

EEHW COMMITTEE MEETING
January 25, 2018 5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Dudley, Chair
Helena Buckner, Vice Chair
Matt Brown
Jerry Potts
Laura Zimmerman
Debra Kraft
Rachel Joy
Kevin Meachum

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Sgt Reynolds, Animal Control
Dianna Heyer, Health Dept
Gregg Collins, VA
Kris Horton, Animal Control
Laurie Rasmus, Env Mgmt
Tracy Sumpter, P&Z
Matt Snyder, ROE

MEMBERS ABSENT

Grant Noland

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

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

MINUTES

Mr. Potts made a motion to approve the November 16, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Buckner and the motion carried 8-0.

CLAIMS

Ms. Kraft made a motion to accept the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Brown and the motion carried 8-0.

ZONING –

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case S-01-01-18, A Petition Requesting a Special Use Permit Submitted by Tim Duncan

Ms. Sumpter explained that this request is for permission to operate a lawn mowing business and small retail counter for the selling of battery powered lawn equipment in A1, Agricultural zoning. The property is commonly located at 3388 E. Boyd Road in Whitmore Township. The public Zoning Board of Appeals Hearing was held on January 3, and based on the finding of facts and staff recommended approval voted 3-0 for approval with the stipulations found in the resolution.

Mr. Meachum asked if anybody had come to the meeting expressing concerns. Ms. Sumpter said no.

Mr. Potts made a mention to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft, and the motion carried 8-0.

SUBDIVISIONS – None

REPORTS

Planning & Zoning – No Report

Veteran's Assistance

Mr. Collins reported on the Help for Heroes Program. He said they've gotten most of the money from this year's fundraiser. About 40 space heaters, 3 large boxes of hand warmers, gloves, coats have been given out. Mr. Collins said he wanted to clear up a misconception. There is no income limit. When there is a veteran that is in a bad spot, he can put in an application. There are no stipulations such as low income or anything on it. He encouraged everyone to send people that are veterans and may be in need to come in and apply.

Environmental Management –

Ms. Rasmus distributed a summary sheet showing results of the 2017 Paint Recycling program. She explained that Macon County is one of six participants throughout the state that collect paint and partner with the IEPA. Macon County takes on the expense of the collection and bulking of the paint into drums and the IEPA pay for the transportation and actual disposal costs. The drums end up going to a waste energy incinerator, usually in Indiana or Arkansas. There is a substantial expense to manage the paint in this manner. To reduce the amount of waste paint, the department tries to encourage individuals to only buy the amount of paint they need. Many times when people go to the paint store only needing a quart, find that the price of a gallon is almost the same, so end up buying more paint than they need. One way of communicating that is via the FAQ sheet that is given to people as they visit. This is a well liked program that prevents pollution. Thousands of gallons were kept from being landfilled or dumped where it could potentially contaminate water. In planning for the 2018 collections, a registration system or appointment times similar to the system used for the electronics system will be introduced. There would be absolutely no fees that go along with this system for paint recycling. Nobody will be turned away, whether they have an appointment or not. This system will assist with the 2018 planning and the 2018 objectives. In recent years, the department has held back on marketing efforts and steered away from Saturday paint collections in an attempt to control attendance flows so as not to become overwhelmed as has happened in the past. With an appointment registration system, the department can market heavily and accommodate greater attendance because it paces attendance through an event.

Mr. Meachum asked if the FAQ brochure is on the county website. Ms. Rasmus said she would double check to make sure.

Health Department

Ms. Heyer reported that we are still seeing a lot of flu in the community. There is a lot of flu this year and in addition to that, there is a gastro-intestinal illness with a lot of nausea and vomiting. One of the hospitals reports that it may be getting a bit better. We've been hearing that the flu vaccine is not quite as effective as they had hoped. She explained that every year, at the end of the flu season, they prepare the next year's batch and try to match up the strains. They missed it this year as far as good coverage, but it is still believed that if you get it, you won't get the flu as badly as if you had no immunization at all.

