

**Macon County
EEHW Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES
September 20, 2012**

The Macon County EEHW Committee meeting was held on Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. located at the Macon County Office Building, 141 S. Main St., Decatur, IL.

Committee Members Present:

Chair Tim Dudley
Kevin Meachum
Gary Minich
Phil Hogan
Jay Dunn
Kevin Greenfield

Committee Member Absent:

Joe McGlaughlin
Don Westerman
David Williams

County Personnel Present:

Julie Aubert, Health Department
Tony Van Natta, P & Z Dept.
Kris Horton, Animal Control
Sheree Zalanka, Health Department
Amanda Askew, Macon County Highway Office Assistant

Others Present:

Shirley Stanley, Animal Control
Irene Peterson, Humane Society

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tim Dudley at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Gary Minich
Kevin Meachum
Tim Dudley
Phil Hogan
Jay Dunn
Kevin Greenfield

Approval of the Minutes:

Kevin Meachum made a motion to approve the minutes from August 16, 2012, seconded by Phil Hogan. Motion Carried 6-0

Approval of the Bills:

Kevin Meachum made a motion to accept the bills as presented, seconded by Jay Dunn.
Motion Carried 6-0

Zoning:

Tony Van Natta stated no report for Zoning.

Subdivisions:

Hoadley's Addition – 2 Lot Minor

Tony Van Natta stated this is a two lot minor subdivision located at 3857 Grace's Lane in Whitmore Township, the owner is Kevin and Stacey Hoadley. They are purchasing approximately 2 acres from Arthur and Gloria Cheatum of 3865 Grace's Lane in Whitmore Township. It consists of 5.21 acres and will be known as Lot 2. The checklist is intact with the exception of the city signing off on it. Staff recommends approval contingent to their signing. Kevin Meachum asked if this was the city? Tony replied the city signs off if it is within a mile and a half. Kevin agreed. Motion made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Phil Hogan. Motion Carried 6-0.

Reports:

Environmental Management:

Deb Garret stated I do not have any reports tonight I just want to mention the Electronic Waste collection drive at Progress City on Saturday from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Regional Office of Education:

No Report

Veterans Assistance:

Excused

Planning & Zoning:

Tony Van Natta stated no report for Planning & Zoning other than I am retiring November 30, 2012. That will be my last day.

Health Department:

Julie Aubert stated no report.

Animal Control:

Kris Horton stated you have a copy of my report, but I am under new business tonight.

Public Comments:

Shirley Stanley with Animal Control stated I wanted to report on three events that we have done in the last five weeks. Two were done in conjunction with the Decatur Park District who are fabulous community partners. I cannot say enough good about them and how easily they facilitate the things that we are trying to do there. The first one was August 18 called Tour De Paws, it was a bike ride. We were surprised we had about four times the number we thought show up. The second one was Fido Scurry it was the Saturday following Labor Day in Fairview Park. It was a 5K run/walk and pet parade. Those

two are very visible in the community and they give us an opportunity to promote what we are all about with the foundation. We promote responsible animal care, the spay/neuter initiatives we have and to collect the denotable dollar. They worked really well. We do split the profits with Park District on both of those. The first one goes to Scovill Zoo, the second to the dog parks. It is so worth our endeavor. The last event we had was Saturday it was our annual Whiskers and Tails, which is a dinner and a great networking tool to tell more people about the good things that, are happening and the positive things about the care and adoption efforts for the homeless animals around here. We have the blessing of the Animals on the feast of St. Francis in the dog park on Nelson Park on October 6, 2012 at 2:00 pm. We will have adoptable animals at that.

Irene Peterson, President of Humane Society, stated we keep fighting these animal welfare and population problems. As you know we have a serious pet overpopulation problem in our community the Humane Society of Decatur/Macon County and the Macon County Animal Shelter Foundation have spay/neuter programs in place and have had for several years. While these programs are effective in reducing numbers it is not enough nor is it fast enough. Several people from Macon County Animal Control, the Shelter Foundation, and the Humane Society of Decatur have met recently and discussed that statistics of intakes, adoptions, and euthanasia's at our local shelters along with the poor reception of animal control in our community. We talked about possible solutions to improve these conditions in our community. It is very difficult to get community support when most of the community is not aware of the number animals in Macon County Animal Control and our local shelters. As of today with the people I have talked to we are looking at 600 animals in our local 3 shelters. In an effort to get the truth out to the community about pet overpopulation the Humane Society of Decatur is hosting a town meeting on Sunday, October 21 at 1:00 pm at the Madden Auditorium at the Decatur Public Library. We will have guest speakers from the Macon County Animal Control, the Shelter Foundation, the Humane Society and others will discuss statistics, our problems and concerns, and possible solutions. We will have a public open forum for questions and views after the speakers are finished. Also at this time I will have petitions presented by the Humane Society available for signatures to take to the Macon County Board, this committee, and the City Council in an attempt to introduce new ordinances and laws. Although State law requires a pet to be altered after entering an animal control facility the second time as a stray, one petition will request for our City and County to amend local ordinances to the first time as a stray. The second petition would be to request a mandatory spay and neuter law for any pets over 5 months of age with a couple of exceptions. The exceptions would be for licensed breeders, proven show dogs, and signed letters from a veterinarian stating the pet should not be altered due to age or health conditions. Most people that I have talked with are in agreement for such ordinance changes. We realize that we must have spay/neuter programs in place prior to initiate any new City or County ordinances. We do not know how many unaltered pets or unregistered pets are in our community, but feel that the Humane Society and the Shelter Foundation should be able to provide spay/neuter surgeries for most or obtain the funds through grants or donors in the community to get those surgeries done. There are reasons I bring this to your attention this evening. One is to invite each of you to the town meeting on October 21, two so that you are not surprised about any future proposals or news media attention that this may receive and to give you time to mull this over and possibly have any suggestions or any input for any solutions for this community. I hope you will be on board to help provide solutions for the pet overpopulation in our community, it helps the animals the people involved with the animals and long term should reduce cost for tax payers in our community but reducing your budget for animal welfare. I thank you for your time and I hope to see you on October 21st at 1:00 pm.

