

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
MACON COUNTY BOARD**

MAY 10, 2018

**Jay A. Dunn
Chairman**

**Stephen M. Bean
Clerk**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Sheriff and State's Attorney present.

The Roll Call showed all members present with the exception Mr. Brown and Mr. Smith.

Mrs. Taylor led the members in prayer.

All led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12, 2018 MEETING

MOTION

Mr. Potts moved, seconded by Mr. Drobisch to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2018 meeting.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Bird, Buckner, Cox, Dawson, Drobisch, Dudley, Dunn, Greenfield, Hogan, Jackson, Joy, Kraft, Mattingley, Meachum, Noland, Oliver, Potts, Taylor, Zimmerman

Nays: (None)

AYES = 19

NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

RECOGNITIONS:

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence for the passing of Merv Jacobs. After a moment of silence, Mr. Dunn said that Merv got him at the end because he had his yard signs there at the church in Mr. Dunn's district. Merv's wife said he had a lot of board meetings at the end of his life and was taking roll call and votes. Merv spent a lot of time on the board, 30 something years if Mr. Dunn remembered right. He was a great guy and we will miss him. He has a good family, a close family.

ZONING/SUBDIVISIONS

1. Mr. Dudley presented Resolution Z-1194-05-18 which is regarding Case S-02-04-2018 a petition submitted by Oreana Solar, LLC c/o Geronimo Energy for a Special Use Permit to allow the development and construction on an 80 acre tract of land, a solar energy system consisting of approximately 20 acres in (A-1) Agricultural Zoning on property commonly known as 6816 N. Brush College Rd., Decatur, IL 62526. After

hearing the evidence, the Zoning Board of Appeals voted to recommend approval of the subject petition to the County Board with 14 stipulations. The EEHW Committee met and reviewed the petition and recommended the County Board approve the petition subject to the stipulations recommended by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

MOTION

Mr. Dudley moved, seconded by Mr. Meachum to approve Resolution Z-1194-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

QUESTION:

Mrs. Cox: Mrs. Cox if there was any opposition with this.

Jennifer Gunter: Ms. Gunter said there was no one in opposition at the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn asked if there was anyone at the meeting that wanted to speak against the solar farm. There was no opposition present at the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter of resignation from the Macon County Board of Review from Tom Brinkoetter.

A Notice of Application for Permit to Manage Waste from the Illinois EPA for Advanced Disposal Services Valley View Landfill addressing condition IX.3 of the permit.

A Notice of Application for Permit to Manage Waste from the Illinois EPA for Rhodes Landfill involving a Supplemental Permit Application to revise the post-closure costs pursuant to Condition 4 of Supplemental Permit No. 2016-425-SP.

Notification from the Illinois EPA regarding a construction permit received from ADM #18030019.

Three letters from Comcast regarding channel line-up changes in the community.

A copy of Comcast's Annual Report.

A letter from Comcast regarding upcoming programming changes.

A letter from Ameren regarding upcoming vegetation management that will be completed in the near future.

A copy of a letter received by Treasurer Ed Yoder from Ameren regarding the payment issued to Macon County for a one-time construction fee for the portion of the Kansas to Faraday electric transmission line located in Macon County.

REPORTS

Sheriff's Report – April 2018
Treasurer's Fund and Investment Report – April 2018
Macon County Collector's Report – April 2018
Coroner's Report – March 2018
Coroner's Annual Report for 2017
Public Defender's Report – March & April 2018

MOTION

Mrs. Cox moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to approve the Correspondence and Reports by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

2. CLAIMS

MOTION

Mrs. Cox moved, seconded by Mrs. Kraft to approve the claims by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

D. APPOINTMENTS

The appointments are being presented on the Consent Calendar.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

3. Resolution G-4810-05-18 – Executing deeds to convey property on which taxes were delinquent

Resolution G-4811-05-18 – Appointment to Macon County Heartland of Illinois
Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council

Jennifer Gunter, 820 Spitler Park Dr., Mt. Zion, IL 62549
Term Expires: November 30, 2018

Resolution G-4812-05-18 – Appointment to Macon County Conservation District
Board of Trustees

Karen Schneller, 610 Montgomery Ln., Decatur, IL 62526
Term Expires: June 30, 2023

Resolution G-4813-05-18 – Appointment to Macon County Merit Commission

James Steck, 2130 E. Reserve Way, Decatur, IL 62521
Term Expires: May 31, 2024

Resolution G-4814-05-18 – Reappointment to Macon County Board of Health

Kimberly Serbe, D.V.M., 4545 Cresthaven Ln., Decatur, IL 62526
Term Expires: May 31, 2021

Resolution G-4815-05-18 – Reappointment to Macon County Board of Health

Dr. Rao Minnaganti, 1260 Woodridge Ct., Decatur, IL 62526
Term Expires: May 31, 2021

Resolution G-4816-05-18 – Reappointment to Macon County Board of Health

Paige Toth, 440 Desert Rose Ct., Mt. Zion, IL 62549
Term Expires: May 31, 2021

Resolution G-4817-05-18 – Reappointment to Macon County Board of Health

Candace Clevenger, 145 S. Woodlawn, Decatur, IL 62522
Term Expires: May 31, 2021

Resolution G-4818-05-18 – Appointment to Macon County Board of Health

Mary Jane Linton, 1032 W. Weaver Rd., Forsyth, IL 62535
Term Expires: May 31, 2021

Resolution G-4819-05-18 – Reappointment to Macon County Zoning Board of Appeals

Barbara C. Lamont, 121 E. Burgess, Oreana, IL 62554
Term Expires: May 31, 2023

Resolution G-4820-05-18 – Reappointment to Macon County Zoning Board of Appeals

Edward H. Leonard, 510 S. Illinois St., Niantic, IL 62551
Term Expires: May 31, 2023

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Meachum to approve the Consent Calendar by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

4. Mr. Potts presented Resolution G-4821-05-18 which is approving a labor agreement between Macon County and the Illinois FOP Labor Council on behalf of Corrections Officers and corporals for the period of December 1, 2017 through November 30, 2020.

MOTION

Mr. Potts moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-4821-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. Mr. Potts presented Resolution G-4822-05-18 which is approving an agreement with Community Health Improvement Center D/B/A Crossing Healthcare for inmate health services at the Macon County Jail for the term of May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019.

MOTION

Mr. Potts moved, seconded by Mr. Dudley to approve Resolution G-4822-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

QUESTION:

Mrs. Cox: Mrs. Cox asked who all put in bids on this.

Lt. Kris Thompson: Lt. Kris Thompson said Advanced Correctional Healthcare out of Peoria was the only other bidder.

MOTION CARRIED.

EEHW COMMITTEE

6. Mr. Dudley presented Resolution G-4823-05-18 which is approving an increase in appropriations in the FY18 Animal Control budget.

MOTION

Mr. Dudley moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution G-4823-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

The Operations and Personnel Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

The Legislative Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

7. Mr. Greenfield presented Resolution G-4824-05-18 which is approving the contract for the Employee Assistance plan services with Morneau Shepell Limited.

MOTION

Mr. Greenfield moved, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve Resolution G-4824-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

8. Mr. Greenfield presented Resolution G-4825-05-18 which is approving the Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance proposal from AJ Gallagher & Co.

MOTION

Mr. Greenfield moved, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve Resolution G-4825-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMENT:

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he was going to pull Resolution G-4826-05-18 which concerns an Equal Employment Opportunity Plan for Macon County. He said there were questions

in the Democrat caucus on how that process works. He didn't think it was a do or die thing in regard to passing it this month.

9. Mr. Greenfield presented Resolution G-4827-05-18 which is approving an intergovernmental agreement between the Macon County Board and the Long Creek Township Board for township assessing.

MOTION

Mrs. Cox moved, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve Resolution G-4827-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED. (GREENFIELD ABSTAINED FROM VOTING)

10. Mr. Greenfield presented Resolution G-4828-05-18 which is approving an intergovernmental agreement between the Macon County Board and the Oakley Township Board for township assessing.

MOTION

Mr. Greenfield moved, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve Resolution G-4828-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said they did not have anything right now but did have at least one contract coming up in the fall and maybe two. We still have one pending that is going to mediation.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

11. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-2110-05-18 which is approving an intergovernmental agreement for the sharing of certain costs related to the pavement striping of roadways in Macon County, IL between the City of Decatur and the County of Macon, Illinois.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson to approve Resolution H-2110-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

12. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-2111-05-18 which is awarding the Annual MFT Pavement Striping Contract.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-2111-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

13. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-2112-05-18 which is appropriating funds for the 2018 Pavement Patching Project.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-2112-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

14. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-2113-05-18 which is appropriating funds for the 2018 HSIP Guardrail Upgrade Project.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-2113-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

15. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-2114-05-18 which is appropriating funds to purchase right-of-way and temporary construction easement from George P. Turner Trust for the CH 21 Kenney Road Bridge Replacement Project.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mr. Mattingley to approve Resolution H-2114-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-2115-05-18 which is appropriating funds to purchase temporary easement from Jerry and Janet Bates for the TR 226 Kruse Road Bridge Replacement Project.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-2115-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

17. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-2116-05-18 which is appropriating funds to purchase right-of-way from Patricia Ann Thompson and Alvin Allen Thompson under the Patricia Ann Thompson Living Trust for the CH 57 Dalton City Blacktop Bridge Replacement Project.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-2116-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

18. Mr. Meachum presented Resolution H-2117-05-18 which is appropriating funds to purchase right-of-way and temporary construction easement from Courtney L. Beckett for CH 57 Dalton City Blacktop Bridge Replacement Project.

MOTION

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mrs. Cox to approve Resolution H-2117-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

The Executive Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

The Siting, Rules & Ordinance Sub-Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

The Building Sub-Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

There were no citizens' remarks presented at the meeting.

COMMENT:

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said they were going to have a presentation on the Solar Farm from Geronimo Energy.

Amber Miller: Ms. Miller said she is a resident of Joliet, IL. She is a contractor and works for Geronimo Energy. She said they wanted to give the board a little Solar 101. They know this is the first solar project in the county and they wanted to give a little information about solar and how the community solar project works in the county or any county. They have been in solar and renewable energies since 2005. The company, Geronimo Energy has been in renewables since 2005. They are headquartered in Minneapolis, MN. They have offices in North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, New York, Michigan and Illinois. Geronimo has done community solar and utility scale solar. Currently they have 1800 megawatts of renewable energy projects, 140 of which are community scale solar. Just so they understand the difference, community scale solar is 4 megawatts or smaller. So, that is a much smaller footprint than if they were familiar with utility scale solar. It is the much larger 100 acres, 200 acres, 300 acres projects. Community scale solar is usually 40 acres, 20 acres, that size or less. So, it is a much smaller footprint for community scale solar. They did one project where they took approximately 20 community solar projects and bundled them and made it one project, and that was in Minnesota. The basic information, just so they understand how the projects work when it comes to siting, one of the reasons Illinois works well for the community solar projects is because it's nice and flat. That is very important because they don't do site preparation. They don't come in and grade or strip the soil off. They prefer to use the site as it currently is if at all possible, so they do very little site preparation. There aren't footings and foundations for the racking systems that you see that hold the solar panels. Those are piles that are driven into the ground. Depending on the soil conditions which will be done as part of the engineering studies as they move forward to the building permit, those are typically between 10 and 16 feet driven into the ground. There will be a hole for each one of those, and there are 3 per rack. A rack is about 43 feet long and it is 15 feet or less. One of the concerns they have heard from communities is how this is going to look for vegetation maintenance and that kind of thing. People are saying they are concerned about tall weeds. Ms. Miller said the racks are about 2 feet from the ground. One thing they need to understand about solar is they don't want shade. If anything gets above 2 feet it starts to shade the panels. So, all of the ground cover they will see that is being planted between the rows and under the solar

panels is just that, low ground cover. They do have some prairie grasses that are closer to the fence line, but that is also a pollinator mix. We have worked with the Planning & Zoning department to specifically develop pollinator mix for each zone in Illinois. There is one for the north, one for the middle part of the state and one for the southern part of the state. They also have different seed mixes based on the soil conditions. If it is a drainage area there is one, and then there is the pollinator mix, and then there is the low ground cover mix. They have worked very hard to come up with plantings and vegetation that will be good for the area and good for the projects, and will be aesthetically pleasing. The conversion of the tillable acreage to the seed mix cover is anticipated to increase infiltration, reduce runoff, and improve drainage. That is also good because as they know when they have crops there is the turnover of soil every year. This will be continuously planted. That is also good for when the project if at some point should reach its end of life, it will be easier to convert this back to agricultural land. That is the intent, to have as low an impact because it is a low impact project. There are inverters for any of you who understand electricity. The inverters, the solar panels are DC where they draw the power. They will all be linked together and then they will trench the system and bury that at the end of each row. It will be trenched underground to the point of the inverter where it will be converted to AC power and then that will be trenched out to the point of interconnection. That will be the only sort of site work they will doing as far as digging and that kind of thing. It will just be the trenching at the end of the rows to the inverter and to the point of interconnection where they tie into the utility grid. As they have heard, people with windfarms are concerned about the hum. The inverter is located in the middle of the site, and it makes about as much noise as a dishwasher. From the middle of the site you could maybe here it on site, but once you get about 500 feet away, which from the middle of our sites since they are several acres, you can't hear it anywhere off the site. They do have security fencing, which is important. It is International Electrical Code, part of the Building Code. They will see a weather station on site. These locations are remotely monitored. One of the reasons for the weather stations is so they can see how things are operating on site. If there is something going on where they are not getting the output they should be getting based on the weather and something is going on, then they will know. The cameras also let them know if there is something else going on. They will be working with local police and fire for an emergency plan to be put into place should that become necessary. It will be a secured facility with an ox box for access by police and fire. They hope to be a good neighbor for the community, for all the neighbors out there for the agricultural. Ms. Miller said their founder is a farmer so their roots are in farming. They want to make sure they are a good neighbor and that the project is successful. Geronimo is very excited about their project being in Macon County.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn asked if there is a problem with too much or not enough rain, or does that matter.

Ms. Miller: Ms. Miller said that will not matter and will not bother them. They have also been asked if crop dusting or dust from tilling has any impact on their projects, and it really does not. If they get dusty the panels are just hosed off.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson asked about employees.

Ms. Miller: Ms. Miller said once they are up and running they will have local people that will take care of the vegetation management. As for the installation, there is about 7,000 hours of electrical work for each installation. We work with the local laborers ahead of the projects to make sure they are aware. We have been working with the IBEW in this area and across the state to make sure they are aware of these projects and where they are going. There are 7,000 hours of work for the installation and then everything will be remotely monitored and we will have people here to address any problems.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson asked when she said “work with” what did that mean.

Ms. Miller: Ms. Miller said they work with them as far as notifying them when they have projects. So, when they get ready to move forward with construction they know where people are needed and what the schedules are. Geronimo has a project in Macon County and another one in Knox so it is where they will need people and what the timing for those are.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson asked when she said “they’ll know” what did that mean.

Ms. Miller: Ms. Miller said IBEW that is who they have been working with.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson said Ms. Miller had said they will know. Does that mean they will have an option to bid on some of the jobs?

Ms. Miller: Ms. Millers said absolutely and they use all local people. They don’t bring contractors in from outside.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson said Macon County has union and non-union sometimes so she was just asking.

Ms. Miller: Ms. Miller said they work with local people so they use both union and non-union, but primarily union for the electrical, but it’s both.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson asked what kind of agreement they had with the service providers as far as electrical companies.

Ms. Miller: Ms. Miller said right now through the program with the state it’s through Ameren and ComEd. The interconnection agreements are sent out once they have a site. For instance, they sent this site to Ameren to make sure this was a site that they could do an interconnection agreement. They basically approved the site for interconnection. Once the program is finalized, which is still going on at the state level, then they will actually enter into the interconnection agreement for this particular site.

Ms. Zimmerman: Ms. Zimmerman asked if she could explain the plantings again. She had said they will have a pollinator mix on the outside and a low cover thing on the inside. Ms. Zimmerman asked if that is native as well.

Ms. Miller: Ms. Miller said it is all native. They have gone through and looked at what the noxious weeds and grasses are from the state to make sure none of that is in there. As they may know if they have ever had to deal with those, once they get established they are very hard to eradicate. When they first do the plantings for the first few months it's much more of a maintenance issue until everything is established and then it is just making sure that everything is kept under control.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver said they had not heard anything about permanent jobs and that is what he was wondering. What kind of permanent employment will be here?

Ms. Miller: Ms. Miller said the facility is not going to be manned other than there will be people hired for the maintenance. Then there will be regional people once they figure out where the sites are going to be. There will be some, but at this point they don't know for sure exactly what that will entail.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn asked how long these are normally going to last, life expectancy.

Ms. Miller: Ms. Miller said most of the agreements are 15 or 25 years. She said they look at it like it's there in perpetuity for them, as far as it could be there forever. If there are not customers then there is no point in us being there. As a solar panel ages it can be replaced just like any other type of equipment. That is the time frame for most of the agreements they have entered into.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson asked if that agreement follows in suit with what they follow for federal guidelines, or state for a contract.

Ms. Miller: Ms. Miller asked what he meant.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said the subsidy that Geronimo is going to get and asked if that is contractual.

Ms. Miller: Ms. Miller said it will be once they enter into an interconnection agreement.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said then it would be almost the same as they would pass on.

OFFICEHOLDERS' REMARKS:

There was no old business presented at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

19. Mr. Dunn presented Resolution G-4829-05-18 which is regarding the semi-annual review of the Closed Session Minutes.

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Dudley to approve Resolution G-4829-05-18 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Potts to adjourn until Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.