

**Macon County Board
Operations & Personnel Committee Meeting
Macon County Office Building
141 S. Main St. – Room 514
Decatur, IL 62523**

March 20, 2023

5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Debra Kraft, Chair
Kristen Larner
Ed Yoder

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Tamara Wilcox, County Administrator
Mary Eaton, Recorder
Josh Tanner, County Clerk
Rocki Wilkerson, Workforce
Crystal Hugger, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

Karl Coleman
Jeff Entler

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

MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting 02/21/2023 made by Mr. Yoder, seconded by Ms. Larner. Motion carried 3-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Motion to approve the claims made by Ms. Larner, seconded by Mr. Yoder. Motion carried 3-0.

REPORTS

County Board –

Ms. Wilcox reported that we are looking at a new phone system. We are just waiting to get more numbers. If the phone system cost \$70,000 we pay \$80,000 a year in phone charges that charge will go away. I have been in several meetings about insurance renewal and looking at other insurance options that is for major medical and we have a meeting next week about that on the 29th. There are still a lot of broadband webinars and wind and solar information that I have been doing.

Ms. Larner said on the broadband we started on the South end of town. Are we thinking about moving my way in Maroa?

Ms. Wilcox responded that the goal is with all the broadband money like Illinois Connect and the money is out now. The big one billion dollars is the Bead money which is Federal and has not rolled out yet. I have been trying to figure it out because it is so overwhelming but some counties are ahead of us other than that we already have a project started and they have asked for the Illinois Connects money. We have reached out to that county and we are waiting to hear back from them and their advice. The goal with all the broadband was to reach everyone.

County Clerk –

Mr. Tanner reported that it is still early voting. We are around two thousand early-in vote by mail. Vote by mail is about five times what the early is, and election is April 4th and I do not know what the turnout will be. Consolidated election usually have the least amount of turnouts. I think we were nine thousand two years ago and about twelve thousand four years ago.

Ms. Kraft said you are handling the crowds okay here.

Mr. Tanner responded yes, not to many crowds, it has been pretty slow. We are still working on trying to find another site for early voting and we have nothing firm at this point. When we do we will bring it to O&P this has been a slow process.

Mr. Yoder said that there has been a lot of press coverage about this mail in thing and how it has really jumped up.

Mr. Tanner replied we have had more mail now than we did two years ago we are already at that point now. We have sent out over five thousand vote by mail and we have had fifteen hundred come back and we will see where we are at, in the end. It is not a lot of contested races so the turnout reflects that.

Recorder –

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Recording Fees for Rental Housing Support

Ms. Eaton reported that she has a resolution to approve an increase in recording fees. The Legislative passed a bill HB3878 on January 6th, 2023. It is increasing the rental housing support fee by an additional \$10 dollars. This will effect almost all the recording documents except for municipality such as things we get from the City or from the County. We can't charge the courts if they file a judgement, or mobile home liens but it effects deeds, mortgages, releases and assignments etc... Of that ten dollars it is broke down to the extra dollar to where the fifty cent goes into general funds and the other fifty cent goes to the Recorders Automation. The recording fee is \$63 dollars and it will go up \$73 dollars.

Mr. Yoder asked that you said \$1.50 goes to general and .50 cent goes to you.

Ms. Eaton said we already have the fee implemented and .50 cent goes to general funds and .50 cent goes to automation but once we pass this general fund will get a \$1.00 and automation will get \$1.00.

Ms. Larner said the other \$9.00 dollars goes to?

Ms. Eaton replied to the Department of Revenue.

Motion made to approve made by Ms. Kraft, seconded by Ms. Larner. Motion carried 3-0.

Workforce Investments –

Ms. Wilkerson reported that they are getting ready to do a pilot project and it is called the High School Senior Employment Fair and we have never done this before. We are working with Economic Development and the Chamber. The event will be held April 12th & 13th at the Decatur Grand Palace Banquet Hall on Brush College Road across from Richland Community College. We are hoping to focus on seniors. There will be a lot of employers there from about 40-50 and it

will basically be for the ones that are not going on to college. We are experimenting beside just this pilot we took 20 kids from MacArthur and 20 kids from Eisenhower and we are doing a personal professional development workshop with them and they are going to wear wristband when they go to the employment fair.

We are going to survey the employers after all the kids have gone through there and try to get some kind of indication or measurement if those kids were any better prepared with resumes or interviewing skills than the kids that didn't have the 20 hours and take it to the school district and say based on this survey this extra bit of help made a difference when it came to looking for a job. We are also preparing for are healthcare day which is April 18th at Richland Community College. That will be for Sophomores and Juniors and we have about 20 healthcare providers there and they will have tours of all the labs, a day in a life of a nurse or someone in the medical field, and the employers have been instructed to put together an activity that the kids can actually engage. When they leave they will have packets of all the different healthcare training opportunities that are available locally. They have been instructed that these are high school seniors looking for an opportunity for employment.

Ms. Wilkerson said that for Akorn they had 161 people come through the doors about 24 hours after they actually lost their jobs. It was over 400 people who lost their jobs and within the next day Milliken had tweaked their career fair and opened it up to the Akorn people. The next day we had ADM exclusive that is where the 161 came in. Normally we get three weeks to prepare for rapid responses and bring in the IDES. We did three rapid response which meant bringing in on how to do the claims, how to get insurance, how to search for jobs and we also did a hiring event. There were 8 employers that came in after ADM.

What the most eventful thing that I will remember is how quickly the community immediately, and effectively dealt with the crisis. Not just one employer but several employers like Milliken, Workforce, and unemployment. When you saw 160 something people all lined up I went around and talked to several of them and I saw fear, concern about what are we going to do I never had another job I've been here 20 years etc... It was good to see the community address it and the fact that the leaders know the community and we were able to turn it around quickly and I think we have helped at least 25% with employment so far.

Ms. Wilcox reported that they have talked to Rocki about what her needs were for an ARPA funding request. After I went to her board meeting last week I said we have got to get this done because she needs it now. The request will be for \$60,000 and it is for the stuff that she needs for training, flash drives, banner for career fairs, updated brochures, 30 laptops for students and people she is working with, 30 monitors, color copier, and this is stuff that her funding does not pay for. We want to be able to set her up with these things to take to events that she is going to because she has been out there doing a lot.

There was a discussion on presenting this at the next O&P Committee meeting in April so that a resolution can be made and a list presented.

Citizen's Remarks- no citizens were present.

Old Business - *None*

New Business - *None*

CLOSED SESSION - *None needed*

ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Larner, seconded by Mr. Yoder. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Crystal Hugger, Macon County Board