

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

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

**November 15, 2021**

**5:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Debra Kraft, Chair  
Bill Oliver  
Pat Dawson  
Kristen Larner  
Shad Edwards

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Carol Reed, Auditor  
Mary Eaton, Recorder  
Josh Tanner, County Clerk  
Rocki Wilkerson, Workforce  
  
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dave Drobisch  
Grant Noland

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kraft at the Macon County Office Building.

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting 10/25/2021 made by Mr. Oliver, seconded by Ms. Larner, and the motion carried 4-0 with Mr. Edwards abstaining from the vote.

**APPROVAL OF PAYROLL AND CLAIMS**

Motion to approve payroll made by Ms. Larner, seconded by Ms. Dawson; the motion carried 5-0.

Motion to approve the claims made by Ms. Larner, seconded by Mr. Edwards; the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Edwards asked about a Workforce invoice. Ms. Wilkerson explained that the invoice is for SISTAS, an organization similar to the Boys & Girls Club. They go by Progressive Minds and they have a Youth Contract from WIOA like the ones with the Boys & Girls Club & Clinton. They are contracts for out of school youth. They are a contractor. Ms. Wilkerson said she did not know exactly how many kids go to this, but when Workforce runs programs, they recruit from them.

## **REPORTS**

### ***Auditor's Office***

Ms. Reed had no report

### ***County Board – No report***

### ***County Clerk –***

### ***Macon County Board Resolution Changing and Establishing Precincts and Voting Districts In and For Macon County, Illinois***

Mr. Tanner explained that SB536 was passed in the Veto Session. That changed the requirement for precincts from 800 to 1200. The Governor signed that this evening. That is now law. Mr. Tanner said he had identified six other precincts that currently vote in the same polling place that would meet that requirement. This plan would consolidate them. He distributed maps and explained the proposal would combine Long Creek 4 & 5 where they already vote in the same place; Decatur 13 & 16 already vote in the same place; Decatur 30 & 19 already vote in the same place. This will not affect the voters unless they happen to know what precinct they live in, which most people do not. They will still show up at the same polling place. Nothing will really change for them. Ms. Kraft asked if there will be new numbers. Mr. Tanner confirmed that they would be renumbered so there will be no gaps. With three more precincts being eliminated, and two being in Decatur, #28 will be the highest number. Mr. Tanner explained that there are multiple reasons for combining precincts; one is that less election judges will be needed during election time. There can be up to 5. Some elections only require 3. An appropriate number is sent, but if you don't have to have them legally, it makes it a little easier. So, there is a little bit of a savings there. Also, since the people are already voting at the same polling place when they go in, they either need to know what precinct they vote in or they have to be looked up. This would eliminate one less precinct to have to look in for them. Ms. Kraft asked if new voter ID cards have to be sent out in December. Mr. Tanner said yes. Normally, those would have already have been done, but because of the delay with the maps, Mr. Tanner said he really wants to send them in December so people would know what petitions they can sign in January. There is a lot of work to do between now and then to move all of the voters into the right voters districts, both congressionally, State Rep & County Board.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Lerner and the motion carried 5-0.

### ***Macon County Board Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Election Voting Equipment with ARPA Funds***

Mr. Tanner explained that the Board had passed a plan to spend some of the ARPA money. Election equipment is designated as critical infrastructure. It is one of the things that we now can spend the American Rescue Plan Act funds on. Currently, we have 60 touch screen voting machines. Those were purchased to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act so that

