

EEHW COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, July 21, 2016
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Dudley, Chair
Linda Little, Vice Chair
Kevin Bird
Grant Noland

MEMBERS ABSENT

Matt Brown (excused)
Jerry Potts
Gary Minich

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Nathan Pierce, Historical Museum
Dianna Heyer, Health Dept
Kathy Powless, VA
Sgt Lou Ann Hollon, Animal Control
Kris Horton, Animal Control
Deb Garrett, Env Mgmt
Carol Reed, Auditor
Jennifer Hoffman, P&Z
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

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

MINUTES

Mr. Bird made a motion to approve the June 16, 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Little and the motion carried 4-0.

CLAIMS

Ms. Little made a motion to accept the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Bird and the motion carried 4 -0.

ZONING –

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case S-01-07-16 a Petition for a Special Use Permit Submitted by Mark Highcock

Ms. Hoffman explained that this is to allow the operation and the sale and transfer of firearms business in an R1, single family residential. It is commonly located at 4666 E. Fitzgerald Road in Long Creek Township.

On July 6, 2016 a public Zoning Board of Appeals hearing was held and based on the finding of facts and staff recommendation of approval, the ZBA voted 5-0 to recommend approval to the County Board the petition be granted subject to the stipulations as set forth below.

1. This Special Use Permit constitutes a license issued to the named petitioners only. This special use permit is not property nor does it convey any property right. This special use permit is, therefore, not assignable or transferable.
2. Employees shall be limited to Mr. Highcock only and immediate family on the property.
3. Ms. Hoffman explained that she had put that they could have a sign to advertise because that option is given to all of them, but it was changed to no advertising sign shall be on the property

in relation to the business. The petitioner suggested that because that was a concern from the other residents.

4. No firing of firearms related to the business.

5. Said property and all operations shall be in compliance at all times with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Failure to be in compliance may result in the suspension or revocation of this special use permit.

6. The special use permit shall be for a 2 year period beginning August 11, 2016 and ending August 9, 2018.

Ms. Little asked if there was opposition. Ms. Hoffman said that there was. Ms. Little asked if their concerns were met. Ms. Hoffman explained that the concerns were the signage which was taken care of in the stipulation and the other was the firing of the guns. Stipulation #4 says they cannot have any firing of any guns related to the business. The property is located in the County and shooting is controlled by the Sheriff's Department, but there will not be a shooting range or anything like that.

Ms. Hoffman stated that the question was who filed the petition. It was the dad that signed for it and it was the son that is doing it. That was addressed by Mr. Baggett.

Increase traffic, because Fitzgerald Road is a busy road, was a concern. Also, decrease in property values was another concern.

Ms. Little made a motion to forward this to the full board with recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Noland. Chair Dudley asked if there was anyone present that wanted to speak.

Mr. Marion Fox who lives with his wife Sadie on the property directly across the street from the involved property said he had two concerns. One is the amount of traffic that might be brought into the area by the business. He said they might find that it is not a matter of concern as there may not be that much traffic. He said they won't know until it actually goes into effect.

His other concern is a little different. If you drive out of the Highcock driveway, you look directly down Mr. Fox's driveway 100 yards to a house that is pretty well secluded by a number of trees. He said that he is a gun owner and carries the Illinois card. He is not anti-gun. He said he would assume that almost all of the people, maybe all, who come to this residence to pick up guns or whatever the transaction is are as honest as everyone here, but there is a fringe element involved in the gun trading business. It may be a tiny element, but maybe one member of that element comes to pick up a gun, looks down the Fox lane for 100 yards and sees a secluded property that would be very easy to approach and be pretty well hidden if they came back there. It is a little worry that maybe one individual might think this might be a soft touch. Maybe it isn't anything to worry about, but it will be a concern.

The motion carried 4 -0.

SUBDIVISIONS – None

REPORTS

Historical Museum –

Mr. Pierce explained that they are not asking for anything different, just the tax levy money they receive year after year. He offered to answer questions.

Ms. Little asked if an increase in the levy was reflected. Mr. Pierce said no.

Mr. Pierce went on to report that they are currently finishing up an aviation exhibit that is pretty interesting and invited everyone to come out and see it. It is about a couple of guys, the Moody Brothers, from this county, back in 1939 that broke the world endurance record. It will be there a while, probably about a year, because it is more costly than most of the exhibits that are seen at the museum.

Ms. Little made a motion to approve forwarding the proposed budget on to the Finance Committee Budget Hearing with recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Bird and the motion carried 4-0.

U of I Extension – No report

Planning & Zoning – No report

Regional Office of Education –

Mr. Snyder reported that the budget is the same as last year. He said that they have an older staff that is closing in on retirement and they are just trying to keep their pay going. There is one going out in 2 years and two in 3 years. Then they will look at it to see how many they want to replace and how that will work itself out.

