

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

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

**September 18, 2023, 5:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Debra Kraft, Chair  
Edward Yoder  
Jeff Entler

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Mary Eaton, County Recorder  
Tamara Wilcox, County Administrator  
Rocki Wilkerson, Workforce  
Donna Meachum, Workforce  
Scott Reuter, States Attorney  
Greg Bachman, Fidlar Technologies

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Karl Coleman  
Kristen Larner

(Ms. Kraft took a moment to thank Rocki Wilkerson, Debbie Wright, Donna Meachum, Shani Wady, and everyone on staff for the wonderful open house, refreshments, and hosting the event.)

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

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting 8/21/2023 made by Mr. Yoder, seconded by Mr. Entler and the motion carried 3-0.

**APPROVAL OF PAYROLL**

Payroll has been tabled.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

Claims have been tabled.

**REPORTS**

*Auditor- No report*

*County Board – Ms. Wilcox reported that she reported at the last County meeting on things that they are working on. The big thing is broad-band and Debra and Edward have been working with me on that and it will be a huge commitment. We do have to apply first to be a part of this*

*program and if we are a part of it, it will be sixteen weeks, and every week it will be a two-hour meeting. To build a package to be able to apply for the Federal Broadband money for rural broadband. We are trying to put together a really good team to do it like with the Farm Bureau, and other people.*

*Mr. Yoder said you want to do it in the fall.*

*Ms. Wilcox replied yes in the fall with the farmers.*

*Ms. Wilcox...the phone thing passed so we will be working on...I know the Public Building Commission is currently running the fiber in the building and then they will change the switches they need to change. I signed the contract to get the phone equipment and hopefully, we will have that before the end of the year because that will make a big difference for everybody. After all, these phones are nice. They are going to do a lot better.*

*Ms. Kraft said I just wanted to mention Tammy gives us a County Board report every month at O&P and I know it was brought up at the board meeting but they wanted a report. I don't know why you report at O&P if everybody gets the minutes they should read it but I would submit the same report then. I don't know why that is not sufficient.*

*Ms. Wilcox said it is going to be different now that is what I want to do I was going to talk to you about just submitting it through O&P because it is going to be...that report was catching everybody up on the last year and the big things the next report will look different and maybe I will work with you on what you want in that report and we will just do it through O&P and then it will go to the board.*

*Ms. Kraft replied that should be sufficient.*

**County Clerk – No report**

**Recorder –**

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Appropriation of Funds for Land Records Recording System with Fidar Technologies within the Recorders Document Storage Fund FY2023***

*Mr. Greg Bachman introduced himself. I work for a company called Fidar Technologies out of Davenport Iowa. I have known Mary for years. Fidar has been in county government since 1854. We started as an election company back in the good old days and about fifteen years ago we sold that division. Thank goodness all we do is land records and vital statistics now. Because of that focus on recorders specifically, we have expanded into about seventy-five counties, and if you look through the... map we are in about seventy-five counties throughout Illinois and three hundred companies throughout the United States. All the features and functionality in services that Mary provides in her office receipting, indexing, scanning, e-recording, and online access. This proposal is a replacement for all of that. This offer will replace what she currently has within her office.*

*Ms. Eaton said I have been with this company CIC for going on seventeen years. They had some major changes in the last couple of years with the owner of the company passing away. Things*

were not going very smoothly. The employees that I had known for years left because they did not like a lot of the things that were going on with the operations and stuff. I think without that kind of support it was just that we couldn't keep running effectively and we were getting complaints from people. It was time to move on from there and there were other issues but I don't need to get into that. I said Greg we have known each other for a long time and I know he has tried to get me to jump ship with him I was satisfied with the vendor I had but you know how it is like a phone company after so long things start happening. We are looking forward to this change.

Mr. Bachman said what we have seen with CIC for the company over the last two or three years we have seen ten other counties convert and I think it comes down to the fact they do a lot of things for a lot of different offices in the county and the resources might be spread a little thin whereas all we do is a land record which I feel we are doing well in the state right now. As far as converted data all the information that she has in her office we have done enough of this conversion data, index information, and images everything she converts over will be just fine. CIC knows what we expect of them when we request the data from them we know the format that we will get them in and we can quickly turn around the conversion and get it up and running. The other part of this is her customers the title companies, bank, and the attorney's that use the recorder's office frequently. This allows them quite a bit of expanded access, as well, and as one of the most interesting places on the map. The potential for the recorder's office is they use our products, it is significant for a county this size, and the fact that you are surrounded by counties that already utilize, title companies, banks, and attorneys know how to use this software and from what I have heard they are very excited about the potential transition. I asked Mary how much revenue she makes a year right now with... access.

Ms. Eaton replied maybe twenty thousand, twenty-two thousand at the most with the company that I have now. What that amount is from are the stuff through the website and the title companies going in there and paying those fees that is what that amount there is for.

Mr. Bachman replied what a lot of counties have been doing for revenue is significant utilizing a lot of that revenue to back-scan or convert all books and microfilms and archive the county information that you got in your vault or your basement. They are using some of that money to get that into an electronic format and that is great for two reasons number one for historical preservation and I assume that most of those books are the only copies so it is important to get it archived but then also the more you archive the more electronic information you have available. The more people who are willing to sign up and pay for it the more a beautiful cycle of revenue and completing projects.

Mr. Oliver asked if this could be hacked with this new technology of AI is it one of those programs they can get into.

Mr. Bachman said there isn't any data that is housed within the county. We are going to host the information so it is on our cloud. There is no risk and we met with Jim and talked about the security that is included with all of this. We will never say never that there is no chance of that happening because there are all kinds of companies that have been hacked. We spend a lot of

*money and resources to defend against anything like that happening. We work very hard on it and if it does happen that is what recovery is instead of it being a month or a month and a half if something like that were to happen we have colocations one in Bettendorf Iowa, Davenport Iowa, and Altoona Iowa which is Des Moines. If one site is hit with ransomware or hacked we can roll over all the production centers with one of the other two centers. We are never going to say it can't happen because it absolutely can but we believe we are very well prepared.*

*Mr. Yoder asked what information is stored on the cloud.*

*Mr. Bachman replied with the land records information and the images.*

*Mr. Yoder said we won't have copies of those physical copies or a secondary backup.*

*Mr. Bachman said that you can and what a lot of counties do is the production site will be on our cloud but we can push those images back to whatever you would like...*

*Mr. Yoder...I was just trying to think of a bad scenario where you lose your cloud or it gets wiped out and you have all that information is gone.*

*Ms. Eaton...Now I have backup with CD's*

*Mr. Bachman...Do you have microfilm too?*

*Ms. Eaton...We have microfilm for the older ones but the newer ones we back up with a CD and we store it at the Circuit clerk's office.*

*Mr. Bachman...We are not saying that it is only on the cloud there are all kinds of other backup types that many of our counties do.*

*Mr. Oliver asked what happens if the grid goes down.*

*Mr. Bachman...Then that is a problem. There is no access. It is good to have a copy on site. We also have countries that don't want to use our clouds. It is really up to the county in general. It doesn't have to be on our cloud we are happy to install it within Macon County as well it is really up to you.*

*Ms. Wilcox...I think we talked about that and had Jim in there and he was happy with your set-up. It was going to cost him a lot of work and time to do it on ours.*

*Mr. Yoder... My concern isn't the security or cloud it is having the backup data there.*

*Mr. Bachman...Honor rewards are a service that Mary can roll out. It is a community-based awards program that allows Veterans to come in and record their DD214 and if they come in you can provide them a little honor reward ID and work with companies, and businesses throughout Macon County. An example if they go into Subway and show their honor rewards card get a discount.*

*Mr. Yoder asked what the annual maintenance fee was going to be.*

*Mr. Bachman said it is on page eleven 28,000 dollars.*

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

***Workforce Investments*** – *Ms. Wilkerson said she gave the year-in-review report. Today we starting a monitoring site visit this morning at about nine o'clock. We will have the auditors in here most of the week this week going over all of our grants and our files and I hoping for a good review at the end. That is going to consume us most of this week.*

**Citizen's Remarks - None**

**Old Business** - *None*

**New Business** – *None*

**CLOSED SESSION** - **None needed**

**NEXT MEETING:** October 23, 2023

**ADJOURNMENT** *Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Yoder, seconded by Mr. Entler, the motion carried 3-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.*

*Minutes submitted by Crystal Hugger, Macon County Board*