

EEHW COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, July 16, 2015
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Dudley
Linda Little
Gary Minich
Matt Brown
Jerry Potts

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Carol Reed, Auditor
Kris Horton, Animal Control
Kathy Powless, Vet Administration
Doug Harlan, U of I Extension
Jennifer Hoffman, P&Z
Nathan Pierce, Historical Museum
Dianna Heyer, Health Department
Deb Garrett, Env Mgmt
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

Grant Noland
Kevin Bird

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tim Dudley at the Macon County Office Building. Mr. Dudley announced that both Mr. Noland & Mr. Bird are excused.

MINUTES

Linda Little made a motion to approve the June 18, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Matt Brown, the motion carried 5-0.

CLAIMS

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

ZONING – No Report

SUBDIVISIONS –

Morrow's Estates: 2 lot minor subdivision

Jennifer Hoffman explained that this is a 2 lot minor subdivision that is located in South Macon Township. The owners are John & Wanda Morrow. The property is located at 10458 Riley Road. Lot 1 is zoned RE-5 Single Family Estate with (3.952 Ac) and Lot 2 is zoned R-1 Single Family Residential with (1.456 Ac). All documents and certifications have been reviewed and signed by all entities involved. Staff recommends approval of this subdivision.

Matt Brown made a motion to approve, seconded by Linda Little

Linda Little asked what the current zoning is. Ms. Hoffman said it was all RE-5, but they got part rezoned last year because they wanted to put a house on that for one of the family members. Part is R-1. Ms. Little asked if the rezoning has already all been done. Ms. Hoffman confirmed that it was all done last year.

The motion carried 5-0.

Smock's Ocean Trail Estate: 1 lot minor subdivision

Jennifer Hoffman stated that this is a 1 lot minor subdivision located in Long Creek Township. The owners are Cloyd and Deborah Smock. The property is located at 5735 Ocean Trail Road. There are currently 2 lots in the subdivision and they want to combine them for purposes of building a garage. After combined the lot will be zoned R-1 Single Family Residential and will total 2.47 Acres. All documents have been reviewed and signed by all entities involved. Staff recommends approval of this subdivision.

Gary Minich made a motion to approve, seconded by Linda Little and the motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS

Planning & Zoning –

No Report

Health Department

Dianna Heyer reported that they have received the majority of their DHS & IDPH grants which they have signed and submitted, but like everyone else, they are being told that it could possibly change as far as the amount and time of payment. She said they received a letter from Dr. Shaw, Director of IDPH, telling them to keep their eyes & ears open and listen to what's going on. In the meantime, Ms. Heyer said they have decided to hold on some positions at the Health Department that they would normally hire for.

Ms. Heyer said that this time of year, West Nile virus surveillance is done. There have been a couple of mosquito batches that have tested positive for West Nile, so we know the virus is in our county. There have not been any humans get sick with it, but everyone needs to be aware. This time of the year is when the Health Department puts out educational messages about getting rid of standing water, wearing repellent, wearing light colored & long sleeve clothing, repair screens around the house so mosquitos can't get in, etc... She said she knows everybody has probably gotten used to hearing the message, but it is important that it is talked about every year.

Linda Little referred to Ms. Heyer's budget statement about not hiring for open positions and asked if she has a plan B in place so if the money does not come through, for filling the positions and / or a sensible, workable plan for how to absorb those responsibilities. She said she knew that right now, there is probably someone that is just doing it, but sometimes that's not really a fix. Ms. Heyer said that right now there are six held positions and after that they would start looking at those programs and they may possibly be heading toward some layoffs. They would look at positions that could be decreased. They (IDPH) are telling us that we can feel fairly confident that what we've gotten in the grant agreement is probably close to what we'll get, but nothing is certain. The hope is that with holding on these positions for a while, it will take us through until we get some news. If the news is bad, we'd have to look more seriously at some layoffs.

Mental Health

No Report

Environmental Management

No Report

Animal Control

Kris Horton distributed reports and reminded everyone that right now is the Christmas in July Foster Program at the shelter. If you come out and find an animal you want to take home, you can do that for about another 2 to 3 weeks to see if it gets along in your house and make sure it's a good fit and then if you want to adopt, the price is reduced to \$35. It is also kitten season now, so there are plenty of those.

Gary Minich asked about the report saying he noticed that the amount this year is down about 50% from last year and asked if it fluctuates & is typical or if it is a critical concern. Kris explained that it is part of the building program through the Foundation. They cover things like specials @ 50% and the money doesn't come in as the adoptions are done. It comes in a month or so later and it just depends on how they do their billing. It is not unusual.

Regional Office of Education

No Report

Veteran's Assistance –

Kathy Powless asked if the committee would like to hear the report line by line or just the lines that changed. Ms. Little asked if Ms. Powless had been able to make the 3% cut. Ms. Powless said no. Ms. Little said she would like the line by line.

Ms. Powless said 3% pay raises for both herself and her assistant were included along with the hospitalization, IMRF, SS as mandated by the auditor's office.

Maintenance of equipment was left at \$300

Telephone was left at \$1,200

Travel was expected to come down, but the training in 2016 is not in Decatur. It is in Peoria. It is a weeklong trip and both Kathy & Greg have to go.

Postage was left at \$900. This year's has not come out of the budget yet

EDP went from \$3000 to \$1000. New equipment was bought last year explaining the \$550 left. When the new budget kicked in, a new program and 2 new computers were bought.

Dues is up \$55 because Greg is now accredited so he needs to be a member of American Legion, VFW and any group he is eligible for.

Copy machine is still \$2,040 – not paid off yet.

