

EEHW COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, June 18, 2015
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Dudley
Linda Little (arrived @ 5:32)
Gary Minich
Matt Brown
Kevin Bird
Jerry Potts

MEMBERS ABSENT

Grant Noland

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Sgt Louann Hollon, Animal Control
Kris Horton, Animal Control
Greg Collins, Vet Administration
Matt Snyder, ROE
Jennifer Hoffman, P&Z

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tim Dudley at the Macon County Office Building.

MINUTES

Jerry Potts made a motion to approve the May 21, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Gary Minich, motion carried 5-0.

CLAIMS

Jerry Potts made a motion to accept the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Matt Brown and motion carried 5-0.

ZONING –

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case S-01-06-15: A Petition for a Special Use Permit by Kate & Cody Rose to operate a hair salon at their residence

Jennifer Hoffman explained that this is zoned R1, Single Family residential and is commonly known as 5200 White Oak Court in Whitmore Township. The ZBA approved at their June 3rd public hearing. Stipulations are listed in the resolution.

Gary Minich made a motion to forward the petition on to the full board with recommendation for approval, seconded by Jerry Potts and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case R-03-06-15: for rezoning approximately 7.21 acres from (R-4) Single Family Residential Zoning to (M-1) Light Industrial Zoning

Jennifer Hoffman explained this is a request from Charles G. Hutchins. The property is commonly known as 765 S. Wyckles Road in Harristown Township. The ZBA approved at their June 3rd public hearing.

Gary Minich asked what Mr. Hutchins wanted to do. Ms. Hoffman said he wants to build a shed to park excavating equipment and have a place to work on it.

Linda Little made a motion to forward on to the full board with recommendation for approval, seconded by Kevin Bird and the motion carried 6-0.

SUBDIVISIONS –

Chair Dudley announced that he was pulling Smock's Ocean Trail Estate a 1 lot minor subdivision off the agenda due to a lack of paperwork being submitted.

REPORTS

Animal Control

Kris Horton distributed reports and announced that on this Thursday, June 25th, there will be a joint ribbon cutting for the new cat addition at the animal control facility and at the new warehouse at 300 Below which is just right down the street from the animal control location. After the ribbon cutting, which is 4 p.m. at the shelter and 4:15 at the 300 Below location, it will turn into a block party. There will be bands, liquid nitrogen ice cream, FUJI catering, a bounce house, Skeff Distributing, Scovill Zoo, the Sheriff's Department & DPD.

Saturday, June 27th from noon to 4 p.m. is the All American Dog Birthday Party at the shelter. Since nobody knows the birthdays of the animals that come in, they are celebrated at one time every year. People bring in gifts and it is the start of the Christmas in July Foster Program. Animals will be sent into foster care from that day through July and into August. There will be specials on adoptions if you foster. This gives you a chance, if you're not sure if you want a new animal or not sure you can take care of it or have enough time for it, to try one out for a few weeks to be sure it will fit in with your lifestyle. It can either be brought back or adopted.

Seth Casteel has been at the shelter this week. He is the author of Underwater Dogs, Underwater Puppies, Underwater Babies, and he's doing Pounce which is about kittens playing, pouncing and running. He has been at the shelter using the kittens there to photograph for his new book that is coming out soon.

There was wild boar in the Argenta / Oreana area that they have been chasing for the last couple of weeks and it has finally been caught. With the help of the Sheriff's department and animal control, it was captured and dispatched. He was very mean and is no longer running the streets and back alleys of Argenta.

Environmental Management No report

Planning & Zoning –

Jennifer Hoffman reported that the office is pretty busy. Wind turbine special use permits have been submitted and they are busy working on them. Jennifer also reported that Angie is leaving the office to go to DeWitt County.

Veteran's Assistance –

Greg Collins reported that driver's licenses can now have Veteran designation on them so veterans that are 65 or over can go get a State ID card there. Greg said their office is no longer doing Veteran ID cards so they have turned their ID card printer over to the Printing Department who will now be doing the County ID's.