people with disabilities can vote independently. The machines that we have now were purchased in 2016. They are just over half way through their life. They are a little heavy. There is a new machine approved through the State Board of Elections. It is called the FVT machine. It is lighter and comes in its own hard case so it is a little more durable. The other feature with it is that currently when you want to vote on a touch screen machine, one of the election judges will type in the ballot style into the machine. The touch screen machines, though, can accept any ballot style. So, you could type in anything. Now, when you go to turn it in at the tabulator, it will not accept any ballot style, but will only accept ballot styles that are authorized in that polling place. This new machine uses a barcode reader. So, the polling place will be provided with barcodes that only match the ballot styles that they have. They will scan the barcode and it will display the appropriate ballot style that is supposed to be used. There is no way to make this error free, but hopefully, this will make less errors. Theoretically, most polling places will have 4 to 5 ballot styles, maybe even 6, in a Primary Election. They could pick the wrong ballot style still. It would be one of the 6, but it still can happen. This would just prevent ballot styles from other polling places from being loaded into the machine. So, there is ease of transport. Most of the judges are older. They are a little more durable because they are in a hard case. You just take the lid off the case and pull the screen up. And, hopefully, some of the ballot errors will be reduced. Ms. Kraft asked about the number. Mr. Tanner explained that they have 60 now because when they were purchased, there were more precincts. Forty new ones would be purchased. They are giving us \$500 credit for each one that we return. There would be one for each polling place. Larger polling places like Maranatha, Mount Zion, Christ United Methodist would get two. There will be two at the County Building and there would be a couple for spares in case something happens. There would be less machines. The total bill is \$98,500 after the \$29,500 credit for the machines that would be returned. They are not required, it was just felt that in 5 years when the election equipment does meet its end of life, the County may or may not have the money to purchase new equipment and there would not be any credit for the old machines at that time. One of the old machines has already failed. It can be repaired for a fee. If they were sitting in one place, they could probably be used for 20 years. It is the transportation – big, heavy equipment being transported by people who are not real strong tends to land roughly when placed. The new ones are lighter and more durable. The machines are approved by the State Board of Elections before they can even be purchased.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Edwards and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Tanner reported that he would have the Board petition packets ready for them at the January meeting. That will have the signature requirements which is a third less because of the delay. They passed State Law that it would be 1/3 less signature requirements than normal. Petitions cannot be circulated until January 13<sup>th</sup>. When the new year begins, they will begin trying to get out to the public that the election will be June 28. That will be a lot different. Petitions can be turned back in starting March 7 through the 14<sup>th</sup>. All of that will be in the packets that will be handed out at the January board meeting which is January 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be new board districts and new precinct maps which will be available online, but can be printed in the office if needed.

***Recorder –***

Ms. Eaton distributed her monthly report and offered to answer any questions. There were no questions

***Workforce Investments –***

Ms. Wilkerson gave an update on the \$250,000 grant that they had received for the Youth Careers Pathway. They have started marketing it. They invited some pastors to Workforce and gave out the informational packet for them to take back to their churches and give to families and friends and encourage the 18-24 year old youth to fill it out. A press conference was held last week. It has been sent out over social media. All of the Social Service Agencies have access to it. Last Wednesday, the first registration was held at the IBEW hall and there were 11 people. Today, at 3 p.m. there were 12 more at the Decatur Public Library. It is unbelievable and so exciting. Ms. Wilkerson distributed packets of information. There are three more registration dates with the last one being December 3. This information is available for anyone that wants it. The objective is to get as many people as possible to go through the protocol process which is to register, to come back and get tested and assessed and then to complete an interview. The interview will be with a couple of the people from the different trades and Workforce. Twelve to Fifteen candidates that they feel will complete the 9 months training program will be picked. It is a wonderful opportunity. They get paid \$10 an hour to sit in class and \$15 an hour when working on jobsites. It is to earn and learn. The idea is that when they finish, they can apply for an apprenticeship here in town or that they can go to work with a contractor. To get that kind of training for 9 months and not have any debt, it is a wonderful opportunity. The classes will be at the library. A lot of people will be invited to come in and speak to this group of students. They will have a lot of good exposure there. Ms. Wilkerson said she would like to get 30 to 35 people so they can pick the top 12 to 15 and be able to finish strong.

There is an Introduction to Healthcare class starting tomorrow at SISTAS. They are recruiting people that did not test high enough to make it into CNA. They will be taught how to work in foods and different areas within a nursing home or hospital while continuing to work on their math and reading so that they can get that up and get into the CNA class. That is also free under the Adult Ed grant.

A Child Care Project with the Community Foundation is also being worked on. People who want to be trained to provide child care and get certified will be paid during that process.

Last week, Workforce met with Decatur Public Schools to start working on Healthcare Day with the Jr. High and High School kids so that they are exposed to all of the different career pathways in healthcare.

Ms. Kraft asked if the nursing homes are still in dire straits when it comes to getting employees. Ms. Wilkerson confirmed. Ms. Kraft continued that those homes' licenses with the State are in jeopardy. Ms. Wilkerson explained that the homes cannot operate if they don't have enough

people on the floor. There are requirements. Ms. Kraft commented that if we start losing some of these facilities because they can't get enough help, that would be very bad. People just don't realize what a serious situation we are facing.

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

**Old Business** - *None*

**New Business** - *None*

**CLOSED SESSION** *None needed*

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, December 13, 2021

**ADJOURNMENT** Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Lerner, the motion carried 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board*