

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
March 2, 2015
5:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jay Dunn
Kevin Greenfield
Tim Dudley
Linda Little
Keith Ashby
Greg Mattingley
Patty Cox

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Jon Butts, Sheriff's Dept
Pat Berter, Probation Director
Ed Yoder, Treasurer
Carol Reed, Auditor
Bruce Bird, Highway Engineer
Josh Tanner, Bd of Rev, SofA, GIS
Rodney Forbes, Public Defender
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

Members Absent

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting (February 2, 2015) was made by Linda Little, seconded by Kevin Greenfield and motion carried 7-0.

CLAIMS

Motion to approve the report of the claims as presented made by Patty Cox seconded by Greg Mattingley, and motion carried 7-0.

REPORTS

Audit Sub-Committee – No report

Auditor

Carol Reed reported that the 2015-2016 State budget has proposed cuts to municipalities and counties. We could see our share of the state income tax decrease next year by possibly 50%. To us, it would mean about \$730,000 loss in revenue. This is something to keep in mind as we go forward.

This year, the fund balance is headed towards still being within the guidelines of having 2 ½ months operating revenue, but the General Fund balance at the end of this year could be down as low as about \$5.5 million. That is an early production.

Kevin Greenfield asked the auditor if the \$5.5 million accounts for the possibility of losing the money from the state. Carol said no, it is just projected as to how we are now.

Board of Review

Josh Tanner distributed a report showing the value that went out of his office to the Board of Review and then on to the State. This year is very similar to last year at a \$7 million reduction total.

Supervisor of Assessments –

Josh Tanner reported that the legislators have 60 bills that have to do with property tax. The latest update came today and will be forwarded out. He said it has the usual suspects such as increasing the amount of exemptions, increasing the eligibility of exemptions, and creating new exemptions, all of which translate into less EAV. There is one that is most impactful to us and that is increasing the General Homestead Exemption to \$7,000. There are about 30,000 General Homestead Exemptions so it would be an increase of \$1,000 from where we are now. That is a pretty good chunk of EAV disappearing.

Jay Dunn asked Josh if he thought the EAV would still be going down this year. Josh said he thought it would, but not as much as in the past. This is Decatur Township's Quadrennial. They'll be doing their work. They've had a multiplier put on the whole township for the past 3 to 4 years – a downward multiplier. Josh said he thought that was part of the reason they've been seeing a decrease in appeals. It's because the values are finally getting around where they need to be. He said he did not foresee having a multiplier on a Township this year because they plan to do a lot of work. There will probably be some reductions in the residential portion, but probably not so much in the commercial area. Obviously they hold the bulk of the EAV in the county. Hickory Point did theirs last year and there was not a significant change. It's going to go down, but not as much as in the past. These exemptions are the real concern. Even if we increased our EAV, it could get all wiped out by new exemptions. Sometimes, it's not the value of the property anymore, it's just the fact that they get a new exemption. They talk about increasing the Senior Freeze. That is supposed to be for senior citizens that make less than \$55,000 total household and now they're talking about moving it to \$75,000. That could increase the number of people eligible for it a lot.

Tim Dudley asked if Josh had heard anything about the proposed tax freeze. Josh said he had seen legislation on it. The problem is that there are not very many details. He said he was not sure how you would go about freezing a property tax bill and neither does anybody in the association. Generally, the Assessor Association remains neutral on the revenue side. If they change exemptions, we remain neutral unless the burden of administering it gets pretty high. When it comes to a property tax freeze, Josh said he is just not sure how, mechanically, that would be done because the assessed value is controlled, but the taxing districts control what the rate is going to be. You don't know what that is going to be until the Clerk puts all the levies with the value we give them and then he comes up with the rate. So, it's not clear how you could about freezing a tax bill. You could freeze a tax assessment. But even those people who have the senior citizen assessment freeze, their assessment is frozen and some of them have been frozen for years and years, but their bill still keeps going up because the rate keeps going up. If you have the same assessed value, but a higher rate, the bill goes up. It's either an inexact of language or maybe not a clear understanding of how the property tax cycle works.

GIS –

Josh Tanner reported that the website that was taken down last month is in the final stages, this week, of being brought back up. Initially, there was a pleather of calls, but they've kind of died down. The new site will allow usage tracking, so that may be something reported on in the future.

Treasurer

Macon County Board Resolution to Execute Deeds to Convey Property on which Taxes were Delinquent

Motion to approve forwarding to the Consent Calendar with recommendation for approval made by Linda Little, seconded by Tim Dudley and motion carried 7-0.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Transportation

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Macon County Board and the Village of Warrensburg

Bruce Bird explained that this is to waive utility permit fees that are part of the permitting process so that the Village can do work in the right of way without paying permit fees.

Motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation for approval was made by Patty Cox, seconded by Kevin Greenfield and the motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between Macon County, Hickory Point Township Road District, and Heartland Ag Group Ltd.

Bruce Bird explained that this is a cost share on a drainage improvement project. Heartland Ag Group will do the work. It is being split three ways. It is estimated at \$4,000 for each entity or \$12,000 total.

Motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation for approval was made by Linda Little, seconded by Patty Cox and the motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds for the 2014 Annual MFT Maintenance Estimate

Bruce Bird explained that this is for overages in last year's maintenance estimate. This is money that has already been spent - \$243,768. The biggest portion of that was the increase in the cost of salt. \$60 per ton was budgeted and it came in at \$96 a ton.

Motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation for approval was made by Patty Cox, seconded by Greg Mattingley and the motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Funding Agreement with IDOT on the Construction of a Bridge on Sefton Road (CH 60)

Bruce Bird explained that the total cost of the project is estimated at \$1.35 million with our share being \$270,000 which will come out of the matching fund.

Motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation for approval was made by Patty Cox, seconded by Tim Dudley and the motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Land Swap with the Macon County Conservation District on the Macon County Beltway

Bruce Bird explained that this is for a portion of 10 acres of ground that was purchased in 2011. It sits adjacent to the Sand Creek Conservation Area. There are parcels of ground east of where the purchase was made that sit adjacent to Ch30 that will be needed when the Beltway is built through there. The ground was purchased with Federal Funds that required the land to remain in conservation. It cannot be sold. It can be swapped, but not sold. So a property nearby that was adjacent to the Sand Creek Conservation Area was bought. So, the titles for the two parcels will be swapped with the Conservation District so we will have the needed right of way and they will still have conservation ground.

Motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation for approval was made by Patty Cox, seconded by Tim Dudley and the motion carried 7-0.

Sheriff's Department

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Contract between the Macon County Sheriff's Department and the Decatur Public Building Commission

Lt. Butts explained that this is a yearly contract with the Building Commission that splits the cost of salary and benefits for a Court Security Officer to be assigned to this building. The current contract expires 4/5/15 which is next month and the new contract will run through 4/5/16. Total cost is \$19,411.90 which will be paid to the Sheriff's Department by the Building Commission.

Motion to approve forwarding the resolution to the full board with recommendation for approval was made by Greg Mattingley, seconded by Patty Cox.

Linda Little asked if consideration had been made for if the move to the library goes through. Lt. Butts said they had spoken with Mr. Lord about it and because of the timeframe, it would only be for this building and then will be reevaluated after that. The motion carried 7-0.

Probation Department

Macon County Board Resolution Amending the Probation FY15 Budget

Pat Berter explained that FOP contract negotiations had been completed and it included a 2.75% salary increase for the line staff. He said he would also like to propose an increase for his managers. Mr. Berter said he has met with both the County Board Chairman and the Finance Committee Chairman to give them a picture of what the department looks like. He explained that he currently makes \$78,000 and would like to take a flat rate increase that would bring him

up to \$79,500 which is less than 2%. The most senior supervisor would get a 2.75% increase. The next senior supervisor, whose current salary is \$56,339, would go to \$60,000 because she is taking on additional duties including the Officer Safety Training Program which was formerly done by Pat. She is also going to be supervising additional staff in the investigations unit. A vacant position that was left by an officer who took a position in Christian County has just been filled by the former Community Services Supervisor. His salary was \$52,330 and will go to \$55,000 because by next year, with the step increase, he would be making less so this is to make it competitive. There is another vacant position. It is hopeful that someone will be brought in later at a salary of around \$50,000, but for now it will be put on hold so juvenile detention can be watched to see what happens there. As of today, there are 6 individuals in the detention center. Thursday, there were 2. Also, the Administrative Assistant would get a 2.75% increase.

Pat said that he had received today from Chief Judge Flannel a notice that they would be getting an additional \$120,440 from the State for this year.

The bottom line with the raises, it is still under the 1% as requested for the budget.

Motion to approve forwarding the resolution to the full board with recommendation for approval was made by Greg Mattingley, seconded by Patty Cox and the motion carried 7-0.

CLOSED SESSION -

Chair Dunn announced that a closed session pursuant to State Statute Section 2 (c) (5) of the Open Meetings Act would be needed.

Patty Cox made a motion to go to closed session, seconded by Linda Little and the motion carried 7-0.

RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

NEXT MEETING – Monday, March 30, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Tim Dudley seconded by Kevin Greenfield, motion carried 7-0, and meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office