Veteran's burial is \$1,000 and is required by by-laws

Bus Transport @ \$10,000 is the same. Drivers are paid a stipend of \$30 per trip to Danville and bus passes are bought for veterans. With the current amount, they are able to give bus passes every 2 months, which is for 20 rides, but it is enough to help them out.

Supplies was brought down \$1,000 to \$3,000. Credit cards are now being used to shop online at a cheaper rate.

Misc & contingency was brought down \$500 to \$1,000

Equipment was cut from \$1,500 to \$1,000. They are looking at getting 2 new scanners because the ones they have are worn out. That should take care of equipment for a while.

Mr. Minich asked about the SS figure. Carol Reed explained that in prior years SS & IMRF were on the same line, but have been split out this year to give a better look.

Carol Reed also added that the Veteran's Commission has a fund balance, which is a carryover from prior years, of \$85,896. Any loss or negative amounts coming through would go against that fund balance.

Ms. Little asked, if the 3% cut were made, could it be absorbed out of that fund balance. Ms. Powless said yes.

Chair Dudley told Ms. Powless that he knew she had made a lot of cuts and realized that the hospitalization, raises, SS & IMRF pretty much account for the amount the budget is up. He said he would like to make the motion for her to absorb the \$1,630 increase plus the 3% cut out of her fund balance. Linda Little said she did not have a problem with sending it on to the finance budget hearing if the overages could be absorbed & the 3% cut could be met because it has to go to Finance with the 3% cut. Mr. Dudley asked Ms. Powless if she could do that. She agreed and Mr. Dudley said he made that motion. Ms. Little seconded it and the motion carried 5-0.

Historical Museum

Nathan Pierce reported that nothing had changed other than line 5470, floor manager that used to have an amount. He said they pay directly out of their checking account to someone part time for some outdoor projects & restoration, so the funds are not coming through the County.

The hospitalization increased accordingly.

Chair Dudley said he made a 7.9% cut. Ms. Little clarified that this is no general funds. All agreed.

Linda Little made a motion to approve forwarding the budget on to the Finance Committee Budget Hearing, seconded by Gary Minich, and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Pierce also reported that they had been closed January through April for some pretty extensive renovations. He said they painted everything before reopening in April. They had a

grand re-opening with an excellent turnout on June 20th. Additional lighting was added where needed. Nearly 50 grey panels for exhibits were hung throughout the building making it look a lot better and is more practical & usable. Renovations on a 1850's log home in the Prairie Village area are about to start. This is grant money that was received even before Mr. Pierce started. A retired contractor who is dedicated to just doing that is ready to go once the weather cooperates.

U of I Extension

Doug Harlan, Director for the Macon County Extension Office, reported that for the first time in 5 years, he is asking for a 3% increase to his tax levy. He said he is authorized a 5 cent tax levy, but for the past 5 years, no new tax levy money has been requested. Given the projections with the State and how it is going to affect the extension's budget, Mr. Harlan said he thought it was prudent to ask for a slight increase. The increase works out to about \$11,612 which is about .003 per \$100 assessed value per taxpayer. He said they are looking at almost \$70,000 tax cut from the State of Illinois this year. That is what they call County Board match money. So any money that is given by the County Boards, money that is raised locally, was matched by the state at one time dollar for dollar. The last few years it has been at about 75% match rate. The State's FY16 will be a 65% match rate and currently the Governor's budget zeroes us out so that is also a possibility.

Another issue they are having pertains to some general revenue money they get from the university to pay for the educator's salaries. 30% of their salaries was paid for by general revenue money, but in FY16 it will go down to 15%. The university has already told them that. That is another \$26,000 cut that the extension unit is looking at.

That is why he is asking for a little extra money from the tax levy from the County Board this year. There are 4 big grants that will be worked on over the next 3 years to make up some of the money. It will be filtered in. That is the \$115,000 on the budget for FY17. That is actually causing expenses to go up because there are some things that have to be done. There is training that staff has to go to because they are federal grants. If we take the money, we have no choice not to do the training.

Ms. Little asked about the trainings that are involved in receiving the \$115,000 next year and whether they were affecting this year's budget. Mr. Harlan said no.

Mr. Minich asked how many employees there are. Mr. Harlan said 17.

Ms. Little asked if they are all full time. Mr. Harlan said yes. There are also 3 additional full time employees that are not paid out of my unit (county money). They are paid out of a federal grant. It's a Snap (food stamp) program.

Mr. Minich said that on the revenue side, some of this is pretty "iffy". He said he assumes that if revenue doesn't come in, there will be cuts. Mr. Harlan said yes. Mr. Minich said you really don't know whether you're going to have an increase or decrease. Mr. Harlan agreed and said he sure wished he could say.

Mr. Harlan said he was speaking with his business manager yesterday and he says the university is telling him that it will probably be October or November before we know.

Mr. Harlan summarized saying this is the first time in 5 years that they are asking for an increase to their tax levy and using last year's EAV, with the increase, they will be just under .025 which is just under half of the authorized levy.

Linda Little made a motion to approve forwarding the budget on to the Finance Committee Budget Hearing with the complete understanding that it may come back, seconded by Jerry Potts and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Harlan said he understood. Nobody wants to ask for a tax increase, but this one will be very small. He said he has spoken with Chairman Greenfield and he knows he has an uphill battle.

Mr. Harlan added that the academic staff, which is Mr. Harlan & the Educator positions, will show no salary increases this year. Also, the only people that will be getting salary increases are those union employees and it is in their negotiated contracts. That is about 1 ½%. The Civil Service employees that are not in the union are also not getting pay raises. There are 4 people that will get a pay raise and 13 that will not. If the budget continues the way it is, it may be a while.

Citizen's Remarks -

There were no citizen remarks

OLD BUSINESS –None

NEW BUSINESS –None

Closed Session –None

NEXT MEETING Next regular meeting - Thursday, August 20, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

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