

**MACON COUNTY BOARD  
OPERATIONS & PERSONNEL  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Macon County Office Building  
141 S. Main St. – Room 514  
Decatur, IL 62523**

**February 20, 2024,**

**5:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Debra Kraft  
Jeff Entler  
Edward Yoder

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Rocki Wilkerson, Workforce Investment  
Carol Reed, Auditor  
Tamara Wilcox, County Administrator  
Mary Eaton, Recorder  
Crystal Hugger, County Board Office

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Kristen Lerner  
Karl Coleman

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting 11/13/23 made by Mr. Entler, seconded by Mr. Yoder. Motion carried 3 -0.

**APPROVAL OF PAYROLL**

Motion to approve made by Mr. Yoder, seconded by Mr. Entler. Motion carried 3-0.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

Motion to approve made by Chair Kraft, seconded by Mr. Yoder. Motion carried 3-0.

**REPORTS**

***Auditor's Office-***

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Two-Year Agreement with IPMG for Worker's Compensation Third-Party Administration Services***

Ms. Reed reported that she only had one resolution tonight and hopes that it is the last insurance resolution because insurance funds are about out of money until taxes come in. We are self-insured for worker's comp and we pay all our claims. We have insurance above that but the third-party administrator administers the claims. This is the agreement we have had IPMG is the name of the third-party administrator and we have had them for probably fifteen years and we do a new contract with them every other year. This is a two-year agreement and the base price is still the same we pay 1,155 dollars a month and then for each claim that comes in if there is a 750-

dollar charge there was and now it is going to be eleven hundred so that has gone up a little bit. We do not have that many claims to make a big difference.

Chair Kraft said do we have any large ones right now.

Ms. Reed replied I don't think we have any large ones right now. We have a few that are outstanding and ongoing but at this point the last couple of years we have been good. We have had no more than probably twenty to thirty at the most.

Chair Kraft...which is good.

**Mr. Entler made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Yoder. Motion carried 3-0.**

Chair Kraft...I believe Mr. Entler needs to step out but we do not have anything else to vote on. (Mr. Entler left at 5:31).

**County Clerk –**

Chair Kraft said I have Josh Tanner's report in writing. He said that there have been 210 early voters so far and 113 mail ballots cast. The General Primary Election is March 19<sup>th</sup> he has provided handouts for the hours. The Supervisor of Assessments has informed us that they will complete their work on time as usual this year so we will be extending taxes after the election. We will complete our work and hand it off to the Treasurer in the first half of April. The Public Building Commission has put the early voting center renovations out for bid and the bids will be opened on February 28<sup>th</sup>. We are short Election Judges as usual and if you know someone who would be interested please call them ASAP. That is important we keep combining polling centers and I have been told that there is a prediction that within ten years, it will be all vote by mail.

**County Board –**

Ms. Wilcox reported that she has been working a lot on the broadband project. We had the press conference last week where the Benton Institute was here and we had a luncheon. Mr. Yoder gave a presentation from CASE IH, Jenner Ag about how their tractors use the internet. We got to take a tour of the new Ag building and it is beautiful. We had a good media turnout and coverage. Everybody that is on our team has pushed this survey out and we are just right under three hundred surveys back and we want to get to five. We might do a targeting in areas where we know they don't have good internet.

Chair Kraft said in LLPC that this morning we gave surveys to the ADM and the Primient and everyone in attendance and DMH was there.

Mr. Yoder said I have been sending out the word to all the Township and village meetings that I have attended.

Mr. Yoder... where are we at with the phone contract?

Ms. Wilcox...we have a phone contract but we don't have phones.

Chair Kraft... I was going to say I thought we had contracts but...

