

**EEHW COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 15, 2012
5:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Vice Chair Joe McGlaughlin
Kevin Greenfield
Phil Hogan
Kevin Meachum
Don Westerman
Mark Wicklund
David Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chair Tim Dudley
Gary Minich

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Kris Horton, Animal Control
Matt Snyder, ROE
Kathie Powless, VAC
Julie Aubert, Health Department
Sheree Zalanka, Health Department
Tony VanNatta, P&Z
Linda Koger, County Board Office

This meeting was called to order by Vice Chair McGlaughlin at the Macon County Office Building.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of prior meeting made by David Williams, seconded by Mark Wicklund, and motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

Motion to approve the claims as presented made by David Williams, seconded by Phil Hogan, and motion carried 6-0.

SUBDIVISIONS

Thatcher Farm Addition – Two Lot Minor

Tony VanNatta presented this subdivision in Harristown Township at 2510 Kenney Road in Decatur, and it consists of 3.25 acres of a farmstead; it is being divided into two lots, lot one will be with the residence which is 2510 and 1.75 acres, and lot two will be 1.50 which is at the rear of 2510 Kenney Road. It will have an access of 100 feet on Kenney Blacktop which will retain the farm buildings, there is three grain bins on it, and location was pointed out on the map. It will retain Thatcher's farm operation on nearby farms which he does Coles farm and some others he has across the street from them, and he has no use for the farm house in his operation. On January 4, the Zoning Board approved a variance to subdivide this so we are going to have two non-conforming size lots to build a house on, they are not non-conforming for farm but to build on, and they will remain A-1 zoning so there is no change in that.

(Kevin Meachum came into the meeting.)

Tony said all certificates and fees are paid and signed with the exception of Harristown, they haven't signed it yet but they are going to at their next meeting, and staff recommends approval contingent to their signature.

Don Westerman asked if this is still family or unrelated. Tony replied Coles sold it to Thatcher, Thatcher is selling the house off of it since they don't have a need for it, and this is where a variance works in these cases to help people do what they want and still maintain a farmstead. Mark Wicklund asked if there is planned use for that, and Tony replied they are going to sell the house and maintain this which is L shaped strictly for the farm operation leaving the bins. Motion to approve made by Kevin Greenfield and seconded by Phil Hogan. David Williams asked if Harristown is approving this because it is within the mile and half, and Tony replied correct and their meeting isn't until later in the month but they will be signing it and they have already checked on it. Motion carried 7-0.

REPORTS

Environmental Management

No one was present.

Regional Office of Education

Matt Snyder said he is back on the payroll until June 30. He brought in his report of official acts for December through February, and also brought copies of the Macon County facility sales tax. He hopes you are getting these, they have sent some of these out but not all maybe, and he will check with his secretary to see how that is going. This is all of them they have done from November, the one on the back will be disbursed April 5, they got that money in, and that was the big one that covered December; it has been about \$800,000 a month, low 800s, and they did get a check for a little over a million dollars for December that is sitting in their bank right now. Kevin Meachum requested that some of this that Matt is printing off be emailed to the county board office for emailing to board members. Matt said that has been done a couple of times, he will make sure that is happening to the entire board by month, and he brought these copies in because he knows you haven't received each of these.

In response to a question from Mark Wicklund about Sangamon Valley School District, Matt said they would like to build a school closer to the interstate and there is also a push, they have been getting calls from people in Niantic who want to pull away from Illiopolis and go towards Warrensburg and Illiopolis going with Buffalo Tri City and trying to do something that way since they feel like Sangamon County has kind of got more influence on that district than Macon County so that has been some public people who have contacted his office about the process to do that. Matt said he has not heard about a new building, and knows their superintendent had brought that up at one time that they would like to build closer to the interstate for visibility and to attract people to the community.

Matt said there is a commission meeting in Springfield, he was there this afternoon with legislators and school superintendents and members of different educational organizations looking at the ROEs, how they will be funded, how many there needs to be, how that is going to work, and discussion about it being removed from an elected position. Their organization has explained that if the state wants to take that over and appoint people that would be great, but they would advise the counties not to support that, and let the state pay for it if they want to appoint their people. Everything they are doing in their office is being supported by you guys, it is all state work, you are paying their employees, and the counties are statewide.

The CPPRT, the governor put them back in CPPRT for next year in his budget, the legislature has made it very clear to them that they will not pass a bill that takes money out of CPPRT again for them, and they would expect that counties and everyone else who is receiving money would definitely fight that and totally understand that. They are in talks with, they are paid through June 30 out of CPPRT, and after that they don't know what is going to happen. Vice Chair McGlaughlin asked what CPPRT is, and Matt replied corporate personal property replacement tax that goes to different entities throughout the state and they took 11 million off the top of it, about 1% for everybody who received that and paid in to help them out. David Williams said at the township level they receive the personal property replacement tax about four times a year. Regarding the appointment thing, Mark Wicklund would not be in favor of that, he knows him and his family are from this area so knows the district and what is going on, and he would like to see it stay that way since when you get into the appointment process they are going to be bringing somebody from Chicago and St. Louis and you know how that is going to work. Kevin Meachum commented Matt is a stakeholder in this community, and he is not in favor of it since they elected him. Matt said the group that is pushing for that want it to be appointed to take politics out of the position, and the governor would be appointing these positions. Committee laughed, and commented to let them know how that works out. Matt thinks they will be able to finish out their term before they do any reductions since their terms aren't quite a year into, July 1, 2015 is when the term is out, so any reductions would not happen until after that.