The Health Department has been hiring some people back. Over the last couple of years, the staff numbers have gone down some because of the budget crisis. A lot of staff got fearful of what was going to happen with the budget and concerns as to whether the programs would continue and if the money would be there to pay people. Ms. Heyer said they've done a good job at keeping the costs down, so are now able to start hiring again. The RNs remain difficult to maintain because they can get paid pretty well at a hospital or home health agency. Things have improved over the last few years with the pay at the Health Department. Two RN's are needed for the clinics and one WIC health professional are needed.

In February, a safety training will be coming to all of the staff. Trauma events like mass shootings cause people to bleed out quickly. This training will be to train people how to stop bleeding. She said they feel it is important that every person in one of their offices knows how to stop bleeding and will have tourniquet kits available in every room.

Mr. Meachum commented on the trouble about getting RN's. He suggested that there are a lot of retired RN's and they never lose their licenses unless they don't re-up it. He asked if this avenue had been explored. Maybe you could have 5 of them work a few hours a week. These people wouldn't be looking at the money end of it, but at the community service end. Ms. Heyer appreciated the suggestion and thought they might be able to look into that. She said they had had pretty good response on the Indeed website. Advertising in papers is very expensive. She said they've reached out to the colleges and are looking at other websites, too. Mr. Meachum said he thought his idea could help fill the gaps, but he wouldn't want to discourage someone that wants to work full time. Sometimes you have to think outside the box. Ms. Heyer thanked him for the good suggestion.

Chair Dudley commented that he was glad to hear that some people are being hired back. Things got a little thin there for awhile. The State was not paying, things were frozen and minimum service levels were being thought about. He said that Ms. Heyer's leadership has been absolute perfection. Ms. Heyer gave credit to her team saying she is very proud of all of the staff at the Health Department. She invited everyone to come and visit anytime.

Animal Control

Sgt Reynolds distributed statistics and offered to answer questions. He reported that the Home for the Holidays Program has concluded. 102 animals were fostered out with 82 being adopted. The shelter population remains pretty low with 11 dogs, 63 cats and a very large pot belly pig that was found roaming around on the east side last weekend.

A few new programs have been implemented where the Animal Control staff is paying delinquent pet owners visits. If they are delinquent on their rabies or registration, they are being given courtesy notices. Mailers are being sent out in conjunction with the city as well. Over 1,000 have been sent out over the last couple of weeks. This is giving opportunity to get pets registered and vaccinated. If not, they will be given citations. Mr. Reynolds said they just want compliance.

Mr. Meachum asked if there was any way of tracking deceased pets online so that you're not tracking down owners of pets that are no longer there. Sgt. Reynolds said it is the pet owner's

responsibility to notify. Ms. Horton said the letter that is sent out says that if you no longer have this pet, to call the city and they will take it out of the database. They keep the database for the city and for the county. Chair Dudley said he thought some of the veterinarians report to the city as well. Mr. Meachum said a lot of employee hours will be used to do some of this and if there was a place on line where they could notify, it might save. Sgt Reynolds thanked him for the good suggestion.

There was one animal cruelty case that resulted in an arrest. A video appeared on Facebook so a lot of people were aware of it.

Regional Office of Education

Mr. Snyder reported that the public schools are going very well in terms of what is happening. The county sales tax has done wondrous things in Macon County.

One thing being looked at for the spring, the Department of Revenue gets 2% of the sales tax that is collected. Even though the money goes to ROE and they disperse it and do the work and everything. There is legislation in the works that would give 1% of the sales tax for the office which would be about \$80,000 to \$90,000 and will be pretty beneficial because the grant system is currently about \$600,000 in the hole in the early childhood and some other areas. That is frustrating. He said he had been at Baby Talk today and their 0-3 program needs to expand. These are kids that are foster children, high poverty, etc. You go in and they just want attention. They are looking at a grant of about \$3 million to expand that, but the question is how the money will be fronted if money is not coming in. That is carried with a lot of the other different ROE programs.

