

**EEHW COMMITTEE MEETING**

**July 25, 2019 5:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Chairman Kevin Greenfield  
Patty Cox, County Board  
Brandi Binkley, Health Dept  
Nick Burge, Environmental Mgmt  
Jennifer Gunter, P&Z  
Kris Horton, Animal Control  
Matt Snyder, ROE  
Doug Harlan, U of I Extension  
Kathy Powless, Veterans Admin  
Greg Collins, Veterans Admin  
Carol Reed, Auditor  
John Jackson, County Board  
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office  
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

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

**MINUTES**

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve the 6/27/19 meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Little and the motion carried 5-0.

**CLAIMS**

Ms. Kraft made a motion to approve the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Ms. Zimmerman and the motion carried 5-0

**ZONING** – None

**SUBDIVISIONS** – None

**REPORTS**

**Animal Control**

Ms. Horton distributed monthly reports and information and explained the Christmas in July Home for the Holidays. Adoptions will be half price. All adult cats are \$1 per pound for adoptions which includes spay/ neuter, microchipped, vaccines, feline leukemia test, everything. Ms. Kraft commented on the cute names for all of the specials.

Mr. Gresham commented on having read the safety committee meetings about the recent safety tour that was conducted at the animal shelter and how wonderful everything was out there. Ms. Horton said they take pride in it and told about a recent visit they had from the Department of Agriculture. The guy that does the regular inspections was training someone new and he brought him to this shelter first because he said he wanted him to see what it is supposed to look like before they went to some of the other county shelters. She said they are very proud.

**Veteran's Assistance** -  
**Budget Presentation**

Mr. Collins said there were not many changes.

- Telephone expense has been decreased down to one phone in case the van needs one. The rest have been gotten rid of. It may be able to go even further down next year.
- \$2,000 has been added to the emergency assistance because they've had to pull money over from Help for Heroes. That budget line has been used up.

Mr. Gresham asked about the sizable donation from last year. Mr. Collins explained that the Howard G. Buffett Foundation had donated \$150,000. He won't be doing that again. Donations still come in, but they are not as much.

Ms. Little made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gresham to forward the proposed budget on to the Finance Committee budget hearing with recommendation to approve, & the motion carried 5-0.

**Planning & Zoning** – No Report

**Health Department** –

Ms. Binkley reported that they have been very busy with back to school immunizations. She said the Health Department is participating in the large jump start event this Saturday which is a partnership with First Christian Church, Crossing, YMCA and several others.

They have also been busy with the state and federal grant years ending and the new grants getting started.

An Assistant Administrator has been hired. She will come to the next meeting.

Safety updates are being implemented by the Building Commission

**Environmental Management** – No Report

**Regional Office of Education** -

**Budget Presentation**

Mr. Snyder reported that everything is going very well at the Regional Office. There have been some retirements. The bookkeeper / manager of 23 years left. Getting the new year closed out and the new year started has been a challenge with the new business manager. He said they are looking for people with a Bachelor's Degree that would like to be a substitute teacher or possibly even a full time teacher. The schools are scrambling and its everywhere.

The budget is shared between Macon and Piatt, so the EAV of the two counties is taken into consideration. This year, Macon was 78.2% and Piatt was 21.8% of the budget. This is real close to last year.

The budget was kept exactly the same meaning Macon's budget was about \$195,000. The group health insurance has come down. The unemployment insurance has come down. Some

travel was added back in. He said they have not had any travel, utilities, copier, phone or anything in the County's budget for several years. Most of the rest of the lines were slightly down.

Ms. Kraft made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gresham to forward the proposed budget on to the Finance Committee budget hearing with recommendation to approve, & the motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Kraft asked about the total number of positions that are open. Mr. Snyder said that Decatur has 23 or 24 special ed, 23 or 24 elementary, and 10 or 12 high school. MacArthur just lost 3 last week. Hope Academy had 13 openings and no applicants. If you add in coaching, janitorial, etc... there are over 100 openings on their website right now. County schools are doing a little better, but they steal from each other. They don't want to do that, but whoever is paying better or has the better deal keeps them moving around.

Chair Dudley asked about the sales tax. Mr. Snyder said there is no problem at all. That sales tax comes in regularly. There has been some talk about expanding the use of that, but the County facility sales tax can be used for facilities. There was some talk in the legislature about using it for safety upgrades or security. It didn't go anywhere this time. The schools in Macon County are unreal. They are so well put together. They've utilized that money really well. Our facilities are second to none, which is really good.

**Mental Health** – No Report

**Historical Museum** - No Report

**U of I Extension**  
***Budget Presentation***

Mr. Harlan said they are not asking for any new money or increase in the tax levy. It will again be a \$445,136 tax levy. That is approximately 2 ½ million on a 5 million tax levy, so they are at about half of what they use.

ADM is giving a \$17,500 gift to create a new AG program with the Decatur School District. Details are being worked out. It will focus more on STEM and agriculture and less on where your food comes from. The where your food comes from is already being done.

\$10,000 was added to hire a Consumer Economics Educator. There will be some program income from that.

A clerical person has been hired. The extra help line has been removed.  
Travel was decreased by \$3,000. Federal funding is paying for some travel.  
Rent was decreased by \$6,000 because the storage building is now paid for.  
Equipment over \$500 line was decreased by \$3,000 because the campus is replacing computers.

There had been 8 open positions throughout the past year.

Ms. Little made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kraft to forward the proposed budget on to the Finance Committee budget hearing with recommendation to approve, & the motion carried 5-0.

**CITIZEN'S REMARKS** – None

**OLD BUSINESS** -

***Recycle Center Feasibility Study Discussion***

Chair Dudley said a copy of the study that the Howard Buffett Foundation had had done had been emailed out to all of the members along with some of Mr. Buffett's comments.

Ms. Kraft referred to the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph where it says that the assumptions and operations were included in the one dozen files provided. She said she thought they had been provided with a lot more. She asked Mr. Burge if he had provided anything for this study. Mr. Burge said he had not. It was his understanding that the files that were submitted were the ones that the Chairman and John Jackson had gotten from Laurie. He said it sounded as though they had a pretty substantial file of information that she had put together. He said he had reviewed through some of it with the Chairman and had said they were good for review, but if they needed anything additional, they should let him know. He said he had no communication with the consulting company. Ms. Kraft commented that that is not many files. Chairman Greenfield said a very thick file had been sent to them. He said that he & Mr. Burge had gone through it and it was everything that Ms. Rasmus had, Mr. Greenfield had, Mr. Jackson had, Mr. Burge had. He said he had asked Mr. Burge if he thought there was anything else that needed to be added and he said he was not aware of anything. Mr. Greenfield said he was not aware of anything either. Mr. Baggett commented that one dozen files is not necessarily a dozen papers. A file can hold a lot of papers. One dozen files does not tell how much paper there was.

Mr. Jackson said he had sent probably 12 different revisions of Ms. Rasmus' spreadsheet with about 10 tabs or more on each. That could be the 12 files.

Mr. Gresham asked for Mr. Jackson's input. Mr. Jackson said the summary statement at the end pretty much sums it up. You can do it, but you'll have to decide what you are going to cut now to fund it. It is no different from at home. If you have a budget, you have to say what you're going to give up to offset the funds to do something else. Mr. Jackson said it was a loss every year. They show a little revenue at the end, but the consultants they asked about what the KPI for the success was said the per ton costs which was going to be \$100 of finished product. We couldn't sustain \$100 on our side. That is more than black soil.