He said they are in great shape with the state funding. They have been paying education funds all year. There was a grant that was not received last year, but with the new appropriation, they are going to back pay it. It is about a \$70,000 grant. He said that they are funded for the full year, so education cannot complain.

Ms. Little made a motion to approve forwarding the proposed budget on to the Finance Committee Budget Hearing with recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Noland and the motion carried 4-0.

Environmental Management -

Ms. Garrett reported on paint collections for the year. In 2015, there were over 1,000 vehicles and so far 568 have been served this year. It is about on par for being normal.

Ms. Little asked how the recycling collection had gone this past time. Ms. Garrett explained that they had the Sheriff's deputies there, people had been hired from Midwest Fiber, there were a lot of Probation Officers and community service people and there were only 400 cars. It was Father's Day weekend though. Ms. Little said she thought that a lot of people probably stayed

away because they had gotten burned from before. She expressed gratitude that they were able to handle all the cars that came.

Health Department-

Ms. Heyer reported that they are gearing up for one of the busiest times of the year at the Health Department which is school immunizations. Decatur Public Schools, for this year, is saying that all kids have to have their immunizations and school physicals before school starts. This is something new. Every Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, the Health Department is having walk-in clinics for immunizations from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. & from 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. They will be participating at SIU and helping out with their immunization clinics too.

West Nile Virus has now been found in Macon County in 2 batches. She urged everyone to be alert and take precaution by getting rid of standing water & wearing repellent.

There are quite a few Zika Virus cases that are travel associated across the US. There is one that they are looking at that they are concerned that may have been gotten here in the states. That has not yet been confirmed. The concern with this virus is that it is more of a risk to pregnant women and their babies. It causes a condition called microcephaly, a smaller head. It can be passed through sexual relations, but generally, the virus, they believe, causes more of a milder illness in healthy people. Illinois has 23 travel associated cases.

The Health Department has been in contact with EMA (Emergency Management Agency) about cooling shelters. The Salvation Army, the Senior Center, & DHS have been open. The Health Department considered it, but felt that with the clinics and the busy office and waiting room, it was not something they could do. They are helping to spread the word.

Animal Control

Sgt. Hollon distributed statistics reports and offered to answer questions. There were no major changes over the past year.

There are two specials going on right now. The Christmas in July Fostering Program nets half price if an animal is fostered and then adopted. There is also a cat special of \$25 right now since the cat population has exploded. Hopefully, this special will extend into August.

The Macon County Sheriff's Department will be participating in a Special Olympics benefit at the Texas Roadhouse where a free lunch will be provided with all proceeds going to the Special Olympics in Illinois. She invited everyone to come out.

Ms. Horton reported that extra fencing had been added to the west side with a door that goes straight into the kennel room that did not previously have access to an outside area. Those dogs are now able to get out in the morning as the staff cleans. This is helpful to the staff and the dogs love it. There are new sun sails that just came in and will be installed so that the pavement will not be as hot on their feet.

The Foundation added the kennels, the new fencing, paid for the door and got with the PBC and had the place painted prior to the 10 year anniversary. Doors were fixed and it really looks

good. Probation has been sending Community Service workers 2 to 3 times a month. The dogs are taken out an area at a time and it is scrubbed floor to ceiling. Every surface is scrubbed and then everything is put back. This has really helped because the employees don't have time to do this regularly.

Kennel Enrichment Projects are being done as well. Small radios have been purchased at \$35 each. The Foundation bought some of them. The two cat rooms have TVs. Enrichment CDs of solo piano music are being used to soothe the dogs. They are being supplied by various sources. The Foundation is having volunteers fill kongs with kibble each night and they toss them to the dogs each night as they close so that each dog will have something to roll around and play with. Ms. Horton said that they recently learned that blowing bubbles for the animals helps them too. She said they've made some videos for Facebook. They've found that if you fill the wand with bubble mix and put it in front of a fan, it will fill up a dog room with bubbles in a very short amount of time and the dogs just LOVE it. It gives them something to concentrate on. Hysterical, slow motion videos of dogs popping bubbles and having fun with Kong filling and dabs on the noses will be on Facebook soon. She said they are trying to do more and more enrichment to keep the time they spend there a little bit better.