No Old Business

New Business:

Resolution approving Intergovernmental Agreement with Village of Niantic regarding and Animal Control Program:

Kris Horton stated this is the exact same resolution except for Niantic put in where Long Creek was a couple months ago. They have a part time contractual Deputy though the Sheriff's Department. It the same as Long Creek and if you look at the very last sheet there is a fee schedule. They have agreed to incorporate our County ordinances and any citations just the same with Long Creek that we write will come back to Macon County Animal Control. Motion made by Kevin Greenfield, seconded by Kevin Meachum. Kris added we are going to have some slight changes in the County ordinances in the language to reflect, we have started these intergovernmental agreements, the languages in some of these ordinances says unincorporated areas of the county only and that will have to be changed to except for the incorporated areas that have a contract. Motion carried 6-0.

Increase in appropriations in the FY 12 Health Fund Budget for Macon County CERT Fundraising:

Julie Aubert stated all of these resolutions that you have before you went though our Board of Health and passed. The first one we have is regarding our CERT program which is our Community Emergency Response Team. Basically we lost funding so we are fundraising. So our income, our revenue, and our expenses will go up and this is what this resolution is for. Motion made by Jay Dunn, seconded by Phil Hogan. Motion carried 6-0.

Increase in appropriations in the FY 12 Health Fund Budget for We Choose Health:

This one is regarding the We Choose Health grant which is new to the County. It has three health components. One is working with the Decatur School District to put in a coordinated school effort. It is a systematic change and it has to be district wide. The district has agreed to work with us. The second component is a work place wellness program that we will develop and it will be available to small business in our County at no charge and we will be developing that within a few months. We are hiring for this position as well. The third component is smoke free living. Kevin Meachum stated some of these programs that you are going to be doing, like the wellness, is that something we can get on our County website and yours. Julie replied yes, in fact, hopefully the County building and the County entities will be one of our first. Kevin Meachum stated on our health insurance we have been promoting healthy living and lifestyles. The reason for this is trying to get the rates down so our employees are not paying such a high deductible. I think this is great and I hope we can utilize it and the small business will take advantage of it. Motion made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Phil Hogan. Motion carried 6-0.

Increase in appropriations in the FY 12 Health Fund Budget for Dental:

This one is just overall dental and we added another contractual dentist. We are going to be increasing services to offer root canals to children so they do not have to lose permanent adult teeth as soon as they come in. Motion made by Gary Minich, seconded by Kevin Greenfield. Motion carried 6-0.

Increase in appropriations in the FY 12 Health Fund Budget for Dental Sealant:

This one is regarding our Dental Sealant Grant. It is basically an increase in funds for the grant. Motion made by Jay Dunn to approve, seconded by Phil Hogan. Motion carried 6-0.

Increase in appropriations in the FY 12 Health Fund Budget for Security Contract Amendment:

The next one is for our security with the Sheriff's office. We have them come in and we have had to increase our hours and so it is an increase in that line as well. We will also be taking them from contractual and putting them on the payroll per the IMRF Audit. Motion made by Jay Dunn to approve, seconded by Kevin Meachum. Motion carried 6-0.

Increase in appropriations in the FY 12 Health Fund Budget for I-CARE:

The last one is for I-CARE which our computer program through the State Department of Public Health that takes in all of our immunization information for our kids. This is a grant with no match required for new IT equipment. We will get about 7 computers. Motion to approve made by Jay Dunn, seconded by Kevin Greenfield. Motion carried 6-0.

No Closed Session

Adjourn:

Gary Minich made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Phil Hogan. Motion Carried 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

The next EEHW Committee Meeting held at the Macon County Office Building will be Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Amanda Askew

Macon County Highway Department