Aspen Dental will do free dental work for any veteran on June 27th. Appointments will be needed as it is first come/first served.

Regional Office of Education

Matt Snyder distributed a quarterly report covering March through May. The fiscal year ends at the end of June and budgets are being worked on. There are 4 employees in the office that are funded by the County funds. Out of all the funding received, there is about a \$215,000 budget that is split between Macon & Piatt counties. The EAV of both counties is taken each year and it is divided out. It is usually about a 80 / 20 split. Mr. Snyder and the Assistant Superintendent are paid by the State. The rest are paid through grants. The office has 5 programs.

The Adult Education program will close at the end of this month. The Adult Ed students will be going to Richland and Decatur Public Schools for GED prep.

Futures Unlimited is an alternative school for students that are behind in credits in their own school. They come to Futures. They have to have 10 credits. They can graduate with 18 credits. They get their diploma from their own high school. 96 were graduated this year. There is a graduation each quarter. New students are moved in as current ones graduate. There is very little turnover. If they miss 5 days, they are out of the program. That is located next to Dougherty's where they will be for one more year, then they are moving to the old Tech Academy.

Milligan Academy is the program for expelled and multiple suspended students. They are moving and will be in the Tech Academy next year along with Decatur's Phoenix Academy. We are going to merge those programs and they will all be under ROE in the future. There are quite a number of students from all the 11 districts that are served by ROE.

Heartland Vocational is out at Richland. Their numbers are way up and things are going very well there.

The St. Mary Adolescent Education program consists of two teachers that work with adolescents that are at St. Mary's for short term stays.

We touch a lot of students and areas. Alternative Ed is what we do very, very well.

Two years ago GED switched over to computerized testing. In the State of Illinois that year, there were 19,000 testers. After they turned it over to computerized testing, there were 1,900. Starting in 2016, hopefully on January 1st, students will have the option of not only taking the GED, but there is also a TASC test made by McGraw Hill as well as the HiSET test. Students will be able to choose the test they want to take. The TASC & HiSET are paper/pencil tests and they can be taken either computerized or with paper / pencil. It is all going to be called High School Equivalency. That will streamline things and give better options. The price went from \$50 to \$150 and had to have a credit card to register. That was a huge barrier. The numbers went way down. We used to have about 300 getting GED's a year out of about 500 that tested. Last year there were 22. A lot of changes are being made there.

Jerry Potts asked if they were trying to lower prices. Mr. Snyder said yes, he had served on a task force with other regional offices and some community colleges. They met with reps from GED, HiSET & TASC and many changes are forthcoming. The next task force is going to take students that have a number of high school credits and let them take portions of the test to get an adult diploma where they don't have to take the entire test. The state is looking at a lot of things.

Mr. Snyder said he has met the new State Superintendent and the new Ed Secretary the Governor has hired. They have a lot of interesting ideas and there will be some changes in education as we go forward.

Mr. Snyder said he is very proud that they have had over 800 teachers in their office for workshops over the past year. That has really picked up. Professional development has been huge and people are responding well to that.

Chair Dudley asked how the sales tax was going. Mr. Snyder said there are no issues there. Sales tax money is flowing. It comes every month without a problem. He said they get approximately \$800,000 a month that is divided out to the schools. Renovations are going on and that money is being used. It is a great addition.

Health Department No report

Mental Health

Linda Little reported that there is nothing to bring up

Citizen's Remarks - None

OLD BUSINESS –

Linda Little reported that the Mohamet Aquifer was determined to be a Sole Source Aquifer which cut the landfill off as being able to continue, but there is still some concern about what is already in it, so it is still being watched. Ms. Little said she is going to an aquifer meeting in Urbana tomorrow to hear where they want to go from here and then the county board can decide how involved they want to stay with it. There is also the question about Potash. She said it was excellent news to hear that it was declared a Sole Source Aquifer. Chair Dudley agreed.

NEW BUSINESS – None

Closed Session – None Needed

NEXT MEETING Next regular meeting - Thursday, July 16, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Jerry Potts made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Linda Little, the motion carried 6-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. *Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham*