

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
MACON COUNTY BOARD**

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

**Kevin Greenfield
Chairman**

**Josh Tanner
Clerk**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Roll Call showed the following members present at the meeting: Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Dawson, Mr. Greenfield, Mr. Gresham, Mr. Holman, Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Little, Ms. Rood, Mr. Smith. The following members were present via tele-presence: Ms. Buckner, Mr. Hogan, Mrs. Taylor, Dr. Zimmerman.

Mr. Smith led the members in Prayer.

All led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield reminded the board that pursuant to section 7(e)(6) as recently amended by P.A. 101-640, all votes conducted during this meeting must be conducted as a roll call vote.

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 13, 2020 MEETING

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2020 meeting.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Buckner, Cox, Dawson, Greenfield, Gresham, Hogan, Holman, Jackson, Kraft, Little, Rood, Smith, Taylor, Zimmerman

Nays: (None)

AYES = 14

NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

There were no zonings/subdivisions presented at the meeting.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

A Public Notice from the Illinois EPA regarding proposed renewal of the Clean Air Act Permit Program Permit Fuyao Glass Illinois, Inc. in Decatur.

REPORTS

Sheriff's Report – August 2020

Treasurer Fund Reports – July & August 2020
Collector’s Reports – July & August 2020
Public Defender’s Report – August 2020
Auditor’s Report – August 2020

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve the Correspondence and Reports and that they be placed on filed.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Buckner, Cox, Dawson, Greenfield, Gresham, Hogan, Holman, Jackson, Kraft, Little, Rood, Smith, Taylor, Zimmerman

Nays: (None)

AYES = 14

NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

1. CLAIMS

MOTION

Mrs. Cox moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve the claims.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Buckner, Cox, Dawson, Greenfield, Gresham, Hogan, Holman, Jackson, Kraft, Little, Rood, Smith, Taylor, Zimmerman

Nays: (None)

AYES = 14

NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMENT:

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said before they moved on to item #10 and #11 on the agenda he wanted to note for the board that pursuant to the rules of the Macon County Board as well as *Roberts Rules of Order*, if the board wishes to it may combine all of the appointments along with the agenda item under the Consent Calendar and vote on those as a group. They could take care of four different votes during one roll call, if that is the desire of the board. The board members were in agreement with that.

C. APPOINTMENTS

2. Resolution G-5179-09-20 – Reappointment to the Decatur Public Building Commission Board of Commissioners

Mark Cheviron, 4010 S. Lake Ct., Decatur, IL 62521
Term Expires: October 31, 2025

Resolution G-5180-09-20 – Appointment to the Macon County Health Board

Susan Krows, 2629 S. Pine Meadow Ct., Decatur, IL 62521
Term Expires: May 31, 2023

Resolution G-5181-09-20 – Appointment to the Macon County Regional Planning Commission

Jeremy Buening, 5 N. Country Club Rd., Decatur, IL 62521
Term Expires: December 31, 2022

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

Resolution G-5182-09-20 – To execute deed to convey property on which taxes were delinquent

MOTION

Mr. Greenfield moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Appointment Resolutions G-5179-09-20, G-5180-09-20, G-5181-09-20 and Consent Calendar Resolution G-5182-09-20.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Buckner, Cox, Dawson, Greenfield, Gresham, Hogan, Holman, Jackson, Kraft, Little, Rood, Smith, Taylor, Zimmerman

Nays: (None)

AYES = 14
NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

3. Mrs. Kraft presented Resolution G-5183-09-20 which is authorizing disposal of surplus property by the State's Attorney's Office.

MOTION

Mrs. Kraft moved, seconded by Mr. Holman to approve Resolution G-5183-09-20.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Buckner, Cox, Dawson, Greenfield, Gresham, Hogan, Holman, Jackson, Kraft, Little, Rood, Smith, Taylor, Zimmerman

Nays: (None)

AYES: 14
NAYS: 0

MOTION CARRIED.

4. Mrs. Kraft presented Resolution G-5184-09-20 which is approving intergovernmental agreement for Macon County Sheriff's Police Services for the Village of Long Creek, Illinois.

MOTION

Mrs. Kraft moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve Resolution G-5184-09-20.

QUESTION:

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith said in the intergovernmental agreement itself it said the sheriff will provide all the paperwork and forms, with the exception of traffic citation booklets. He asked if that is the actual ticket or...

Mrs. Kraft: Mrs. Kraft said she thinks it is the supplies, but maybe she doesn't know.

