

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

June 20, 2023,

5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Debra Kraft, Chair
Ed Yoder
Karl Coleman

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kristen Larner
Jeff Entler

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

Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting 04/24/2023 made by Mr. Yoder, seconded by Mr. Coleman. Motion carried 3-0.

Approval of Payroll

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

Approval of Claims

Motion to approve the claims made by Chair Kraft, seconded by Mr. Coleman.
Motion carried 3-0.

Reports

County Board – Ms. Wilcox reported that she had on the agenda to do RFP tonight but still have not heard back from Mr. Baggett on it. I put a draft to what I sent to Mike for him to adjust and add to. I had nothing to go off, but I did look at what other counties did, and some were twenty-eight pages long and I know Mike will add some kind of legal wordage to that. I was hoping to get this done last month and did not. Anything over \$30,000 we need to go out of our RFP. We know what vendor we want to use and have met with three phone systems which that was last fall. This has drug on longer than I wanted it too. You can look over what I have given you. We tried to get help from our phone system to do the RFP and they were not able to help us. I apologize about that.

I have been working with the Highway and WHKS engineering firm about fixing the Reas Bridge funding. I went to the DUATS meeting this morning and it did pass. We did get the funding that

was not previously requested. I did not know if I had told you all that all Fire Departments have submitted all their budgets and contracts, and all paid.

Chair Kraft said no, we did not know that all of them had but that is good.

Ms. Wilcox said five of them has submitted back their receipts. I will be reaching out to the rest of them as a reminder to send in all your paid receipts and then we are done with that. I currently have been working on a negotiation with the City of Decatur on Animal Control contract. Hopefully, that will wrap up this week. We will not get any more money from the city on it, but we did make changes that the Animal Control and the Sheriff's Department are happy about. It is mostly about getting the street and utility city workers to pick up the dead animals in the city. They both have been working back and forth with that wordage and we are finally about done.

I did attend the EMA Mitigation Community meeting that was here, and I am glad I did because I ended up coming to the Spanish one. There was another one after that, but it had three attendees, and it was cool to listen to them and the ideas that they had. We had a lady in the meeting that did not speak English and has not been through this kind of weather and have never heard a tornado siren, so it freaked her out. She had a tree come down on her house and had no idea who to call. It was interesting to talk to them and we are going to be working with that Spanish speaking community liaison to get more information to them.

I met with the Animal Shelter Foundation, and I went to one of their board meetings and then they called a meeting about ideas. They pitched the idea to Sergeant Atkins, and I think that will turn out well.

The City of Decatur had talked to me about us going in with them on a grant with IHDA (Illinois Housing Development Authority) and it was for \$750,000. It is for rehab and demolition, and we went ahead and signed off on that grant with them. I did truly little other than to sign off on it and submit it. We will not know for two months whether we get it but there are five properties now on the list that needs demolished.

I met with the Auditor concerning our audit and last Tuesday we started having an official meeting here in this building and we are going to meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month and see how that goes. It is all the officeholders in this building like the Supervisor of Assessment and it is just an hour-long meeting of what do you got going on, what we can work on. I think that it will all turn out being good. Our office is remodeled mostly so see it we are happy with it.

County Clerk – Mr. Tanner reported that we are still finalizing the contract agreement on purchasing the building for early voting and we do not have anything final on that. When it does get purchased then another resolution will go to the board for transferring that to Public Building Commission. I do not have a resolution for tonight, but I will have one for next month. Public Act 103-0008 was signed by the Governor and that increase is the reimbursement rate for election judges by \$20 dollars. Currently we pay election judges \$125 dollars if they have not taken the

training, and \$150 dollars if they had. The only reason we would have people who have not taken the training is if we were short judges and we either conscripted them on Election Day or they volunteered the day before the training. They will reimburse an additional \$20 dollars which means we would like to increase their pay by \$20 dollars, so it will not cost the county anything. My suggestion is that we increase it more than the \$20 dollars. I have a study from the State Board of Elections on the election judge pay for all the election jurisdictions in the State.

We are in the bottom third of all the counties and we are the largest county in the bottom third. \$150 dollars is at the very bottom and everybody is going to increase to \$20 dollars just because it will not cost the county anything if we do not increase it more than \$20 dollars then we really will not make any headway and we will still be in the bottom third. My suggestion is the county match the \$20 dollars with another \$20 dollars from the county and that would bring us to \$190 dollars. I am just putting that out there if you have a question or comment or would like to talk about that between now and next month let me know but that is going to be my suggestion coming up for you next month. The maximum we can have been 320 judges and we have never had that many. We are usually around 220 to 230 and so \$20 dollars times 230 gives you a rough estimate of \$4500 or \$5000 dollars. That is what it would cost the county every election. I will tell you that paying them more will not get us more election judges. The people who do this does not do it for the money. When we are paying them less than minimum wage, I do not want to continue to tell them they are not worth it, but I do not hold out any hope that we will get a whole new slew of new judges.

It is a long day, and a tough job and people do not do it for different reason than money. People has made the polling place a hostile environment and people who were doing it for civic duty do not mind doing it to serve their fellow citizens, but they do not want to do it and they have people come and yell at them or curse at them. That is why we have less people wanting to do it. The people who do it we should pay them fairly and that is my suggestion is we should increase it. If we increase it the \$20 on top of the \$20, we are going to get reimbursed and we are still not going to bust in the top third we will be somewhere in the middle of the pack. No election this November but there will be one board member from each district up for election in March and November of next year. Candidate guide should be available in August and petition circulation will be in September and filing is in December.

Recorder – Ms. Eaton said she would be glad to accept any questions about my reports which was April and May. We had house bill pass 3878 were our fees increased July 1st and it is an extra \$9 dollars. Our base fee right now is \$63 and move on to \$72. I have put that notification on our website. We have had people calling and emailing and I am going to put the actual new fee schedule on the website before the weeks over once I get ahold of Jim our IT guy. I have been in the process along with my Chief Deputy and Tammy has been involved and we have had Jim Blackwell from IT looking into a new software for our office. The company that we are talking with have land records in seventy-five counties of the State of Illinois who are very well known and reputable. Our company that we have now we have been with them for 17 years and there has been minor, major, or whichever way you want to look at issues. We figured that it is now time to

move on. Once we get to this process, we will have to do an RFP and we will contact Mike Baggett and him look over that. We will be working on that within next week or two getting that together. Our remodel for our office should be within the next couple of months and we are looking forward to that.

Workforce Investments – Ms. Wilkerson reported they had a busy May and had several graduations going on. We graduated 14 CNAs through the JTED grant and they went through the Richland program. We graduated nine students that went through logistics out at Richland, and they were through JTED as well. JTED was the grant that we use to help people reduce their barriers so that we can get them into training programs. That was good and we had fifteen graduates from the Illinois Works grant in May and they are currently looking for work experiences because so many of the trades take apprentice at different of the years. The IDEW may not take applications until February so now we have to keep those students busy from now until they can apply to the apprenticeship.

They are busy trying to find work experiences and then last week we started another pre-apprenticeship class and we started with eighteen more students. The trades have really been lucrative, and we have had a lot of interest in that program. Thursday we are going to be presenting to the trades about Workforce Investment Solutions because there are sixteen different trades here in our area. When we get ready to place the students after they have completed the class, they would like to know more information about what they learned and what they are expecting when we put them on a jobsite for like a paid work experience. It is really a career exploration it is a chance for them to get to explore different departments and different trades until they decide what apprentice that they want to apply for.

Currently we have 15 that are in the Quest grant that is all for the dislocated workers the ones that have lost their jobs through no fault of their own and currently I have two things going on with YCP (Youth Career Pathways). We are doing a pilot with the Jerry Dawson institute with Juanita Morris, and she has 14 CNAs that we are going to be working with starting tomorrow and they do holistic approach with their students. They take them out of their environment, and they house them, so they have a morning, noon and night and an expensive program. She has had some superior results with it, and we are excited to partner with them. We have six boys that are still working with the Habitat Humanity project through the summer on the rehab houses with which they were working.

Chair Kraft replied that she is going by memory, and it started with 15 Illinois Work students and all 15 graduated from the program.

Ms. Wilkerson yes, and the Illinois Work grant has been the most challenging grant I ever worked with because if you lose people or students once you accept them then you lose money. Your performance is based on their attendance, test scores, their completion, work experience and then if they get a job in the trades. Then you track the wages for two years, so it is very time sensitive and case management.

Chair Kraft said I call it a success.

Old Business - *None*

New Business – *None*

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

Closed Session - *Not needed.*

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Crystal Hugger, Macon County Board