

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

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

**May 23, 2022**

**5:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Debra Kraft, Chair  
Bill Oliver  
Pat Dawson  
Shad Edwards

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Grant Noland  
Jason Comer  
Kristen Larner

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

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting 4/25/2022 made by Mr. Oliver, seconded by Mr. Edwards, and the motion carried 4-0.

**APPROVAL OF PAYROLL**

Motion to approve payroll made by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Dawson, and the motion carried 4-0.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

Motion to approve the claims made by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Dawson, and the motion carried 4-0.

**REPORTS**

*Auditor's Office –*

Ms. Reed had no report

*County Board – no report*

***County Clerk –***

Mr. Tanner reported that early voting started last Thursday and as of today, there have been 197 early voters. Over 240 vote by mail ballots have been sent out.

Chair Kraft asked about the Census figures. Mr. Tanner said that the Census did release a report that there was an error in reporting in Illinois, but he has not had any word that they intend to change anything with reapportionment. They apparently under reported us by a fair number, but Mr. Tanner said he did not know what that would do to us. Although, after the report came out, Mr. Tanner said he took a look at Macon County's estimate, the 2021 estimate, and according to the Census Bureau, we lost another 1000 people. He said he did not know if that number is also incorrect. The Census Bureau stated that Illinois was under reported. They did not state where in Illinois. The new estimates for 2022 won't come out until March of 2023. We won't get another look at them until then and those are just estimates.

Ms. Dawson asked how the 197 early votes compared to past Primary early voting numbers. Mr. Tanner said that for a Primary, that is a lot. For the General Election, that would not be very much. There is normally not that much activity for a Primary. There may be something affecting it in the fact that there has never been early voting while tax bills were being collected. The weather is better and people are coming in to pay the tax bill and voting at the same time. Those are two unique factors for this election.

Chair Kraft said she has had people tell her that they have not yet received their tax bills.

***Recorder –***

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

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Appropriations of Funds for Equipment Purchases for the Recorder FY22***

Ms. Eaton explained that her vender (Tom Day out of Springfield) for her copy machines has notified her that the current machines no longer have parts availability. Her best option at this time is to replace the two copy machines. She said she is going with rebuilt machines again and the reason she does that is that this company has always been very reasonable and treated her well. She said that she was told that if she were to purchase new ones, it would probably take 2 to 3 months before they would get here.

Mr. Edwards made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Oliver, and the motion carried 4 -0.

***Workforce Investments –***

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Budget Amendment for Workforce Investment Solutions FY22 Budget – Trade Adjustment Assistance Grant***

Ms. Wilkerson explained that there was one person that lost their job at Arcosa near Clinton with the windmills. Through the Trade Act, if they are making a product that goes overseas, they can be helped to get retrained and move forward. The grant is for \$4,000.

Mr. Edwards made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Dawson, and the motion carried 4 -0.

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Budget Amendment for Workforce Investment Solutions FY22 Budget – Job Training Economic Development Program***

Ms. Wilkerson explained that the JTED grant recipients were announced by Governor Pritzker today and Macon County was awarded \$575,000.

Ms. Dawson asked about the stipend. Ms. Wilkerson explained that they are paid \$11 per hour to sit in class and when they finish the class, their wages are paid while they are on job experience training.

Mr. Oliver asked about the figures. Ms. Wilkerson explained that it is a yearly calculation that is broken down to run the program, the wages, the Career Planner's wages, the benefits and all the way down. There is a budget and the money is planned. She said they are working very closely, partnering with Homeward Bound and DOVE.

Mr. Edwards made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Oliver, and the motion carried 4 -0.

Ms. Wilkerson went on to report on the Illinois Works Grant. Class started today. They were supposed to have 25 in the class at the Library. They have 23 today. It took two months of recruiting. The hope is to keep the 23 throughout the class. The trades have really gotten behind this and supported it. If the class is completed, they will have a wonderful career waiting for them where they could make up to \$80,000 a year. This class started today and there will be one more in August, so if anyone is interested, another class starts in August. The goal is that by November, between Career Pathways for the Youth and the two Illinois Works, 70 people should be put into the trades – if everything goes as expected. That is a big chunk of people to bring in and good use of the money.

Mr. Edwards asked if they normally lose people as the class goes forward. Ms. Wilkerson said this is the first Illinois Works Grant, but they just finished the Youth Career Pathways where 11 out of 12 finished. They started on their jobs last week. That was pretty good.

Ms. Eaton asked about the ages. Ms. Wilkerson said for Illinois Works it is 18 and up. For the Youth Career Pathways, over 18. There is someone 47 years old in the Illinois Works, but it is all

free. It is a wonderful opportunity.

Ms. Dawson asked the differences between this program and the programs at places like Sista Girls or Homework Hangout. Ms. Wilkerson explained that Homework Hangout is a Youth Build Grant which Workforce doesn't really deal with very much and Sista Girls got the same grant as Workforce did. She said she is working with the trades, but does not know who Sista Girls partners are. Ms. Dawson said that potentially, they could be seeking the same group. Ms. Wilkerson said that between the two, it is a million dollars worth of training they are bringing into Macon County which is great.

Mr. Oliver asked if it includes all of the trades. Ms. Wilkerson said yes, there are 15 of them. Mr. Oliver commented that to become a journeyman electrician, there is a course that has to be gone through. Ms. Wilkerson agreed, saying that that is a 4 year Journeyman program through IBEW. But, if they finish this class, and then want to go into the trades, they come out of this program prepared for that. This is a pre-apprenticeship program.

**Citizen's Remarks - None**

**Old Business - None**

**New Business –**

**Treasurer**

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving the Single Bidder Rule for Annual Tax Sale(s) that Falls Under 35 ILCS 200/21-205 Which States Counties Under 275,000 Inhabitants may, by Ordinance, Implement Said Single Bidder Rule***

This resolution is being pulled from the agenda and will be presented by Mr. Jackson to his oversight committee which is the Finance Committee.

**CLOSED SESSION - None needed**

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, June 21, 2022 (on a Tuesday due to the Juneteenth Holiday being on Monday)

**ADJOURNMENT** Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Oliver, seconded by Chair Kraft, the motion carried 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board*