

EEHW COMMITTEE MEETING
March 28, 2019 5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Dudley, Chair
Debra Kraft, Vice Chair
Matt Brown
Linda Little
Jim Gresham
Laura Zimmerman

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Jennifer Gunter, P&Z
Greg Collins, Veterans Assistance
Sgt Matt Reynolds, Animal Control
Dianna Heyer, Health Dept
Laurie Rasmus, Env Mgmt
Nick Burge, Env Mgmt
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

Helena Buckner

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

MINUTES

Mr. Gresham made a motion to approve the 2/28/19 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Brown and the motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

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

ZONING – None

SUBDIVISIONS – None

REPORTS

Animal Control

Sgt. Reynolds distributed reports showing February statistics and said that the current shelter population includes 63 cats and 31 dogs for a total of 94 animals.

The St. Pitties & Kitties Adoption Special that was held from March 11-16 adopted out 29 animals. There will be an Easter themed adoption special coming up and will be announced shortly.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Contractual Agreement with St. Mary's Hospital for Laboratory Services

Chair Dudley asked if we have always been with St. Mary's. Sgt Reynolds explained that we have not. Lab services have been outsourced to local veterinarians in the past. He said that this contract provides free courier service from St. Mary's hospital, lab service analysis of blood, urine, cultures, etc... They pick up the sample, analyze it, and report to the shelter at a great savings. Ms. Little asked if the agreement is until one of the two parties wants out. Sgt.

Reynolds confirmed that that is one of the clauses included. To begin, it is a one year agreement that automatically rolls over. Ms. Kraft commented on the obvious savings.

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve forwarding this resolution onto the Finance Committee with recommendation for approval, seconded by Ms. Zimmerman and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the Creation of a Payroll Line Item & the Appropriation of Funds for Personnel Expenses and Equipment

Ms. Little asked if this was for a position that the budget can maintain for more than one year. Sgt. Reynolds explained that it could be maintained out of the reserve fund. Ms. Little said she gets nervous when reserve funds are used for what seems to be a permanent position because reserve funds are not always permanent. She asked Sgt. Reynolds if he thought this would be fine. Sgt Reynolds confirmed that he thought it could be sustained. The amount being requested is a pro-rated amount from the end of February to the end of the fiscal year. He said he was also wanting to create a new line item for Administrative Assistant and then to move the funds from the reserve fund into various line items to pay for expenses and equipment. Ms. Little asked if the person would be under the authority of the State's Attorney. Sgt Reynolds confirmed saying that the person would report to the Assistant State's Attorney who is the department's main legal counsel. Ms. Little clarified saying, paid for by Animal Control / managed by State's Attorney's Office. Sgt. Reynolds confirmed.

Ms. Little made a motion to approve forwarding this resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation for approval, seconded by Ms. Zimmerman and the motion carried 6-0.

Veteran's Assistance -

Mr. Collins had no report

Planning & Zoning – No Report

Health Department –

Ms. Heyer reported that the new online system where health inspection reports can be viewed is up and running. They start with 1/1/19 when the new FDA Food Code started. Prior years have not yet been uploaded. When an inspection is done, it is guaranteed that it will be uploaded within 5 days to meet the FOIA requirements. The address is www.food.maconchd.org. Anything prior to January, 2019 would require a FOIA request. Ms. Kraft asked if this is available to the public. Ms. Heyer said it is available to anyone.

There has been a lot in the media about the restaurant closures. She said she was there to answer questions. Ms. Kraft commented that she defends the inspectors and is proud of them. Mr. Dudley voiced agreement. Ms. Kraft continued saying they are sticking to the guidelines and not showing preferential treatment and she wants it to be known. She said she tells her people the same thing. Ms. Heyer expressed appreciation because she said they are taking a lot of heat personally, professionally and it has been quite a challenge. It is a challenge to keep the moral of the inspectors up because they are just doing their jobs following the guidelines. Ms. Kraft said the individuals need to be educated and they do not understand. She said she feels