Ms. Wilcox...we paid fifty percent down to Beck Tech and we have been having monthly meetings with all of IT Beck Tech is invited to that meeting and we are pushing them hard to stay on some deadlines. We have updated all of our information for them to program the phones and they are supposed to be going and meeting with all of the officeholders to talk to them about how they want their phones to ring or be answered roll or voicemail and I don't think that has been done and that is what they are supposed to be doing. The infrastructure for this building the fiber is

run and they are working on switches and getting a second internet provider so we have redundancy. They are still working on that but I think now we are going to start in the Treasurer's Office with the phones we were going to start with the County Clerks but we are too close to the election.

Mr. Yoder...are there any clauses in the contract for penalties if they are delayed on schedule?

Ms. Wilcox...I don't believe there is but I was going to call the people that I know but I heard that he was ill so I didn't want to call him.

Chair Kraft...yes, because we signed that contract.

Ms. Wilcox...a long time ago, starting working on this phone stuff when I started over a year and a half ago. Now I feel like this broadband project is going to be five years or seven years.

Chair Kraft...they warned us. If that is the case it will be ten.

Mr. Yoder...I am glad to see Mr. Tanner put the comment in there about the building I was going to ask him about that.

Chair Kraft...he told me last fall it was not going to be ready for the primary.

Ms. Wilcox...but we need it ready for the general.

### ***Recorder –***

Ms. Eaton reported that she has three months of reports if anybody has any questions. I wanted to give you an update on what is going on in my office. We have one more phase to the remodel and if anybody ever gets the chance come by and take a peek it is very nice they have done a wonderful job and building commission they have been working hard. They always do a good job anyway. On my new software I talked to the gentlemen a week before last and they were talking about how we should be live by April 1<sup>st</sup> so it is all the other stuff we have to do in between there. The gentleman comes in tomorrow our program manager.

Chair Kraft said that is timely which is good.

Ms. Eaton...ready to get our server hooked up to the County server and do all that. Jim Blackwell is another one who has been working hard.

Ms. Wilcox...you don't have your new computers yet do you? They have to wait and do all that at the same time with the servers.

Ms. Eaton...he is going to get them in and set them up and have them ready.

### ***Workforce Investments –***

Ms. Wilkerson reported that they had an exciting meeting with Congresswomen Nikki Budzinski and the whole point of it was to represent IWP Illinois Workforce Partners it is a State organization and we were all tasked to reach out to Legislator to see if we could educate them on reauthorization and I was able to invite her to come. I was hoping that the president of the organization would come down and then when they said that the only time they could meet was on Monday which was a holiday. It was a few of us but it ended up being well-intended in terms of our community who we had here. Kevin Greenfield was able to come and that was good Nikki appreciated having the County Board Chair there that was good and I think it gave him a chance to talk to her as well. We got some kind of bad news because she said probably because it is an election year they will continue to push reauthorization back and at the end of the meeting we talked about our challenges and our concerns and success stories as well. I asked her what could

do to help educate your colleagues, and constituents about this issue because we have a lot to lose if it does not get reauthorized she said that she sends out a monthly update to her colleagues and that if I send her the appropriate information she would be more than happy to get it out. I thanked her and I am going to do it. When you don't have Federal marketing money we are not supposed to do that anyway I thought it was a nice way for her to send the message out. In all, it was well tended and it was good she got a lot of press as well too.

On February 8<sup>th</sup> we hosted a hiring event with Caterpillar and we had 162 sign in that day 60 were interviewed and 34 were offered jobs that day and the person that I work with said that a lot of the people that showed up were rehired. You have to wait so much time before you can reapply and I thought that was interesting but they brought a staff of seven people and they just interviewed and it was a good day. It was nice to see so many people standing in line wanting a job. This week Thursday is Parent University and Workforce Investment Solutions will be at MacArthur working with whatever parents or students show up which I think will be a good thing we submitted a grant today Crystal helped me get a letter of support. It is a big grant and I hope we hear something on that before the end of the month. We are going after it but we will see what happens.

**Citizen's Remarks** - *No citizens were present.*

**New Business** – *None*

**CLOSED SESSION** - *None needed*

**NEXT MEETING:** March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 5:45 by Chair Kraft.

*Minutes submitted by Crystal Hugger, Macon County Board*