Reviewing some of the points on the report, Mr. Snyder talked about:

- Futures Unlimited is the alternative high school for students behind in credits. It is for any student in Macon or Piatt County. He said it started with 108 regular ed & 20 special ed students this semester.
- The Foundations Program is the teen pregnancy and teen mother program. There were 13 at the end of November. Now it is at 16.
- Milligan Academy is for suspended and expelled students and is at 52 right now. The interesting thing is that 23 of them are from the Mt. Zion School District. There were some laws changed where they have to limit the number of suspensions and expulsions, so those students are coming here now. He said they are also getting more students who are not suspended or expelled, but who are not fitting into the regular schools. A lot is being done with those students.
- St. Mary Adolescent is for the children who are on the 5th floor for mental or drug issues.

A lot of trauma training has been done with the teachers and inundating the schools with how children that come from toxic stress and trauma in their lives interact with teachers and others and how they are struggling at school. Working with the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine says that the most academically successful students are self-regulated. If a child can't self-regulate, they are not going to make it in school. It is that simple. All of that goes back to everything that has happened to them in their lives. 90% of the brain develops in the

first three years. That is a huge piece and then it's stuck in there forever. He said they are working with teachers all over the place in response. It's about not taking things personally and understanding and giving options and strategies to work with these students. It's going very well. There are 5 pilot schools that are in their 2nd year. It isn't costing the city anything. Money that they already had is being used. They are being trained and book studies are being done. Some really good success is being seen.

A lot of workshops are being held for the educators.

The educator shortage is here. Our schools are struggling to find teachers and substitute teachers. He said they are working on some legislation. Currently, to be a substitute, a bachelors degree is needed. They are looking at some of those issues to see if maybe 60 hours would work. Retired teachers are brought back to sub, but they can only work 100 days or 600 hours. That is a teacher retirement service rule. There used to be a rule, that in hard to fill positions, you could hire them over the 100 days. That sunset in 2013 and the legislature never picked that back up.

Mr. Potts asked about the GED issues. Mr. Snyder said the cost went up a lot and it has impacted it. They are doing GED testing at Richland. He said ROE is doing a test called HISET. People have three options: GED, HISET, or a TASC test which is not really offered in this area. HISET is paper and pencil. GED is all online and requires a credit card registration. They are looking at doing some hybrid so you wouldn't have to take the whole test if you have credits. The cost of the GED went from \$50 to \$160. They had some vouchers, but it was way out of line.

Ms. Buckner asked, if for the St. Mary Adolescent Education, do these kids have to be there a certain amount of time to be served. Mr. Snyder said they hire 2 teachers via a grant. They work at St. Mary's in the morning and then go to Foundations and work with those girls in the afternoon. Mr. Snyder said they contact the school and the school pays for educational services. It is about \$60 a day. It does not have to be Macon / Piatt. He said they are getting a lot of kids from southeastern Illinois. Most are there 4 to 5 days, but some as long as 20. Even if the school doesn't pay, it is group education, so some money is probably lost on the program.

Chair Dudley asked the reasons for the GED decrease when it moved online. Mr. Snyder explained that it is the credit card requirement. Mr. Dudley said that Workforce had had the same issues at first, but they've worked through it. Mr. Snyder said they've been looking into letting people bring cash and then using the office card to pay.

Chair Dudley asked if the sales tax was going smoothly. Mr. Snyder said yes. The buildings, especially the county buildings are beautiful.

Mr. Meachum asked if they had ever thought about offering the GED at the library where it might be centrally located. Mr. Snyder said they had done that but there are such tight restrictions on where you can do, how the room has to be set up, who has to be in there, that it is difficult.

Mental Health – No report

Historical Museum No report

U of I Extension No Report

Citizen's Remarks – none

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS – None

Closed Session – none needed

NEXT MEETING Next regular meeting – February 22, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Meachum, seconded by Ms. Kraft, the motion carried 8-0 and Chair Dudley adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham