

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

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

**November 13, 2023,**

**5:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Debra Kraft  
Jeff Entler  
Edward Yoder  
Karl Coleman (arrived 5:35)

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Rocki Wilkerson, Workforce Investment  
Josh Tanner, County Clerk  
Crystal Hugger, County Board Office

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Kristen Larner

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting 10/23/23 made by Mr. Yoder seconded by Mr. Entler.  
Motion carried 3 -0.

**APPROVAL OF PAYROLL AND CLAIMS**

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

No payroll was provided.

**REPORTS**

*Auditor's Office- No Report*

*County Board –*

*Macon County Board Resolution Amending the Holidays for 2024 to Coincide with  
Circuit Court's Holiday Schedule*

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

*County Clerk –*

Mr. Tanner reported that candidate filing begins on the 27<sup>th</sup> and runs through the 4<sup>th</sup> for those candidates who want to be in the lottery for the first position on the ballot they will have to be here by eight o'clock on that Monday morning. We are open early that day and then those candidates that would like to be at the last position on the ballot will have to be here and filed in the last hour

of filing on the 4<sup>th</sup> which would be between four and five o'clock we stay open thirty minutes late on that last Monday. No change on the new early voting center and just gearing up to try to get everybody registered so if you have people who have moved make sure that they get reregistered as you are out talking to people during campaigning.

Mr. Yoder said the last time you brought in some plans for the voting center have you had a chance to talk to the architects regarding my concerns, for the record about rear exits or fire exits? Mr. Tanner replied on the east side of the building. We did pose those questions to the architect and they have not gotten back to us. We have spoken with Jim Parks on electrical and he has ordered equipment we have HVAC and some other life safety issues they are in the process of ordering equipment but no answer yet back on additional exits other than the three exits that exist now which are all on the west side of the building.

Chair Kraft said I did have a couple of people talk to me about the polling places that can't go to their former church and so I have tried to explain.

Mr. Tanner replied that church closed and we liked being there but there was no one left to work with so we had to move. Christ United Methodist moved over to the old car dealership Poage which will be a new polling place. We have a separate building for it and there is ample parking the building is a little small but Election Day voters are fewer and fewer every year. We closed the Harristown polling place and rolled them into the church Tabernacle Baptist.

Chair Kraft said I had some that have an issue with that and think it will be too busy well I don't think so.

Mr. Tanner replied yes, Maranatha works out well it is easy to staff because there are a lot of people together and you can get a few experienced people and several less experienced people and run a big voting center. Tabernacle has lots of parking and we will never fill that parking up it is all on grade entrance with handicap-accessible doors so it is a good location. There will be Niantic, Harristown, and two Decatur precincts there. Just remind your constituents they can still request to vote by mail ballot and they can still come in and start early voting forty days before the elections.

Chair Kraft... sign up to be an election judge and things might change.

Mr. Tanner...we are struggling to make the required number of election judges. We can have I think up to three hundred and twenty and we are barely scratching two hundred. It is just more and more difficult to recruit the board did raise the compensation so we will stem some of the time I am not sure if we can consolidate precincts any further which makes creating county board district and State Rep districts difficult when they get to big so we are about at the bottom. Unless the State does something with a vote by mail like making it mandatory or creating vote centers unless one of those two things changes this is probably the kind of position we will have for the rest of the...

Chair Kraft...do you think there is a possibility I have heard rumbling that within a few years, it maybe vote by mail?

Mr. Tanner... more states go that way for the same reasons they have struggled to get election judges. Society as a whole has just become more amendable to getting things in the mail and the difficulty in recruiting election judges. Polling places now are even difficult to recruit.

***Recorder – Ms. Eaton was not present but left her report for committee members.***

***Workforce Investments –***

Ms. Wilkerson reported that they are getting ready for their workforce board meeting on Thursday. We are excited to have the Chief of Police he is going to be our keynote speaker and we are looking forward to hearing about some youth activities. We hope to be able to give him some ideas on what we are doing with the youth funding. That evening we are having the pre-apprenticeship graduation at five o'clock at the workforce office. That will be interesting to get them completed and then make sure that they get their jobs so then we can turn in a report and get the money because that is how that works with that particular grant. We have got twenty-one students enrolled in the Rotalbly CNA program, and we have got students enrolled in Richland Community College CNA class. We are hoping that once they finish we can get them out on more job sites than we had before and with the fact that we can pay for them.

Several hiring events are scheduled Constellation Energy was last Thursday at the workforce office and that one was hard because they are very selective in terms of background checks. Decatur Housing Authority comes this Thursday and on November 30<sup>th</sup> we got Health at Home Agency. It is good to have the hiring events and I wish we had more traffic but I still like having the employers there onsite.

We recently had the monitoring site visit it was the week of September 18<sup>th</sup> and we had no fiscal findings which is good and we have a couple of things to work on programmatically one of the things we are going to work with the staff on is two-way communication. Not that they are not having it but that they are getting documented within a timely frame and out of three or four hundred files they picked one or two and they will say well during this period we should have had period ample two-way communications. We are going to talk about that at the staff meeting but we did get noted for best practice and file maintenance because the files were highly organized. It wasn't me it was my staff. They have a check-off list and each check-off list is at the front of every single one of those files which they can just go down. The monitor said we like this practice and we would like to be able to share it with other agencies. I just want to note that I think they did a really good job with it. We also got a surprise visit they went ahead and monitored my JTED grant and we had no fiscal findings on that either. It was a double blessing in terms of monitoring.

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

**New Business – *None***

**CLOSED SESSION - *None needed***

**NEXT MEETING:** December 11, 2023

**ADJOURNMENT** Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Yoder, seconded by Mr. Entler. The motion carried 4-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Crystal Hugger, Macon County Board*