Veterans Assistance

Kathie Powless had no report.

Planning & Zoning

Tony VanNatta had no report.

Health Department

Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations in FY12 Budget For Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program

Copies of resolution were distributed. Julie Aubert said this is a new grant they received, and no local dollars are being used with this one at all. Motion to approve made by Kevin Meachum and seconded by Phil Hogan. In response to a question from Mark Wicklund, Julie said this program money is for two program coordinators, it is a federal grant to do research on four home visiting programs in our county explained in the resolution, it is to do intense data collection to come up with benchmarks to prove our programs are working, and all four agencies shown in the resolution are working together and will be pushing data to these program coordinators, and the Health Department will act as that as well. Motion carried 7-0.

Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations for Building Improvements

Copies of resolution were distributed. Julie Aubert explained this is the roofing project she has been talking about for quite a while. Motion to approve made by David Williams and seconded by Kevin Greenfield. Kevin Meachum asked how much we are increasing. Julie replied they didn't budget for, they budgeted for about \$450,000 in the beginning, they thought that money was going to be expended last fiscal year but because the bidding process took quite a bit longer than they thought, they didn't spend any of that money.

Kevin Meachum asked then if it is a rollover. Julie said it is but when the bids actually came in, the \$450,000 was an estimate based on the architect, the actual you will see is almost \$600,000 on the back, that is the contract that they are getting ready to sign, and their first preconstruction meeting is April 2. In response to a question from Mark Wicklund, Julie said she is confident that who they chose can do the job well and the bidding process with her being so green was quite a challenge but they did end up with three bids, two of them were not complete, one they finally got down to it, and the architect assured her they have enough information based on the three bids to where this price is a good one; Julie said yes this is going to be local labor absolutely, Building Systems is the contractor, Top Quality Roofing will do the roofing job, Nave Electric is doing their electrical, so all are local. In response to a question from Kevin Meachum about whether the architect will be doing the inspection on site as they are doing the work for this \$600,000 job, Julie replied he is and she is really set on making sure that as they go they don't have any glitches and 2 or 3 years down the road having problems which is the spot they were in in 2005. Motion carried 7-0.

David Williams heard on the radio today that Macon County has the most obese population in the state of IL. Julie replied yes, that is correct, and that is one of the Health Department's top three priorities in their I plan which is an assessment they do every 5 years.

Animal Control

Kris Horton distributed copies of their report. They are staying open an hour later on Saturdays now, and are open until 4:00 hoping to get more people in that work during the week. Right now they have a special on cats, they are usually \$94.50, and they are doing two for \$125. Right now they are working on trying to get a debit or credit card machine out there, it is still in the process, the one the Health Department uses doesn't take VISA, so they are looking into options because VISA everybody has one and most people that is all they have got. Mark Wicklund has been trying to keep up to date on that card service out there, the convenience of being, all the credit union here, debit cards are all VISA, that is a huge benefit out there if we can get that out there, he is in favor of that, and can you do the five, two, get one free on the cats. Kris said buy two, get one free, yes.

Kevin Greenfield asked for an explanation of why the euthanasia numbers are down since that is the fewest amount he has ever seen. Kris replied more the time of the year and if you look at the numbers all over, February is one of their slowest months; they try to get as many animals out of there called live out takes, February was very slow, they got a lot of good animals in, there are not a lot of dog fights over the winter, they don't see the bait dogs and fighting dogs and as many of the aggressive dogs and the losers in the winter, but that will start picking up now that the weather is warmer. Kris mentioned it is puppy season, and discussed various puppies being fostered and adopted. Vice Chair McGlaughlin hasn't heard much recently about the prevalence of dog fighting, so are we winning that battle or have they just gone more underground. Kris said it is hard to catch, dog fighting in Decatur is not like you see on TV with rings and people, it is groups of generally 10 – 20 with dogs on leashes pitted against each other, that way if the police come by they can yank them and everybody runs separate directions, and that is in vacant houses or lots or alleys; the public is more in tune to it now, she discussed a recent call where they were actually breeding two dogs in the back yard, but someone called it in and said they were fighting so Animal Control went out.

It is not unprevalent here and Kris said they see almost every day, at least every week, they see dogs that come in that have scars on faces and the front of their bodies but none anywhere else, so you know those dogs have been pitted while leashed to fight; most of them have been trained to be so dog aggressive that they are not good candidates for adoption, and that also causes a danger to the public when you have a dog if it gets out of your house that is going to attack the first dog it sees. Vice Chair McGlaughlin commented maybe we could train our officers to be shotgun aggressive, not towards the dogs, towards the people on the other end of the leash. Kris said kitten season has not hit so much yet, she doesn't think they have any little kittens right now, kitten season should be starting in the next couple weeks, and then they will be completely full. They are working with the Foundation getting more of their feral cats off to barns, barn cats for people who want them after they have been spayed or neutered.

NEXT MEETING

April 19, 2012

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Kevin Greenfield, seconded by Phil Hogan, motion carried 7-0, and meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Linda Koger
Macon County Board Office