Mental Health-

Mr. Crowley explained that he wanted to update the committee. He said he reports to a 9 member board that is appointed by the County Board. The County Board has the taxing authority. The tax is limited to mental health purposes. No general fund dollars are used. The fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30. He distributed a one page summary of the budget their board had passed and that they are operating on. Reductions occurred related to a private contract they have. All the local tax levy is contracted out for services for individuals with mental health, substance abuse problems or developmental disabilities. There is one state contract which is the Child & Family Connections which are the single point of entry and care coordination for 10 counties for children from birth to 3 who have a developmental delay. Multi-county programs do not use a single local tax dollar. Every single dollar from the local tax levy will purchase services and it is from the other programs that are run that have a positive revenue surplus that support and help fund services. The reduction comes from, after 4 years ago when they won an RFP from the State for care management of Medicaid clients called Care Coordination and was to be an alternative managed care. They were one of six organizations in the state to get it and the first organization to start. In the first year, the state was saved via a reduction in Medicaid expenses, \$6 million after a cost to the state of \$2 million. It was working. Revenue was being generated and the state dropped the program 18 months into it. The state told them to go talk to Managed Care. A contract was entered into with Health Alliance. There are two managed care companies in the area. They are Molina & Health Alliance. It was building up to 15,000 enrollees with Health Alliance in four counties when Carle Clinic took over Health Alliance. Carle Clinic is the 10th most profitable hospital in the country. One of the first things they did was take back whole groups of enrollees because they figured they could make money on it. We were reduced by the equivalent of a million dollars a year. Mr. Crowley said that after downsizing, laying off 8 staff, and making budget adjustments, they are still going strong and trying to sell themselves to Molina.

There is also a housing component where they have 3 housing corporations. There are 110 adults with developmental disabilities, mental health problems or substance abuse problems living in apartment buildings that are funded in a number of different ways. The house that Youth Advocate uses as a runaway shelter is also owned by them.

Last year was the largest the Mental Health Board has been in Mr. Crowley's tenure since 1986.

Operations or administrative was decreased by \$25,000. The state average of 708 boards similar to this one use 13% of those funds to support their operations. It is only 5.4% of our total expenses. If this were a typical 708 Board in this state, there would be another \$200,000 worth of staff in the office, but that \$200,000 goes into purchased services for Macon County residents that need those services.

Veterans Assistance –

Ms. Powless explained that:

- Maintenance of equipment line was knocked down by \$50 since nothing happened last year.
- Telephone was brought down \$200. They have 2 cell phones used in the winter when they have to work from home.
- Travel is the same because of October expenses when they go for a week in Peoria.
- EDP was raised \$1000 because they need a way to back up the server. The server was checked out and should be good for another couple of years. It will cost \$1,200+ to back up on the cloud.
- Bus transport is up \$1,000 because there are quite a few veterans going to school right now. Students are given a bus pass that is good for 20 rides every two weeks.
- Emergency Assistance is being left at \$20,000. It hasn't been hit hard yet, but the arrival of the hot weather will probably affect it. Six veterans have been helped, but at the same time, they are gotten into VA Healthcare and Pensions, etc... trying to find them money elsewhere.
- Equipment is being left at \$500 since a server will not be needed for a couple of years.

Ms. Little asked about the slight increase in salaries and whether it was a raise, rounding, extra pay period or what. Ms. Powless said it is 3% because that is what the union contracts call for so that is what they went with too.

Ms. Little asked if they are asking for the same levy request. Ms. Powless said yes, they would be safe there for quite a while.

Ms. Little made a motion to approve forwarding the proposed budget on to the Finance Committee Budget Hearing with recommendation for approval with the understanding that as Finance begins looking at other budgets they may come back addressing the raises, seconded by Mr. Noland and the motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Little went on to comment that she did not think 3% is too much to ask for, but she knows some of the situations countywide, that it may need to be readdressed.

She also said that Ms. Powless is a stellar example of how to do wonderful things on a very small budget.

Citizen's Remarks –

Chair Dudley introduced his son, Trevor who is a 2nd Class Petty Officer in the US Navy. He is home on leave.

Ms. Shirley Stanley, Board Member of the Decatur Macon County Animal Shelter Foundation, reported on Tour de Paws. She left brochures and registration forms and said this could also be done online at active.com. It is July 30 and is an event that is partnered with the Decatur Park District. The revenue is split 50/50. The Park District dedicates theirs to the Scoville Zoo. Lt. Jonathan Butts has been working with them on a lot of the aspects as well. It is a bike ride that can be 61, 43, or 25 miles or a kid's route for as long as they want to go along the shoreline. Shirley & David Hardin are bringing down five of the paddle boats from Macon Waves along with a quadracycle bike. Lunch will be on the deck of the Beach House. People can come and go for a boat ride or hang around and have lunch. No need to bike ride if you don't want.

The Clear the Shelter event is done through all the NBC stations nationwide. It is a requirement for NBC affiliated stations and it will be on September 10th. The Humane Society is a partner on this. The event accentuates the shelter animals and gives a lot of publicity.

Chair Dudley commented that he enjoys seeing her on television from time to time. She commented that there is no dollar value on what WAND does for them with that spot. They've been doing that spot for 12 years and they estimate that about 800 animals have been adopted out as a result. It is amazing.

OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS – none

Closed Session – none needed

NEXT MEETING Next regular meeting - Thursday, August 18, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Little made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Noland, the motion carried 4-0 and Chair Dudley adjourned the meeting 6:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham