this COVID thing started at the time they cancelled all committee meetings, and that's when that was.

The Negotiations Committee had one resolution to submit under New Business.

The Transportation Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

The Executive Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

The Siting, Rules & Ordinance Sub-Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

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

**CITIZENS' REMARKS:**

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said there was one citizen's remark received by e-mail prior to the cutoff earlier today. He would read it into the record and for the board members who aren't here and haven't seen it. The e-mail was received from Ron Atkins and it states: I'd like to address several issues being discussed in regards to layoff/furloughs: Claim: Departments need to cut payroll expenses. Since Sheriff Brown took office there have already been approximately \$600,000 cut annually in payroll expenses. The Sheriff's office has already made significant recent cuts to payroll expenses. Claim: Personnel will not leave if laid off. There are law enforcement agencies still hiring. When talk of layoffs first started Urbana PD, Champaign PD and the Champaign County Sheriff's Office were all hiring. At least one deputy has already found another job. That deputy had a lot of expensive, specialized training that will now go to benefit another agency. The county will sustain significant costs to replace him. The idea that deputies will not leave and the county will not have to pay substantial amounts of money to replace them is false. Just the talk of layoffs has already made this a reality. Any layoffs will simply multiply how much money has to be spent in the future to make up for it. Claim: Reduced sales tax income will hurt the county's finances. With sales tax making up approximately 13% of the county's income, this could not reduce income by more than 13%. Therefore (at most) there shouldn't be cuts over 13% required to offset it. Additionally, has anyone seen the parking lots at Wal-Mart, Lowes and Menards? They stay pretty full, people are spending money and not just on groceries. A lot of money is being spent on fully taxed items. There will be sales tax income. Claim: Failure to pay property taxes will hurt the county's finances. This is true in the short run, but property taxes will be fully collected eventually. It may take time, but they will come in one way or another. Making a decision that benefits the county in the short run and hurts it in the long run is a bad idea. In addition to the above reasons, we cannot forget other unintended consequences. The sheriff's office faces high rates of liability. Reducing staff will increase the likelihood that the county would be sued. Dangerous roads still need to be repaired, layoffs at County Highway could delay critical road repairs and result in injury or death. One lawsuit could easily cost the county much more than would ever be saved by proposed layoffs. When it's below zero and the wind is blowing snow making the road impassable, County Highway is out clearing the roads. Every day they work to keep our highways in good condition so people can travel safely. When the worst of our society needs to be arrested, our deputy's find them and take them to jail, sometimes having to chase or fight with them to get them there. Once they are in jail, our Corrections Officers spend all of their time at working with them. This includes breaking up fights and facing attacks from dangerous felons. Every corrections officer we have encounters violence from inmates in the jail. The State's Attorney's office works tirelessly to keep these criminals in jail and prevent them from going out and harming society again. Most of them could make a lot more money in private practice and not have to be worried about getting laid off, but here they are serving the county. In the storms of everyday life these people protect our county. In this financial storm I challenge the board to protect them and the county's own long term interests. A bleak economic situation doesn't mean we don't need them; it makes their services all the more important. Not only would layoffs be bad for employees and citizens but they would be bad for the long term financial health of the county. Dr. Zimmerman and others have

already posed many alternatives to try before layoffs. Don't take the easy way out, find a better way to navigate this storm. Ron Atkins, Decatur, IL

#### **OFFICEHOLDERS' REMARKS:**

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said Judge Webber is here at the meeting, but there were no officeholder comments received by e-mail.