Dr. Zimmerman asked how every other community that has this facility makes a profit and we can't. What is different about our county when Urbana makes a profit. Bloomington / Normal has this facility. They mentioned one that sells out every year. How are they doing this? Mr. Jackson said they would have to have lower inputs. Dr. Zimmerman asked again what was different. Why would our project cost more? Mr. Jackson said they could have had a grandfathered piece of property, didn't have to do site work, etc. Dr. Zimmerman pointed out that the property was donated and we didn't have to pay for the land either. Mr. Jackson agreed, but said we still had to do site work, prep it, all at a cost where their facility could have been turn key a long time ago. This is no difference than with any business. Your expenses

cannot be higher than revenue. Dr. Zimmerman said she just thought it was convenient that we have the one place where that is the case where every other community has this and turns a profit. Ms. Little asked how many communities have built one from ground up. They didn't just create it. They built it up. Mr. Jackson said that Sangamon County had offered to bring their goods to us. It's a loss for them to process it. They just want a home for it, but they did not want to build a facility themselves. Chairman Greenfield commented that even Urbana showed a loss for the first 7 years according to Ms. Rasmus' report. They had 3 other entities kicking in cash and they took over an existing landfill that was already established. Us establishing a farm field like we're proposing to do is very costly. Dr. Zimmerman said that they had started theirs in 1986 before the law was passed that you had to take stuff to a compost facility. That 7 years included 6 years of lower inputs because people could still take it to the landfill. We don't have a great comparison. They didn't have as much material coming to them because people could still take it to the landfill and people are paying to drop the material off now. She said she felt that there is a lot of missing information in the report. She asked what was already being paid for the recycle center. She said she understood there would be some sort of risk in having a compost facility, but compost facilities have a good chance of being profitable at some point down the road. We are paying for a recycle center that has zero chance of being profitable. We have zero chance of ever getting our rent money back. Mr. Jackson said that would be the case with a new one too. Ms. Zimmerman agreed and said she was hoping for some numbers that showed the actual risk. How much is the difference between what we expect to make from the compost facility versus the zero we currently make and the negative that we already spend on the building. Mr. Jackson said he has all of that. It is a loss for like 10 years and then you start making a little, but it was a net outflow of about \$450,000 a year just to sustain it. You're better off borrowing the money, don't do anything and pay someone else to do it. Ms. Kraft and Mr. Jackson agreed that the rent being paid currently is very insignificant. Chairman Greenfield said he thought it was about \$1,400 or \$1,500. Ms. Kraft said they had taken away one of our cubicles and gave it to someone else but did not lower our rate.

Mr. Burge said we pay \$1,000 for 2 bays plus \$400 for about 2/3 of a bay that we are splitting with the landlord. We did not volunteer to get out of the 3<sup>rd</sup> bay. We were somewhat pressured to do so by the landlord because they were going to have someone else come in and pay them to rent the entire thing. We had it grandfathered in before because they had the bay available and we could use it.

Mr. Jackson said that he had been all in out of the gate because he had the facts from ADM and saw where things were going to the landfill and there was opportunity for things like this to go. There's just no margin in it. They'll almost pay you to take it.

Mr. Gresham said there are so many issues here. There are currently a couple of facilities that take this stuff in, but they seem to be somewhat questionable. The recycling part with our rental situation. These are services we need to provide. The composting thing, at some point in time, if we lose those two facilities, looking at the long range picture, one of the things that jumps out at you on this report is that they are very negative feeling about the future of Macon County. Period. They're referring to population, money and so forth. It is a very difficult issue to cope with. Ms. Rasmus had shown the net cost in one of the things she had prepared after

subtracting what we are already spending. If this project does not go forward, and maybe this is not the time for it, it is not something we need to just put aside and not think about anymore. Mr. Jackson agreed saying that the people that are in the business now and not getting rich, but in order for them to make money, they've got to do a shoddy job at it. Mr. Gresham brought up the \$200,000 that has been spent and asked what that was for. Chairman Greenfield said it was for some soil samples, planting of wildflowers, plans that were drawn up, architectural engineering, phase I environmental studies, etc. when you get into that type of expenditures, it goes pretty quickly. The Building Commission was paying for it. Mr. Gresham said it was his understanding that if this project was not done in 5 years, the property would go back to the Foundation, but Mr. Buffett's comments indicate that he would be ok with selling the property. Chairman Greenfield said that what Mr. Buffett had suggested was that if we wanted to do it, we could sell the property and half the proceeds would go to the County and half of the proceeds would go to the City and it would go toward law enforcement. Mr. Gresham commented that he did not know why he would want to give to the city because they wouldn't step up and help. Chairman Greenfield said that Mr. Buffett had also said at a later date that if the county's finances got better, he would consider buying another piece of property. Mr. Gresham referred to a discussion about the County needing a partner and the obvious partner being the city of Decatur. In a previous City Manager situation, we did have some interest, but now apparently Mr. Wrighton has no interest in a project like this. Mr. Gresham said he still did not know where that information came from – that Mr. Wrighton has no interest. Chairman Greenfield said part of it came from him but he wasn't sure who else he had spoke with. Ms. Kraft said she had been attending meetings with an intergovernmental committee since last September. Everybody was on board. At that time we did not have a feasibility study. Nothing had been done, but they were all in favor of partnering for the recycle issue. That's all – we were just all wanting to partner on recycling. Billy Tyus, the Superintendent of Schools, Richland, - they were all in favor. Mr. Dudley said they weren't in favor of giving up any money, they were just in favor of having all the recycling stuff they could. Ms. Kraft agreed. Mr. Jackson said they wanted a home for TVs and things like that.

Dr. Zimmerman said the study talked about taking bio-solids and she said she thought the Sanitary District would be interested in that. She said she had informally spoken with a board member about that. She asked if the County had explored that possibility at all. She said that would help with a lot of the problems because there would be more inputs coming in and there would be more stuff to sell. Mr. Jackson said he had discussed it with Ms. Rasmus, but since it would be in liquid form, it would negatively affect the decomposition process. Dr. Zimmerman said the Sanitary District would have to do something to it before bringing it for composting. She said that the person she had spoken with said that the district would have to do something to it. It would have to be heat treated because you can't bring human waste because of the chloroform and stuff like that. So, it sounded like it would be a solid. Mr. Jackson said he wasn't talking about those solids. He was talking about products out of the soy processing or corn. It's totally different. Chairman Greenfield asked if there would be a smell associated with that. Dr. Zimmerman said she did not think so. Once they treat it, it has to be Grade A. Ms. Kraft said they put it on their farm. Dr. Zimmerman said it has to be even better than that. It's called bio-solids, so it doesn't sound like it is a liquid. It would take an initial cost on the Sanitary District's end because they would have to have the equipment that would convert it to a state where we could take it and blend it in with our compost. So, it would not smell. When

you're putting it on a field, it has a smell and different composition. Mr. Jackson said those are all additional costs that drive your selling price up. It would be nice for the environment and nice to have. Dr. Zimmerman pointed out that even though the District would have the costs of treating it, it would be saving them disposal costs too.

Chairman Greenfield commented that we are facing about a \$1.3 million deficit and will be looking at cutting between \$800,000 this year and again next year so that at the end of the 2 years, we will be at a balanced budget. Mr. Jackson said they could do this project, but they would have to allocate and hope that the revenue. . . Dr. Zimmerman said the capital costs would be bonded out, so they'd just be increasing the amount that would be taken out in the bond. Mr. Jackson said he thought the bond was maxed. Ms. Reed said the Building Commission would be the ones taking out the bond. Dr. Zimmerman said the costs had been estimated at an average of \$6 on an average house. So, if you use the facility once to drop off a TV, you're saving \$25. So, a taxpayer would only have to utilize the facility once in 4 years to make their money back. So, even if the capital costs are double what we expect, they use the facility once and they still get their money back in 2 years. She said she still thought the question of the revenues in the budget is different than the question of the capital costs because those are bonded out. So, if we don't know what that is, even double of what we expected with what Ms. Rasmus presented, it still seems like a good investment for the taxpayer. Mr. Jackson said the math perspective is correct, to pay the \$6 and offset it with 2 to 3 items, but still the County is going to have a cash outlay and have the liability. Chairman Greenfield said, it's the operating costs. Dr. Zimmerman said the operating costs are different. This report is saying that the operating costs are wrong, but that does not change what it does to our general fund. They said in 7 years, we would make a profit. Dr. Zimmerman said that is not an apples to apples comparison. Even if the difference is split between what Ms. Rasmus said, that is 5 years before we make a profit. That is still a different discussion than the capital costs being more than expected because that is bonded out. It was mentioned that the Reserves have enough to cover the costs for 2 years and they were expecting a loss within 2 years. Mr. Greenfield said the reserve money is being used to offset even more loss in the general fund. Mr. Jackson agreed saying we are robbing off of the General Fund. Mr. Greenfield said we have been taking about \$300,000 out of their funds (tipping fees) to general fund. You do that and now we are \$1.6 or \$1.7 and the operating costs will come out of the general fund. The truth is that Ms. Rasmus left, she met with them and said she had not included as much help as she probably should have. Ms Kraft agreed that she knew she was low. Chair Dudley asked if they build it, who will run it? Chairman Greenfield said they would have to hire someone. At one time the guy out of Urbana was interested, but his salary would have been \$110,000 or \$120,000 to come here. That's just one man's salary. Ms. Kraft said that they do have to do better than what we have now. Dr. Zimmerman agreed saying that that is her major point. We are losing people. She said her neighbor had 3 TVs on his deck for a year and a half because he did not know where to take them. Other towns just take these services for granted. It is understood that we are not in a great fiscal situation and that we are building this from scratch, but we are not going to have less need for this in 10 years and it is not going to be cheaper in 10 years than it is right now. So, if we sell this land, and buy something else in 10 years, even if Mr. Buffett buys it for us, the cost is going to be higher and we will still have to wait 4 years to see a profit from it. If we just keep kicking it down the road, if this isn't what we need to do, we need to know that we are doing something better than we were. The way we're doing it now

is not working. Chairman Greenfield argued that it is working. Dr. Zimmerman disagreed, saying it is working, but it is not. If you live in a different town where you have these facilities, it's not. Mr. Jackson asked if they are all free. She said they are not free, but they are places you can go at any time, you don't have to wait in line, you don't have to worry about the weather, you don't have to drive to the Civic Center only on a Saturday. The convenience is something people take for granted in any other community. Mr. Burge, using Springfield as an example, said they have BLH Computers where you can take electronics in to them and by just showing that you are a citizen of Springfield, they will take them. No appointments are necessary. Here, in Decatur, there are certain items that can be taken to Best Buy or Staples to be recycled for no charge. However, Best Buy will charge \$25 for a TV and there are strict type and size parameters. There are a lot CRT TVs and electronics that are still being left out of the equation. Our collections are not the most convenient, but we are the most cost effective. He said our collections are great and we do provide a great service. Maybe it is not ideal. Dr. Zimmerman agreed that they do a great job, but she reminded Mr. Burge that last time he had spent an entire day calling people because the appointments were cancelled. That is a whole day out of your work. Mr. Burge explained that the day being referred to was when he had cancelled a collection because it was a safety concern for the workers. He said he had spent his entire day instead of doing the work he should have been doing, calling and emailing people to tell them not to come out because the collection would not be held. Whereas, if you have items that can be taken to Best Buy or Staples, you can do that anytime they are open. Chairman Greenfield said they are looking at the possibility, once budget season is over, of getting a bigger facility to rent and even moving an office out there where collections could be done throughout the day. There would still only be one person in that office because that is all we can afford, but Mr. Burge would be there 5 days a week except when he is out on inspections and he could take it.

Ms. Little said she thought the plan that Ms. Rasmus had put together is lovely, but she is totally against the location. The plan and idea is excellent. It would be fabulous in Macon County, but there is not one piece of her that thinks this is the financial time to do this. Everyone in this room and this county agrees that the recycling could be better, but it has come a long way, is much more user friendly even if it is not what they have in Urbana or any other location. She said she is much more in favor of seeing what they can do to expand just that aspect of it because that is what the citizens are more concerned about – how to get rid of their old TVs. Mr. Jackson agreed. Dr. Zimmerman agreed, but said the compost is where the money is. Ms. Little said we do not have the start up money for it and could not be convinced that the County has the money to do a start up project of this magnitude this year. Mr. Gresham agreed, but asked what happens if we end up without a place to take this stuff and what would be the cost of that? He said he agrees that this is not the time, but would also propose that the County not think about selling the property. We have time to try to work this out. He said he likes the location. Mr. Burge said Ms. Rasmus had sent a letter to the IEPA asking if there came a time where both of our compost facilities would become completely defunct and not able to take any material or process any material, would the IEPA consider lifting the ban for compost. They said no. That means essentially that we would be shipping our landscape waste to Urbana or the next closest compost facility. That would be a much larger expense. Mr. Greenfield asked what that would be, but Mr. Burge could not say. He said he did not know whether now was the time for the project either, but while Ms. Rasmus, who was the architect

of this whole thing, was here working on it, she delegated the day to day jobs to him so she was able to work on the project. He said he was not privy to quite a bit of what was going on while this was taking place, but he said the two compost facilities that we do have, one is practically defunct as it is. He is not accepting any landscape waste and it is owned by a very old gentleman who is not in good health and he does not seem to have any type of plan as to what happens next when he is no longer in the picture. The second compost facility has been under violations for several years and if you go out there, you will see stockpiles of landscape waste that is just sitting there not being processed. The permit they have calls for processing what comes in on a daily basis. It is clear that they are not. The unfortunate part of this scenario is that if both of these compost facilities pack it in, which Ms. Rasmus had gotten a call from the person who is running the Macon County Compost Facility, asking when her facility would be ready because he was thinking of shutting his down. Mr. Jackson said they could consider picking up their business, picking up the operation and go. Dr. Zimmerman said that had been considered, but there were reasons why it wouldn't work. There are limitations to those places such as size because we do want to assure we can make a profit. That might be a short term answer, but it wouldn't work long term.

Chair Dudley said he felt like there are two columns here. The one that points to all the great things and possibilities. None of us are experts and can know if this is going to make money or not. It's a great idea and he said he supported it from the start and he didn't think anyone there didn't like the idea and probably with some hard work, we might be able to make it work, but he said he has also been on the board for almost 12 years and has always prided himself in how it's been able to manage the budgets over the years. Not one person has ever had to be laid off. He said they've never had to borrow money. He said he worries about the over \$1 million shortfall this year and that the rainy day funds are down to such a minimum. He said he likes everything about it, but he worries about the financial aspect of it. There is a lot to think about. He said he still thinks it would make money, but the realistic part tells him the optics don't look so good when we have a \$1.35 million shortfall and you're building a \$7.5 million complex. No matter who is paying for it. People don't understand that. An idea might be to put it on the ballot next year. If the people are willing to raise their taxes a little to help offset some of those costs, we could absorb some of them too. If the people want to vote on it and say they are willing to pay maybe another \$6 along with the \$6 they'd pay now. We never thought the 1% school tax was going to pass in 2010, but the people were willing to pay to see better schools. Now we've got the best schools around. It worked. The expansion of the landfill was another project we caught a lot of grief over, but we did it and it has been the best thing we ever did. Our recycling program has added 25 to 30 years on to the life of our landfill. That is something to be proud of. We can do that with this recycling center in time, but maybe we should take it to the voters to see if they're willing to pay. If they're willing to pay for half, that takes a burden off of us. It's just an idea. There is no director at this point. If we build it, who will run it. We don't want just anybody doing it. It needs to be done right. Dr. Zimmerman commented that she agreed with Mr. Gresham, in that even if it is decided to not do this this year, the land should not be sold until it is 100% sure this is something that cannot be done. She said maybe they could talk to the Sanitary District and explore ideas like that.

Chairman Greenfield said, if it gets put on the ballot, which he is not against, the tax is already expired so it will not be a \$6 tax, it will be a \$12 - \$14 tax because the current tax is already

expired. Whatever is put on the ballot, it needs to be correct. One other thing, there is a possibility, and a good possibility, in talking about bonding projects, we may be bonding bridges. That is how bad it is. Looking at Reas Bridge and the Capital Bill was \$50 billion and there was nothing earmarked for Reas Bridge. We've got \$8 million saved, but it is a \$16-\$17 million project and that bridge could be closed at just about any time. We are going to spend \$25,000 on it right now to sure it up and keep it open for cars. Anything bigger than a car cannot go across it now. If we don't get that money, we've got some other avenues, but there are other bridges that are a problem too. We may be bonding things, but it may be for bridges. He asked that the committee members keep that in mind.

Mr. Burge said that in terms of selling the land, there might be a bit of an issue. The woman that sold the land was immensely excited about the idea of it being used for environmental purposes which would be for a project similar to this or to revert back to farmland. He said this might need to be looked into because selling the land and doing something for law enforcement or whatever may not be legally possible. Mr. Burge was not aware of the legal ramifications of it and did not know if it had been put in writing somewhere such as on the bill of sale or some other documentation that went with it. That was a big reason why she agreed to sell. Mr. Dudley said that was the only reason she sold it. Dr. Zimmerman confirmed this as well. She had been approached multiple times before for a prison, a casino, and other things but she would not sell it because she did not think it was a good enough reason to do so. When she sold it, it was with the idea that it would be used for environmental purposes. Chair Dudley asked Mr. Baggett to check into the covenants and contract. Chairman Greenfield commented that if they do keep it, they need to make sure the Building Commission cash rents it for more than what they did this time. Mr. Burge continued saying that he is not the expert on this project and if it were to actually happen, he would not be the person to run that facility because he does not have the expertise to do so. He said he could run the current operations, but once it gets into something of that scale, he is not the man. Mr. Gresham commented that it needs to be given some time and asked where they should go from there as far as a facility where collections could be done without appointments, etc. That is a major inconvenience for the citizens. Chair Dudley said it could be a major cost too. He said this is an issue and there are as many people for it as there are against it. There is no clear cut yes or no. Some very good things came out of this discussion that need investigated such as the land sale covenants and what happens if the two current compost sites close down. Those are things to think about. It could cost a lot of money to truck the stuff to Springfield. It has been brought to light and can be given more thought, more investigation, maybe put it on the ballot. We have a good start and should discuss it again after we have a little more clarity. Everyone has dug into this and paid attention and tried to learn everything they can about it. He said he was proud of the committee members and thanked them for their service.

#### **NEW BUSINESS** –

Ms. Kraft said there is a Cannabis and County Seminar offered by IACBM on Thursday she would be attending. Dr. Zimmerman said she was also attending. Ms. Kraft said Ms. Gunter from Planning and Zoning is also going and Mr. Baggett from the State's Attorney's office has been reached out to as well. Chair Dudley said it's coming and it is going to be an issue.

**Closed Session** – None needed

**NEXT MEETING** Next regular meeting –8/22/19

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Kraft, seconded by Ms. Zimmerman, the motion carried 5-0 and Chair Dudley adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office*