

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Dudley, Chair
Debra Kraft
Kevin Meachum
Laura Zimmerman
Jerry Potts
Matt Brown
Helena Buckner (arrived @ 5:31 p.m.)

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Kathy Powless, Veterans Administration
Jennifer Gunter, P&Z
Sgt. Matt Reynolds, Animal Control
Dianna Heyer, Health Dept
Laurie Rasmus, Env Mgmt

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

Grant Noland
Rachel Joy

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

MINUTES

Mr. Meachum made a motion to approve the 9/27/18 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Brown and the motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

Ms. Kraft made a motion to accept the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Brown and the motion carried 6-0.

ZONING –

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case R-01-10-18, A Petition Filed by Benjamin & Breck Corrington for Rezoning Approximately 1.21 Acres from (R-4) Single Family Residential Zoning to (A-1) Agricultural Zoning

Ms. Gunter explained that this property is commonly located on Kitchens Road in Oakley Township. The Oakley Planning Commission approved this petition also. On October 3, 2018, a public Zoning Board of Appeals hearing was held and the committee voted 3-0 to recommend approval of the rezoning.

Ms. Kraft commented that it was rezoned, but they never built a house on it and now they want to move it back. Ms. Gunter confirmed.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Zimmerman and the motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case R-02-10-18, A Petition Filed by Michael Sams for Rezoning Approximately 37.73 Acres from (R-4) Single Family Residential Zoning to (A-1) Agricultural Zoning

Ms. Gunter explained that this is commonly located on Sandcreek Road in South Wheatland Township. On October 3, 2018, a public Zoning Board of Appeals hearing was held and the committee voted 3-0 to recommend approval of the rezoning.

Mr. Potts made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft. Chair Dudley asked if the petitioner was going to farm it. Ms. Gunter confirmed saying that it was rezoned about 4 or 5 years ago to residential. They were going to subdivide it, but never did. A neighbor bought it and he just wants to continue to farm it. The motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case S-03-10-18, A Petition Filed by Novel Energy Solutions / Paula Fitzgerald Requesting a Special Use Permit for the Construction of a 2 Megawatt Community Solar Garden on Approximately 20 Acres of Leased Land in (A-1) Agricultural Zoning

Ms. Gunter explained that this property is commonly located on Kirby Road in Whitmore Township. On October 3, 2018, a Zoning Board of Appeals hearing was held and based on the finding of facts and staff recommended approval. The Zoning Board of Appeals voted 2-1 for approval of the special use permit with the stipulations that are in the resolution.

Mr. Potts made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Zimmerman and the motion carried 7-0.

SUBDIVISIONS –

3 Lot Minor Subdivision – Potrafka Addition

Ms. Gutner explained that this is a 3 lot minor subdivision located in Blue Mound Township. The owner is Betty Potrafka. This property is located off of Potrafka Street and is zoned R-6 Multiple Family Residential. All 3 Lots are each 1.0 acre. Staff has reviewed all of the documents and recommends approval. She went on to explain that this out in Boody. They are just duplexes. They are all in this big farm field and they want to separate them out. They worked with the Health Department on the septic for each lot and now they are just dividing it out.

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 7-0.

REPORTS

Animal Control

Sgt Reynolds distributed the September statistics report and explained that the current shelter population is about 146. There are 2 cats for every dog.

The October Adopt a Shelter Dog Special is going on where you can name your own adoption fee with a minimum of \$45

Starting today through January 5th is the annual Home for the Holidays Foster Program. When the foster is complete, they'll have an option to get a reduced adoption fee of \$40.

Sgt Reynolds also distributed copies of an October 2nd press release regarding a camel that had broken through its enclosure near I72 & Route 48 near the Pilot station. This hit the media and Facebook pretty heavily.

Veteran's Assistance

Ms. Powless announced that they had elected a new Chairman and it is Bill Hanes, a Korean Veteran.

Ms. Powless extended an invitation to the Veteran's Day event to be held at the Salvation Army. Guest Speaker will be David Gobel of Moran & Gobel and Graceland Fairlawn Cemetery.

Environmental Management

Ms. Rasmus commented that In the past few weeks she has had the opportunity to talk with most Board members about the proposed new recycling center and compost facility. She thanked everyone for their time. She said that she would like to expand on a some of the topics, questions and comments that came up during those discussions with the members of the committee and other board members as well.

She began with the demand for recycling services saying that Macon County residents want opportunities to recycle. This year, over 2,600 households have signed-up for an appointment and participated in one of our collections. These are seasonal, parking lot events in which we collect a single category such as paint or electronics. With the proposed new recycling center, we will be able to accept items year-round, across multiple categories during regular, predictable hours regardless of weather. As a result, we expect to better meet the demand for recycling services.

The proposal is for a new recycling center and Landscape waste compost facility. The question has come up – but why now? Ms. Rasmus explained that the timing is ripe with the recent retirement of the 20-year bond for this office building and the Courthouse. Because of this, a homeowner with an average –priced home of \$75,000, saw a decrease on their real estate taxes of \$18.14/year. To fully fund this project, the levy for the same home is expected to increase \$6.17/year for an overall reduction of \$11.97/year. So, what is that homeowner getting for that \$6? That homeowner can experience even greater benefits – many of which are financial and some of which are just convenience of services.

First let's say that a homeowner has an unwanted TV. Both now and in the future, residents have the option of either bringing a TV to us for \$10, or if it's a smaller unit, they can bring it to Best Buy for \$25. With the Recycling Center, we will be able to continue to offer services with the \$15 savings and offer the convenience of regular, predictable hours.

Our paint collection program is one of six collection sites across Illinois. We offer this program for free and will be able to continue to offer it for free with the convenience of regular, predictable hours.

Especially for those who live outside of the City of Decatur, it can be quite expensive to get rid of bulk items (and, yes, burning is not a legal option). Many in rural areas are faced with having to self-haul these items to the landfill and pay the one-ton minimum fee of \$95. With the new recycling center, we can apply for a permit to be able to accept these items for a nominal costs, load them in a roll-off box and then properly dispose of them in the landfill. This can be a cost savings of up to \$85/item.

For household hazardous wastes other than paint, right now we are reliant on the one-day collections funded by the IEPA. The IEPA typically offers six collections per year State-wide. It has been well over 10 years since a Household Hazardous Waste collection has been in Macon County. However, the IEPA is funding this Saturday's collection and residents are encouraged to take advantage of this rare opportunity. Household hazardous wastes are just that hazardous – either toxic, flammable, corrosive, reactive or explosive. The proper disposal of these items is important to not only the environment but human health. A convenient option is important to prevent improper disposal and accidental poisonings or releases. With the proposed recycling center and the necessary permits, household hazardous waste could be collected on a regular basis with predictable hours. The IEPA has indicated that they would fund the logistics and disposal costs for our proposed permanent site.

The County's current facilities for curbside and drop off landscape waste are either inactive or severely neglected – unable to serve the long term needs of Macon County. A new compost facility would be able to provide for the long-term needs of Macon County's residents, haulers and businesses. Customers would experience no cost increases but would have the opportunity to purchase high quality end-products.

Currently, there is no option for tree waste that is larger than 10 inches in diameter. A new compost facility would provide management for large tree waste. Additionally, the facility, would be well equipped for times of disaster.

The current option for someone with a refrigerant containing device is to hire an HVAC technician to remove the refrigerant & then dispose of the item at either the scrap yard or in their trash. Ms. Rasmus said that they try to encourage people to trade them in or have them hauled away when they buy a new one, but a lot of people don't take that route or have the financial means to do that. With the proper permits at the new recycling center, we would be able to accept these items for a nominal fee, properly capture the refrigerant and then recycle the unit. This is a potential saving of \$50/item.

In conversation, a Board member suggested that we offer a coupon to those who are supporting the project development. With a coupon, that same homeowner who saw their tax levy go down \$18 and then back up \$6 to develop this project, would experience an even reduction in costs. Ms. Rasmus said that would be something they could look at. A resident could use it for a service or for buying products such as compost, a rain barrel, or mulch. That is an option and it came up through those conversation.

Ms. Rasmus stressed that she very much appreciate comments and questions regarding this project because those ideas and thoughts are shaping this project proposal. She said she is happy to discuss any thoughts or questions – either now or at a later time.

Ms. Kraft asked about ideas to try to convince people not to dump because it is still going to happen. Ms. Rasmus explained that they will never get 100% compliance and she understands that. She said they can get pretty darn close to it and while she can't make it perfect, she can make it better. She said they could offer as many opportunities as possible and try to enforce it. She said this year has actually been a good year for enforcement in terms of collecting penalties.

Planning & Zoning

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Mitigation Grant for Macon County to Mitigate Flood Properties

Ms. Gunter explained that this is to take the money given in 2017 and put it into the 2018 budget because it was not all spent in 2017, but the whole grant project is done.

Mr. Meachum made a motion to forward the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Kraft. Chair Dudley thanked Ms. Gunter saying that that has been a lot of work that has been going on since 2009. It was a long drawn out deal and her persistence on it is appreciated. The motion carried 7-0.

Health Department –

Ms. Heyer reported that they are in full swing in giving flu shots. They are available at the Health Department and sessions can be scheduled with businesses and /or groups of about 20 or more.

Car seat checks have resumed after having to stop actual installations because of a liability issue with the County insurance. They are now not actually installing them for the parents, but showing them how to do the installation. Car seat checks coming up include one on November 13th & one on December 4th at the Decatur Fire Station 1 on North Water Street. People are asked to make an appointment and a donation toward a car seat is being requested if one is needed. However, nobody is turned away for inability to pay. This is a needed service. There have been a lot of calls from parents. The phone number to call for an appointment is 423-6988 ext 1312. There are limited hours and they want to make sure they have a time set for those who need it.

Regional Office of Education - no report

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 –November 15, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Meachum, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the motion carried 7-0 and Chair Dudley adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office