

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

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

October 23, 2023,

5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kristen Larner
Jeff Entler
Edward Yoder
Karl Coleman (arrived 5:40)

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Carol Reed, Auditor
Tamara Wilcox, County Administrator
Josh Tanner, County Clerk
Rocki Wilkerson, Workforce
Crystal Hugger, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

Debra Kraft

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting 9/18/23 made by Mr. Entler seconded by Mr. Yoder.
Motion carried 3-0.

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL AND CLAIMS

Motion to approve payroll of 9/18/23 and current made by Mr. Yoder seconded by Mr. Entler.
Motion carried 3-0.

Motion to approve the claims of 9/18/23 and current made by Mr. Entler seconded by Mr. Yoder.
Motion carried 3-0.

REPORTS

***Auditor's Office- Macon County Board Resolution Accepting a One-Year Cyber Insurance
Proposal through Arthur J Gallagher***

Ms. Reed reported the resolution is for a one-year proposal. This is our fourth year of having cyber insurance. Our history of it is the first year was seven thousand dollars then next year it jumped to thirty-thousand and then it jumped to thirty-nine thousand but this year it came down a little bit so we are at thirty-eight three twenty-one for the next year. This is through CIRMA which is Counties of Illinois Risk Management Agency which is our liability insurance carrier. I would recommend that we approve this.

Mr. Entler said I read this earlier and the things that it covers. Do it cover what it says restoration of electronic data so if it is data breach we will have cyber insurance if it hits our IT system?

Ms. Reed replied up to a million dollars. A lot of these things are only covered through fifty thousand public relations expenses and some of that but we will never know until we need it.

Mr. Entler asked if there was any need to beef it up it is so important with the thought that...

Ms. Reed...right it should be more than that but I am not sure if they go any higher than that or if they are willing to go any higher than that because this seems to be what the other counties carry too. I can check with Ted Miller our Gallagher agent.

Ms. Lerner said aren't we getting ready to implement a lot more of the records and things online. Will this cover...?

Ms. Reed said various offices probably are this would be a security thing of any type we have that it covers. One other thing this Thursday we will get our rates for liability insurance and last year it was a million seventy-one thousand we don't know what it is going to be this year but I think we have enough in the budget to go as high as one point four million. We will be bringing that back and this is the committee that I would normally bring it to but since we are not going to get this quote until Thursday it probably should be included in the board approval for November because it is effective December 1st. If it is okay I will probably take it directly to finance. I can report next month what it was and how it fits in.

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

County Board –

Macon County Board Resolution Accepting a Grant from the Illinois Housing Development Authority's Strong Communities Program- Round 2

Ms. Wilcox reported that this is a three hundred thirty-seven thousand dollar grant and it is what the City of Decatur has been doing to demo or rehab houses. When we sent the application in with the help of the City of Decatur we had identified twenty-four properties that would possibly need to be demoed but we are looking at that and prioritizing it because if it takes twenty thousand to demo a property or abandon a house we would only get sixteen or seventeen of them done. Along with this resolution is an attachment for the officer certificate that is required by IDA.

Mr. Yoder asked if these properties would be beyond the City limits in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Ms. Wilcox said yes because the City of Decatur has the same grant. They would do the incorporated areas.

Mr. Entler asked if we had done that before.

Ms. Wilcox said no, this is all new IDA before as a funding source and there are going to be a lot of rules. I am meeting with Land Bank people next week about what they do in this process with the city to see if we want to utilize them or not.

Mr. Yoder said I don't know what it will be like in the country in the unincorporated. The abandoned property in the city limits are different.

Ms. Wilcox said we are looking at the ones that we have gotten several complaints about and there are seven right now that are...

Mr. Yoder...one on Rock Springs Road.

Ms. Wilcox...yes, Coulter's Mill and we just got one today that is in Oakley Township that is probably not inhabitable at all something needs to be done with it.

Mr. Yoder...and the landowners have been contacted.

Ms. Wilcox...not yet we are not that far.

Mr. Entler...if you need any help with that I can help you. I am kind of familiar with those processes we don't do a lot of that work but I understand it and it might help you. It is very fruitful to clean up our county.

Ms. Wilcox...we have not had this opportunity before and I had to do very little to submit this grant because the work was already done and it was easier to do City of Decatur and Macon County at the same time so that is what they did.

Mr. Yoder...how much did they get at the city?

Ms. Wilcox...the same \$337,000.

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

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the Holidays for 2024

Ms. Wilcox reported that this has been signed off by the presiding judge. What we do is take his recommendation and then implement it to the rest of the county.

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

Macon County Administrator's Report

Ms. Wilcox reported that per her evaluation they wanted a monthly administrator report. We have decided to bring it to the oversight for the board office which is this committee. This is just a summary of what has happened in the last month the one that I took to the board meeting in September was like a catch-up one like a whole year and what the goals were. This highlights some of the major things we are working on Broadband being one of them. We submitted to participate in the Broadband breakthrough program and we were accepted to do that. I listed all of our team that has committed to this because I think it is a good team and it was not hard to talk to any of these places to work with us on this so we are excited to get that started. The Strong Communities IDA grant and then some of the training and other things that I have been doing.

Mr. Entler asked Tammy who was on the county board.

Ms. Wilcox said Edward has helped me a lot Deb Kraft but once this starts I will send out information a lot of it will be via Zoom it is a sixteen-week program but it helps you to prepare to apply for the BEAD funding.

County Clerk –

Mr. Tanner reported that he had an update and that he passed out a drawing of a draft for how the early voting center would look in the building across the street that we purchased. Also on your desk should be a copy of the resolution that will go to finance because it is their jurisdiction to transfer the property from the county to the Public Building Commission.

Mr. Entler said it is obvious that this is what you want.

Mr. Tanner yes, my office and I have worked on this Public Building Commission and the Engineering Firm have worked on this. The Engineering Firm is there to ensure exit life safety the proper flow door sizing and all of that and then we participated with the number of booths we need the number of desk spaces we need the number of people we would like to be able to get ques up to vote and then you will notice on the right-hand side that is the future build-out for Environmental Management which will probably go before EEHW and then finance I guess. This is just a reminder that November 27th is the first day to file for office here in Macon County if you are running for office here. If you are running for office for statewide office over at the State Board of Elections.

Recorder – No Report

Workforce Investments –

Ms. Wilkerson reported that on October 5th the 8th grade career day was held at Milliken University. We served one hundred and fifty 8th graders. The response was unique from the counselors as well as the employers because I had eleven employers that were there and their assignment was to provide some type of activity to get the 8th graders engaged. There were a lot of really neat activities planned and the whole idea is to get them excited about a career pathway. The counselors I have spoken to four different counselors and they said they hope that you continue to keep this up the students in this age group need encouragement and they need to know about additional pathways. I think we are going to talk about an education one and especially early childcare and I think we are going to look into a transportation one as well. It was a success but rainy and Milliken was the first time we have partnered with them I think we will be doing more partnership with Milliken University as well.

We had a monitoring site visit from DCEO at the end of September it is still ongoing it is still not over yet. I don't know if that is the way it is supposed to be or not because before COVID they would come and stay a whole week during COVID everything was submitted and now it is kind of like I think they are trying to figure out which way they are going I don't know but I will be anxious to get the end report I will keep you posted when I get it.

Thursday we have a hiring event with Caterpillar and last month when we had a hiring event we had one hundred thirty-two that came through the door so I hoping for a good group of customers to walk through the door on Thursday. November 16th will be the last date for the pre-apprenticeship class with Illinois Works not counting the ones that are going to graduate in November as of right now we have a 72% rate of students getting employed full-time from the grants so we had two classes last year and this one that is going on right now is our third one so between the four we are at 72%. I am hoping it will go up just a little more after we graduate this next group. I found out today that our supplemental grant project was funded and that is a partnership with ADM. We are going to take fifteen FFA students do some training with them and pay for them to do a paid work experience at ADM. We are going to do two different groups one will be in March and one will be in May then some of those high school students will go on to Habitat for Humanity and they will do some construction work with them and then we are going to

fund the CNAs that we funded last year during the summer that were going to be seniors the following year. Three different groups of youth are going to be funded through the supplemental grant and we just found out that today. That is the good news of the day. We did get notice today about an IFAB grant I don't know a whole lot about it but I will let you know that they have completed the first phase and now they have selected a group to go on to phase two and the group that we are in is with Macon County Economic Development, Workforce Investment Solutions, Champaign Economic Development, Champaign's Workforce and the University of Illinois and Parkland. It is a regional grant and the only thing that I can tell you about is that they were notified once the grant was submitted that they were now designated as a tech hub. They are going to be doing something to do with fermentation and Bio-Manufacturing. I think it is going to be a training program regionally for Champaign and Decatur. I just don't know a lot about the specifics yet because they have to get to phase two. Unless you want to add something, Tammy?

Ms. Wilcox said I put a little information in behind my report just what they sent today.

Mr. Yoder said pretty substantial money right?

Ms. Wilkerson replied big money. It looks like the University of Illinois and maybe Parkland and Richland will be the trainers and everybody else will be feeding into it.

Mr. Coleman said, you said the Caterpillar event you had 130 people come the last time do you have any idea how many got employed?

Ms. Wilkerson replied, I do not I think they did hire 7 out of the group but I don't know if they made it on to the next things that they have to go through orientation and some training.

(Please note I received an email from Ms. Wilkerson correcting her response to Mr. Coleman. I had 115 attend the event, 71 received interviews, and 40 received job offers.)

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

New Business – *None*

CLOSED SESSION - *None needed*

NEXT MEETING: November 13, 2023

ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Yoder, seconded by Mr. Entler. The motion carried 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Crystal Hugger, Macon County Board