that is the board's job; to help the Health Department educate them. Ms. Heyer said she tries to convey to the staff that she wants them to be viewed as educators not to appear as someone who is there to shut them down, create grief or make their life miserable. She said that is not what they are about. They want the restaurants to stay open. Some of the things that have been said by the local media has been atrocious. Ms. Kraft and Mr. Dudley agreed and told Ms. Heyer that the Health Department has the committee's support. Ms. Heyer said she literally had a guy tell her that he didn't see the big deal about cock roaches. He worked in Chicago for years and had cockroaches all over the place. Ms. Heyer said they carry disease. That's what the big deal is. Mr. Gresham asked about when the articles appear in the newspaper, if it is because they are following what is going on or if someone from the Health Department is putting the word out. Ms. Heyer said they do not. Somehow, they get word that a place has been closed and immediately send a FOIA to provide records to them. She said they have nothing to gain by calling the media. Mr. Gresham said that having been through multiple health department inspections, he is a little chagrined by the . . . he said he did not see a problem with it appearing in the newspaper, but it's kind of overkill. Now, it's public information. Go to the website and look at it. She stressed that she feels they have a very good team of dedicated employees. These are people that were not just hired off the street. They are bachelors prepared people with a certain amount of science and some of them have masters degrees. They are not just going out and making this stuff up so people will be closed down.

Ms. Heyer said that Kathy Wade had developed a presentation regarding the FDA Food Code that is not long that they could come and present to the committee if they'd like so they'd know what the new code is about and what is being expected of people. The committee agreed that they would like to see it and requested that the media be informed as well so they can come and watch it too. Ms. Heyer said that when this was introduced, it was talked about for over a year, two trainings were held at the Civic Center in December, 2018. One was held in the morning and one in the afternoon so people could pick a time to come. There was less than 10% of the establishments that came to the training. She said they've let people know that they are happy to come and do one on one training with staff. The Health Department will come and do a 20 to 30 minute training.

Ms. Heyer announced that she has been struggling with some chronic health issues for a couple of years and this job is not doing anything to improve it, so she said she has made the decision and has announced to the Board of Health that she will be retiring as of May 31. She said she would be focusing on her health and her family. She expressed appreciation for being allowed to be the Administrator. Brandi Binkley, current Assistant Administrator, will be serving as the interim until a replacement. Ms. Heyer said she feels that Brandi is totally competent to do the job if she chooses to apply. She has her Masters Degree, HR certification and has recently applied for her Public Health Administrator certification. She has 13 years of public health experience and supervision. She would be excellent in the position. Mr. Dudley commented that until the past 1 ½ years, he was on the Board of Health as the County Board Liaison and was on the board when Ms. Heyer was hired. He said he was very excited when the decision to bring her back was made. He said she and her great staff have done a wonderful job. He wished her the best. He echoed Ms. Heyer's sentiments on Brandi. He said he has known her for years and coaxed her to get her Masters Degree. He said he hopes that they give her good consideration.

Environmental Management

Ms. Rasmus reported she would be leaving Macon County due to relocating to Iowa as a result of her husband taking a job there. She expressed appreciation for being able to hold the position and working with the committee members for the last almost 11 years. Her hope is that the board continues to work together and things get accomplished for the good of the department as well as the county. She then introduced Nick Burge, the Assistant Director for the past 1 ½ years, who has been working with the department for nearly 3 years.

Mr. Burge reported that for the past 3 months, 3 electronics pop up events have been held. They have all been very successful. January's had 182 appointments with 249 TVs collected, February's had 201 appointments and 201 TVs collected, March's had 156 appointments and 225 TV collected. There was a 5 days lead time from announcement to event. Moving forward, there is a spring schedule with emphasis on convenience, especially for the paint collections. Three of the four collections are on Saturday mornings with one being on a Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. giving folks plenty of opportunity. Word about those is gotten out via email blasts that currently has over 4,000 people on it. Posts are also done to the 705 Facebook followers and 406 on Twitter. PSAs were sent to Media, news outlets, companies, institutions, organizations and municipalities.

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

Chair Dudley wished Ms. Rasmus the best saying he had watched her grow with the department and position bringing the recycle project from infancy to where it is now. It will now be our job to take it across the line and he said he hopes they can do that.

NEXT MEETING Next regular meeting –4/25/19

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Little, seconded by Ms. Kraft, the motion carried 6-0 and Chair Dudley adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office