Judge Webber: Judge Webber wanted to join in on the generous comments about the retirement of Lois Durbin. He has known Lois since he was a very young lawyer and she was an even younger deputy clerk. During her term, she and her staff have worked hand and glove with all the judges. He said that makes their work so much easier. They have an open door policy with each other. If there is any problem, they go and talk to each other. Judge Webber said they have an excellent working relationship which advances the interest of the court system of Macon County. He just wanted to join them on behalf of Macon County judges to wish Lois and Tom a very happy retirement. Secondly, he also wanted to say they do anticipate returning to normal operations with the courts on June 1<sup>st</sup>. They anticipate that the orders that require them to work at a diminished rate will expire and they will bring everybody back. It will not be all of the sudden at once. It will be a phased restart to make sure they maintain the minimum number of persons in the courtrooms and their crowded hallways. They do look forward to getting business back to normal business as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver asked if a copy of the e-mail sent to the board and read by Mr. Baggett could be sent to the board members.

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said they will insure the board members all receive a forwarding of that e-mail.

There was no old business presented at the meeting.

#### **COMMENT:**

Mrs. Cox: Mrs. Cox asked where they are at on the agenda. She was just able to get dialed into the meeting.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said they are at the start of New Business. He asked Mr. Baggett if it was correct that they needed a motion to suspend the rules.

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said with respect to the three agenda item under New Business these have not proceeded through the committee structure due to timing issues and other matters, but do need to be considered tonight. So, in order to consider these there would need to be first a motion to suspend the rules, passage of that motion, and then it can be done en masse so they could suspend the rules and consider all three.

#### **MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to Suspend the Rules to consider Resolutions G-5142-05-20, G-5143-05-20, G-5144-05-20 and G-5145-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

**MOTION CARRIED. (TO SUSPEND THE RULES) (COX SHOWED HER VOTE AS YES)**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

21. Mr. Greenfield presented Resolution G-5142-05-20 which is approving the Illinois FOP Labor Council Collective Bargaining Agreement for FY2020 – FY2022, regarding the Macon County State’s Attorney’s Special Investigators.

**MOTION**

Mr. Greenfield moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson to approve Resolution G-5142-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

22. Mr. Greenfield presented Resolution G-5143-05-20 which is approving Medical Plan Spousal Surcharge for working spouses.

**MOTION**

Mr. Greenfield moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution G-5143-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

**QUESTION:**

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver asked for some clarification on this resolution.

Mrs. Reed: Mrs. Reed said the Spousal Surcharge is something the county will implement, if this passes, on July 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be \$200.00 a month for anyone that enrolls their spouse in the Macon County plan and the spouse has other group insurance options at their place of employment. So, for those (spouses) who work elsewhere and have insurance options to take insurance at their place of employment, we will ask that they either take it at their place of employment or if they wish to stay on ours they can, but it will be a surcharge of \$200.00 a month. If the spouse is unemployed, they can still be on ours. It only applies to spouses that are employed elsewhere and have the option.

Ms. Rood: Ms. Rood asked what the estimated revenue from this will be.

Mrs. Reed: Mrs. Reed said the estimated savings will be about \$150,000.00, just based on past practices of other companies that have taken this. She said they have about 65 employees that take employee plus spouse and they have about 99 families. So between those groups, there will be some that will be able to stay on ours and there will be some that will need to pay the surcharge.

Ms. Rood: Ms. Rood asked if she said 99 families.

Mrs. Reed: Mrs. Reed affirmed.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

23. Mr. Greenfield presented Resolution G-5144-05-20 which is modifying eligibility for participation in group health insurance coverage.

**MOTION**

Mr. Greenfield moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution G-5144-05-20 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

24. Mr. Greenfield presented Resolution G-5145-05 which is approving County Board budget recommendations regarding COVID-19.

**MOTION**

Mr. Greenfield moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution G-5145-05-20.

**QUESTION:**

Mr. Bird: Mr. Bird asked if this is a recommendation from the Finance Committee.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said no it is not. The recommendation came from the chairman. They have had 3 Finance Committee meetings so far and nothing has come out of them. So, he met with a few officeholders and this is what he came up with. It will save approximately \$500,000 in the General Fund. The total savings was around \$900,000. He asked Carol if that was correct. She said yes. Between that and the insurance changes, if nothing else, it will offset our deficit from last year. Currently, with the deficit that we have and the cost of our insurance, we are looking at a \$1,100,000 deficit without even knowing where COVID is going to take us. He thought it was a fair thing. It stretched it out over 10 days from now until the end of November. It let the employees keep their insurance. It did include a hiring freeze. It also asks that the officeholders check with the Auditor before they spend over \$500.00 over every day



operational needs. Mr. Greenfield said they have had several finance meetings and nothing has come out of them. So, he took it upon himself to put this together as any board member can do. He said they can vote it up or down. It is up to them.

Mr. Bird: Mr. Bird asked if all the officeholders were on board completely with this.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said no.

Mr. Gresham: Mr. Gresham said they bounced this thing off officeholders and they were supposed to come back, he believes the deadline was tomorrow, with their recommendations. The first time the officeholders went through this, we basically in the finance meeting ignored their responses. It wasn't discussed. But, what about this latest request from them to come back. He asked if they had received any of those, in that would indicate to the board what kind of savings the officeholders feel they can provide.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said several officeholders reached out to him and none of them seemed to really understand what the board was asking. They felt it was the board's job, not theirs. He was sure it could be looked at a couple different ways. With that being said, he put this together. He thought it was fair. He doesn't think it is enough quite frankly, but he thought it was a good start. If nothing else, it offsets the county's deficit from last year.

Mr. Gresham: Mr. Gresham said his understanding is that this is merely recommendation to the various departments. He asked if that is correct.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said that is correct. They cannot make an officeholder do anything, since the board has already passed their budget. The only they can do is amend their budget, which would take 14 votes, which Mr. Gresham know as well as Mr. Greenfield himself does, that is probably impossible to get. He is asking the officeholders to work with the board. He said that is a fair and reasonable thing to do. With that being said, he knows it is not a lot but as chairman he knows his salary is set every ten years, was the information Mr. Baggett gave him, so from here on out he is going to waive his salary until this COVID thing is over. He knows it is not a lot, but it is a gesture that he felt needed to be made.

Dr. Zimmerman: Dr. Zimmerman said she was glad that he had mentioned that there is nothing coming out of the Finance Committee meetings. She said she put forward a plan a month ago. She has gotten good reaction from that from people who have read it such as officeholders, employees and other board members. So she just wanted the board to be aware that as he mentioned anyone can put together a resolution for discussion of a plan. If they vote this down tonight it is her intention to develop her plan into a resolution that hopefully they can discuss at the next Finance Committee meeting. She thinks her plan gives them a way to be responsive to a situation they can't predict very far ahead on what things are going to look like. She feels her plan takes that into account a little bit better than just sort of blanket suggestions. Dr. Zimmerman just wanted the board to be aware of that before they vote on this particular resolution.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said he looks forward to her resolution. Quite frankly, maybe hers and his could both pass together. He feels it is probably going to take more than that even.

Dr. Zimmerman: Dr. Zimmerman said her plan is that if the goal has to move then they will take bigger steps. She said she didn't want to discuss that now; they can discuss that later.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith said in this resolution he would agree with all 3 of the points. It was pointed out just a few moments ago that Point 1 is not mandatory upon any office or officeholder which he understands that. He would hope that the officeholders would at least come forward with something. But, if this is a step, they need to look at ways to reduce the budget not increase it. They took a step with that earlier tonight. Mr. Smith said they are hearing a lot about this current time they are in, and this current time isn't the main thing; it is the only thing. They have to look because this thing isn't going to end at the end of this fiscal year. They are going to feel this for many years down the road.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said he would echo Mr. Smith's sentiments. He thinks one thing the county board, county employees, and everyone need to be honest with each other about is that our costs continue to go up. Whether it's through the pension, whether it's through insurance, whether it's through union contracts, through wages, our costs continue to rise. But, the county's revenues continue to stay flat. Unless they find another revenue source, which he is not aware of, they can kick this can down the road all they want; but at the end of the day those are the facts. Sooner or later they have got to address it. It is only fair that they are honest with the employees, with the officeholders, and with themselves that that is just the way it is. The time has come for them to start addressing this problem. It is not going to be easy, but it needs to be done.

Mrs. Kraft: Mrs. Kraft said item #1 (on the resolution) is a recommendation. Item #2 states there should be a hiring freeze. She asked if that is not just a recommendation, but would actually be done. Mr. Greenfield stated they are all 3 recommendations. Mrs. Kraft said so noted. She really did have an issue with item #3. She didn't think the officeholder's need to go to Carol with an expense that exceeds \$500.00. That is just her opinion.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said through finance they have sat through meetings throwing out options as Dr. Zimmerman spoke of, and as the officeholder's hold all of the power in their department, if they were going to do something you would think they would have done something by now. He said that was all he had to say.

Mr. Gresham: Mr. Gresham said he could not hear a word of what Mr. Jackson said.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said he simply stated that as the officeholders hold the key to their departments, if they haven't cut anything by now, he couldn't imagine that they would until it gets dire.

Mr. Gresham: Mr. Gresham said if Mr. Greenfield would repeat what Mr. Jackson said it would be helpful.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said what Mr. Jackson basically said was that he had not heard anything or gotten any positive response from the officeholders to move or act on this. Mr. Greenfield asked Mr. Jackson if that was correct and he affirmed that it was.

Mrs. Kraft: Mrs. Kraft said she had to speak up and if she was divulging a confidence she apologized. She knows that one officeholder has specifically come up with a package and made an offer for early retirement. Mrs. Kraft said she believes they are in the process of working on that for two of her highest paid employees. She knows the officeholders are working on ideas. She has talked to several. So, to defend them just a little bit.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said that helps. He said nothing had come through finance.

Mrs. Cox: Mrs. Cox said she has been down this road 20 years back to when the county was \$2,800,000 in debt. They went against wanting furloughs and layoffs. They have been instructed by the State's Attorney, and she had an e-mail, where they cannot furlough or lay-off employees. The only authority the board has is on the officeholder's budget and that is what they will have to do to save money is amend their budget. The board will have to go in and decrease the officeholder's budgets. Nobody is going to come forward and say, "oh I can furlough these people", they are not going to do it. She is with Mr. Jackson, if they could have, they would have already done it. They know how severe the money is for the county. They know where the General Fund is at. She said to her they are putting a resolution in there that means nothing to them; they are not going to do anything. If they can't afford to do it, they can't do it. Mrs. Cox feels the board's part is to amend. By law, that is all the board can do, amend their budget.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said while she didn't disagree that the only true authority they have is the finances, she thinks the purpose of this resolution is to encourage the officeholders to take it more seriously, where the county is headed. She thinks it is unfair to say that none of them will step up to the plate. She thinks that is very unfair. Mrs. Little feels this resolution needs to be passed. It's a good indication that the board wants the officeholder to take steps on their own and if it comes down to it and the board has to go the other route then they will. She thinks this resolution needs to pass. It needs to show that the board is serious about the times ahead.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson said she was sitting there and she thought they might say she was in her feelings, which means she is a little upset. The chairman had said that this was his idea to do. It sounds like he has no faith in the Finance Committee and no faith in the officeholders. That he felt like he had to take matters into his own hands. She

totally disagrees with that. That is how it came across to her. She may be misinterpreting that. Also, the money that he spoke about in the beginning, she asked if that included the working cash fund money that the board talked about tonight.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said no.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson asked how much that amount was.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said \$318,000.00.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson also asked about sales tax and property taxes. She feels like they are trying to back people into a corner and she thinks it's totally unfair. She thinks it unfair of the chairman to take that position, but that is just her opinion.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver thinks this resolution should appropriately have come from a committee recommendation. He thinks it would have more teeth toward the officeholders if it had come from a committee of the board rather than the board chairman.

#### **QUESTION WAS CALLED FOR**

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said the question has been called. It's been moved and seconded. Generally, there would be discussion until there is no need for discussion. Under *Roberts Rules of Order*, once there are no further comments or questions the vote would be called pursuant to the second. Mr. Baggett asked if there were any other questions or comments. A board member on the phone (they did not identify themselves) asked for a repeat of what the vote would be for. Mr. Baggett said this would be a vote on the resolution.

#### **ROLL CALL.**

Ayes: Brown, Greenfield, Gresham, Hogan, Jackson, Little, Mattingley, Smith

Nays: Bird, Cox, Dawson, Drobisch, Holman, Joy, Kraft, Oliver, Rood, Taylor, Zimmerman

**AYES = 8**

**NAYS = 11**

#### **MOTION FAILED.**

#### **COMMENT:**

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said he would like to explore the options to open the county up, such as Shelby has and Madison County. He just wants to understand the ramifications from Mr. Baggett's perspective.

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said he is vaguely familiar with what he has read in the press regarding Shelby County passing a resolution or adopting a resolution to reopen the county. Without having read the resolution and basing his opinion on the state of the law with respect to the power of county boards, he could opine that the county board does not have the authority to “reopen” the county. The county board did not close Macon County. It never passed a resolution or an ordinance of any kind ordering businesses to be closed. That was done by executive order of the governor and is done pursuant to state law. The county board does not have authority to supersede or contravene an order of the state. So, they can’t reopen what they didn’t close to begin with and they don’t have the power overrule the governor. Until the Supreme Court or some court of binding jurisdiction states that the governor overstepped his authority then the county is bound by the law as it stands. The governor’s executive order as of this moment has the force of law.

Mr. Hogan: Mr. Hogan said they don’t have the authority to reopen, but they do have the authority to present and pass a resolution stating the county board’s opinion. He asked if that is correct.

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said that is absolutely true. The county board always has the ability and authority to pass a resolution expressing the sense of the county board. So, if it is the desire of the county board to adopt such a resolution, it would not have the force of law. It would not have any impact on the lives of Macon County citizens or the conduct of businesses within the jurisdiction of Macon County; but it would of course be an expression of the will of the county board. As far as a resolution, it is not on the agenda tonight, so no such resolution can be adopted at tonight’s meeting, but this discussion is entirely appropriate.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith said he didn’t know exactly, and he didn’t think any of them know exactly how long they will be in this situation. Hopefully it will be ending sooner than later. He asked if there had been any investigation into holding these meetings in a different manner. Some people can’t hear and it sounds like they are in a cellar. There are just a lot of difficulties and that is no one’s fault. He asked if there has been any investigation to check about a better way. He didn’t know if there is a better way that they could meet. He asked if they are going to meet in-person any time soon.

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said he wouldn’t respond to whether other alternatives have been looked into. He didn’t have any knowledge of that himself. With respect to what alternatives the county board may have with respect to physical meetings, he could tell them that the governor’s order does still limit at this time and through the end of this month, group meetings to 10 or fewer. So, the board is larger than 10 people so it cannot meet physically pursuant to that order. He does not know what is going to happen at the end of this month. He doesn’t think anybody does just yet. As far as whether there are alternatives, there may be. But, those alternatives do not include at this time or for the next few weeks, meeting physically all in the same place.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith said that could change after the first of June.

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said they will know once they reach that line in the sand what the governor's next order will be or whether they move into a different phase and whether that restriction is amended or eliminated, but until that happens they don't know.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said he had one other thing. The governor's office came out with a \$25,000,000 grant the other day. The county still does not have all of the funding yet for Reas Bridge Road. So, they have applied for that grant. They have applied for \$5,000,000. The city signed off on it as well for us, saying that Reas Bridge Road is their number one priority as well. The county is still \$7,000,000 or \$8,000,000 short of having the money to put Reas Bridge up for letting. They are hoping through Senator Manar and Senator Rose, our two state legislatures, they will come up with some money somehow. Until we receive it, Reas Bridge is going to be on hold for a while. Hopefully, they can get the money raised this year and have letting, and get construction started on it right away.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to adjourn until June 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.