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said the citation would be supplied by the village. The report paperwork and that kind of thing generally those are typed into a computer system and

not printed out until needed by either the State's Attorney's office or the Sheriff's office. This intergovernmental agreement would require that village pay for the statutory citation books that officers use to write citations like speeding tickets.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Buckner, Cox, Dawson, Greenfield, Gresham, Hogan, Holman, Jackson, Kraft, Little, Rood, Smith, Taylor, Zimmerman

Nays: (None)

AYES = 14
NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

5. Mrs. Kraft presented Resolution G-5185-09-20 which is approving renewal and revision of license agreement with Macon County Conservation District for firearms range land.

MOTION

Mrs. Kraft moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution G-5185-09-20.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Buckner, Cox, Dawson, Greenfield, Gresham, Hogan, Holman, Jackson, Kraft, Little, Rood, Smith, Taylor, Zimmerman

Nays: (None)

AYES = 14
NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

The EEHW Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

OPERATIONS AND PERSONAL COMMITTEE

6. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5186-09-20 which is amending the County's Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy.

MOTION

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-5186-09-20.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Buckner, Cox, Dawson, Greenfield, Gresham, Hogan, Holman, Jackson, Kraft, Little, Rood, Smith, Taylor, Zimmerman

Nays: (None)

AYES = 14

NAYS = 0

Mr. Noland stated he was present at the meeting at that point and showed his vote as Aye for Resolution G-5186-09-20.

NEW ROLL CALL TOTAL.

AYES = 15

NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

7. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5187-09-20 which is approving appropriation of funds for Macon County Auditor's office accounting system upgrade.

MOTION

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-5187-09-20.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Buckner, Cox, Dawson, Greenfield, Gresham, Hogan, Holman, Jackson, Kraft, Little, Noland, Rood, Smith, Taylor, Zimmerman

Nays: (None)

AYES = 15

NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

8. Mrs. Little presented Resolution G-5188-09-20 which is approving a budget amendment for Workforce Investment Solutions FY'20 budget. – Community Foundation.

MOTION

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-5188-09-20.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Buckner, Cox, Dawson, Greenfield, Gresham, Hogan, Holman, Jackson, Kraft, Little, Noland, Rood, Smith, Taylor, Zimmerman

AYES = 15

NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

The Legislative Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson wanted to discuss the findings of the treasurer's office and the official report that was released. He wanted to open the floor up for general discussion. He asked if anyone had any concerns.

Mrs. Cox: Mrs. Cox said she read in the minutes that Ed was supposed to bring back a plan of action by the 21st.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said Ed is supposed to give them a plan of action for all the action items of the findings by the 21st which will be discussed on the 28th finance meeting.

Mrs. Cox: Mrs. Cox said if the board is not happy with the plan of action what kind of plan does the board have going forward. What can they do going forward?

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said that is why they are here.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson said then Ed is going to report to the Finance Committee and they are going to? She said if they don't listen to the Finance meeting or don't know what as the board...

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said as the board they will have to provide oversight for either assigning the Finance Committee as an oversight committee and/or let the chairman pick

an oversight committee to make those recommendations to the full board. He asked Mr. Baggett if that was correct.

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said Mr. Jackson was relating what he had explained to him after the Finance Committee meeting the other night. Mr. Baggett said he was asked to look into a situation under the county's code where the county board exercises pretty direct authority over the office of the treasurer. Generally, as they all know elected officials have what is called internal control power and the treasurer is no different. He alone has internal control authority over the operations of his office on a day to day basis. That being said, because of the unique importance of the office of treasurer, with respect to county finances and the fact that the county board is ultimately responsible for the finances of the county, the county's code does require an elected treasurer to answer any questions given to him by the county board. Refusing to answer those questions constitutes a basis to remove him from office by an action of the county board. Additionally, refusing to provide the county board with any requested information concerning the accounts maintained by the treasurer's office is also a basis for removal of the elected treasurer. There are two other provisions. One is if the treasurer is in default and is in arrears with the county. He didn't believe that is in line with anything that has been going on so he doesn't focus too much on that. The last is that if the county board were to find that the treasurer is guilty of other misconduct in office. Mr. Baggett thinks that with respect to what Mr. Jackson was just speaking of, historically when county boards have exerted this authority over a county treasurer specifically in those instances where they have voted to remove a county treasurer for some type of nonfeasance or malfeasance in office, it has been pursuant to this statute. In the cases where it has happened they have historically either appointed an investigative committee basically a special committee to look into whatever issues they might have had with their treasurer, or they have as a county an entire county board set as a committee to hear all of the evidence and make findings. Mr. Baggett wanted to throw out there, but did not want to infer or imply that this is what the county board or finance committee is ultimately seeking. It is simply something that has to be examined and explained given the context of everything that is happening. He said that what Mr. Jackson is indicating, and in answer to Mrs. Dawson's question, is that it does not have to be the finance committee doing the investigation and making the findings and reporting back to the board. It is really up to the board how they think the investigation should proceed, if they think the investigation should proceed. The board can decide if they want to appoint the finance committee to be the fact finding body or if they want to appoint a different special committee, a newly constituted committee or if they want the entire county board to meet as a committee to conduct this type of inquiry. That is the board's discretion as to how they want to proceed, if they want to proceed.

Mrs. Cox: Mrs. Cox asked if the finance committee wants to take this on or are they wanting a special committee.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said it is up to the board. He would put both motions out, in the absence of one not being used they would get the other or neither.

Mrs. Cox: Mrs. Cox said she thought they should have a special committee with 3 Democrats and 3 Republicans.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield asked if it was the will of the board to move forward and look into this problem.

Mrs. Kraft: Mrs. Kraft said not at this time.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said they had one no and one yes.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson asked them to define problem.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson asked Mrs. Dawson if she had read the report.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson asked if he meant the report from May, Cocagne & King. Mr. Jackson said yes. She told him yes that she had read it.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson asked her if she saw no issues within the report.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson said she saw issues four years ago but they as a body did nothing.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said shame on us then.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson said yes exactly.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said with that being said do they think they should take steps now or forego again.

Mrs. Kraft: Mrs. Kraft said they have asked the treasurer to come up with a written plan of action addressing all those recommendations from May, Cocagne & King, and she felt they should give him time to do that and review it on the 28th as they promised they would.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said with that being said, that would be oversight with the finance committee.

Mrs. Kraft: Mrs. Kraft said yes and then they could send it on at that time. She didn't think they should renege on what they asked him to do.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said he didn't want to say finance initially thinking it would stay with the finance committee. He wanted to open it up.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield asked if anyone else had any comments or suggestions.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said in the absence of nothing he would make a motion to allow the finance committee to act as an oversight committee on behalf of the Macon County Board to insure the treasurer's office findings are corrected per the MCK report.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson asked if that is what they said.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said that is what Deb said.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson said she thought they were waiting on the treasurer to report back to us.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said they will but it is still under finance oversight as stated now with the findings on the 21st and discussion on the 28th at finance committee.

MOTION

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mr. Gresham to allow the finance committee to act as an oversight committee on behalf of the Macon County Board to insure the treasurer's office findings are corrected per the MCK report with findings presented on September 21st and discussed by the finance committee on September 28th.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Buckner, Cox, Greenfield, Gresham, Hogan, Holman, Jackson, Kraft, Noland, Rood, Smith, Taylor, Zimmerman

Nays: (None)

Present: Dawson

AYES = 13

NAYS = 0

PRESENT = 1

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

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said they do have several negotiations coming up in the near future. He said they have the deputies, correctional officers, command officers, highway and probation.

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said he wanted to inform the board it was his understanding, and they have not received formal notice, but they do anticipate receiving it any day that

the administrative staff in the State's Attorney's office has elected to form a union. So, at some point in the coming weeks they will begin the negotiation process for an initial contract for them.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield asked how many that would involve.

Mr. Baggett: Mr. Baggett said it is 14 employees.

CITIZENS' REMARKS

Karl Coleman: Mr. Coleman lives at 244 N. Summit Ave. He wanted to thank the board for taking up the investigation of what is currently going on with the finances in Macon County. He said his grandmother has at times after her grandfather passed struggled to pay her property taxes and things of that nature. So, he would like to know under good faith that those finances are being duly placed where they need to be and doing it in a legal fashion. He commended and appreciated the board for doing their actions.

OFFICEHOLDERS' REMARKS

Mr. Tanner: Mr. Tanner said Dr. Zimmerman asked him to give an update on the election and answer any questions, which is similar to what he has been doing at the O&P committee meetings. Early Voting begins September 24th and that is the same day the vote by mail ballots will be mailed out. They anticipate voters receiving those over the weekend. He is encouraging voters to, as soon as they get their ballot and have made their decisions on who they want to vote for, return it promptly. That is just to insure that the clerk's office receives it on time. Voters have up until 5 days before the election to request a vote by mail ballot. The United States Post Office has advised them that voters should request a ballot two weeks prior to Election Day and that it should be returned no later than one week prior to Election Day.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson said there may not be a lot of faith in them.

Mr. Tanner: Mr. Tanner said that came directly from the US Post Office so he was just reiterating what they were told. He said if a voter is in any way, shape or form concerned about their ballot being received through the postal service, they can hand deliver it to the county clerk's office and then obviously they wouldn't have to worry about the mail. He suggested that if they get down to within a week they should hand deliver it, although they are still well within their rights to put it into the post office's hands. The county clerk will count any ballot that is postmarked Election Day and they have up to two weeks after Election Day to receive those. After the two weeks no ballots will be counted even if they were postmarked on Election Day. There will still be Election Day voting in the polling places. They did close two polling places, one in Niantic and also the Whitmore/Oreana Community Center. That was because of a lack of judges, which is still a problem; although he was happy to report the clerk's office has received a trickle of new election judges every day. Hopefully that will continue and they will be able to open all of the polling places on Election Day. They are required to have 216 election judges

to operate all of the polling places legally. They will not function very well with that few on a presidential election, but nonetheless they will be open. Voters that have questions can call the county clerk's office at 424-1333. They are happy to answer any questions. It is much better to ask the question ahead of time than not vote. If someone is not registered to vote Mr. Tanner suggested they do it now. Although, someone can register to vote and vote all the way up through Election Day. It is just the voter's experience will not be very quick if they wait till Election Day to register and vote. They will still get to vote. It just will take longer.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson asked if there is any consideration for boxes.

Mr. Tanner: Mr. Tanner said he has gotten that question a lot. They can drop off their ballot here in the County Building. He said when the line starts to get long they will have two election judges, one Democrat and one Republican manning a box in the hallway so they don't have to wait through the line. If that still becomes not enough they may be able to move it out to the overhang, so they would be able to take those as people drive up.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson asked if it was not an option to have a drive-up box anywhere else.

Mr. Tanner: Mr. Tanner said it is an option to have an unattended box. There are several reasons he has elected not to do that. Cost is one. Security is another. People do like to do malicious things to them. The most important reason and the third reason is that he is afraid voters who are unused to vote by mail will drop their ballot only into the election box. If they drop their ballot only there is no way of identifying who dropped that ballot in there and that ballot will not be counted. If the voter is dropping it off at the office, they still have to complete the envelopes and the signature as though they are applying to vote. There are a lot of people who are not used to vote by mail. The people who do vote by mail consistently vote by mail. They are either out of town or unable to leave their home, or it is not easy for them to leave their home. They are familiar with the process and will vote correctly. The County Clerk's office has over 8,500 requests for vote by mail ballots. In the last 2018 election there were 3,000, so that is a lot of new vote by mail voters. He is concerned that people will, if it is an unattended box, drop the ballot only in there. They cannot do that. All of the paperwork must be completed when it is dropped into the box.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson said there is a lot of concerns this year. She thinks a lot have to do, some have to do, with COVID. But, she thinks not providing that as an option is doing a disservice to the people who may want to, just like mailing out absentee ballots is an option they are doing. She just read where Springfield, Champaign and Bloomington are doing it. They are secure boxes and there is some reimbursement by the feds. Mrs. Dawson asked that they look into it. She understands, but there is always going to be somebody that is not going to follow the rules and not going to do it the way they should but that is their choice. She said they are having a recount right now because

people did not do it the way they should. Mrs. Dawson said she didn't want it on her because they didn't have or they couldn't have it available to people.

Mr. Gresham: Mr. Gresham said with the confusion of state by state, he asked if Illinois is allowed to tally ballots before Election Day from the mail-ins.

Mr. Tanner: Mr. Tanner said no. They cannot count the ballots before Election Day. The way they operate in Macon County is that vote by mail ballots have to be processed every two days. Two election judges, one Democrat and one Republican will review the vote by mail ballot. They will feed it into the tabulator just like it is done for early voting. But, that tabulator does not count any of the ballots until after 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Mr. Gresham: Mr. Gresham said the ballots will be in there though, ahead of the...

Mr. Tanner: Mr. Tanner said yes. They will be in the machine. They will be ready to be counted, but they won't actually be tabulated until after 7:00 p.m. when the poles close. He asked if there were any other questions about voting or vote by mail. He said obviously it is very new this year for a lot of people. There is a lot of information out there and some of it is good and some of it is not. Please contact the county clerk's office if there are questions. Don't necessarily trust everything that is on Facebook. Mr. Tanner said his office is happy to take all of the phone calls and answer any questions they might have.

Karl Coleman: Mr. Coleman lives at 244 N. Summit Ave. He appreciated Mrs. Dawson bringing that up because he thought that was an issue they could address here in Macon County. He said the Sangamon County Board Election Committee did vote within the last two days to access the funds for two steel boxes. There will be two locations, one outside the county building and one outside the juvenile center. As she said there are some funds being sent out from the federal government to reimburse local governments that are doing that. It is secure and is video monitored. So, he felt that was something they could easily approach here as a county as well. It would be necessary for one of these committees to bring it up as an ordinance and pass that.

There was no old business presented at the meeting.

There was no new business presented at the meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to adjourn until October 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37.