

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 29, 2015

5:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Keith Ashby

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Pat Berter, Probation
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Josh Tanner, S of A
Jay Scott, State's Attorney
Kathy Powless, Veteran's Admin
Rodney Forbes, Public Defender
Carol Reed, Auditor
Lisa Wallace, Deputy Auditor
Steve Bean, County Clerk
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

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, budget hearing #5 (September 22, 2015) was made by Ms. Little, seconded by Ms. Cox and motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

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

REPORTS – Chair Dunn announced that he was going to skip over the Auditor until later in the meeting.

Board of Review –

Mr. Tanner reported that the Board is meeting every Wednesday. This is turning out to be one of the lowest case load years.

Supervisor of Assessments –

Mr. Tanner reported that the contracts with each of the Townships is in need of review in regard to the fee being charged if they don't complete their work or if they don't have someone to complete their work. Since the office has lost a person, it would not recover everything it should in the budget, but he said he would be bringing that back in the new year after the budget is wrapped up. He said they need to review how to modify the contract or get them to perform so they don't have to bill. Chairman Greenfield asked how many there were that are not complying. Mr. Tanner said there are three townships that do not have a Township Assessor. The person either has to live there or they have to contract it out with a vendor. A vendor is 4 to 5 times what the S of A office charges. That would be expensive. He said it's not like they are not doing anything. It's generally a problem of not being complete so they have to go through and finish the work. He said they are down to one person that does that so it's going to be a little

tougher going forward. Ms. Cox asked what Townships do not have assessors. Mr. Tanner said they are Niantic, Harristown & South Wheatland. The rest of them either have a contract or they have an elected assessor. He explained that some money is being recovered, but the Township Assessors have realized that using the County's S of A office is cheaper than hiring someone. He said he would bring them an analysis to show what the cost is to the county to do their work.

GIS –

Mr. Tanner said he feels the GIS Recorder fee needs to be increased. In speaking with the Recorder, she may have some of her own fees that also need to be increased, but her oversight is O&P, so she would take that to them. The last fee study authorized up to \$13.68. We are at \$12 now and have been for the past year. Mr. Tanner said he would bring a resolution next month to increase it to \$13. The Recorder does not like off fees as it makes it difficult for everyone. It's not going to solve the problem, but if the fee study said this is what it costs us to do business and we are not charging that amount, then that's why the budget is the way it is.

Treasurer

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

Chair Dunn presented the resolution and Mr. Greenfield made the motion to approve forwarding to the Consent Calendar with recommendation for approval, seconded by Ms. Little and motion carried 6-0.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT - None

OLD BUSINESS - Chair Dunn announced he would move this to later on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Probation Department

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Revenue in the Probation Grant Fund Drug Court Enhancement Grant

Mr. Berter explained that all of the resolutions have to do with grant timing issues because of the Federal, State & County fiscal years.

The first grant is the one that is received from the Federal Government for drug court.

Motion made to forward the resolution to the full board with recommendation to approve by Mr. Mattingley, seconded by Ms. Little and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Revenue in the Probation Grant Fund for IDOT DUI Grant

Mr. Berter explained that this is the money received from the State of Illinois for the DUI Grant

Motion made to forward the resolution to the full board with recommendation to approve by Ms. Cox, seconded by Mr. Mattingley and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Revenue in the Probation Grant Fund for Juvenile Redeploy Illinois Grant

Mr. Berter explained that this is the Juvenile Redeploy or what is called Community Access.

Motion made to forward the resolution to the full board with recommendation to approve by Mr. Mattingley, seconded by Ms. Cox and the motion carried 6-0

State's Attorney's Office

Macon County Board Resolution Amending the State's Attorney's F2015 Budget for Creation of New Fund 092-072 Community Foundation Truancy Project Grant

Mr. Baggett explained that the Community Foundation has generously donated some money to help make up for a loss in state funding under the Joint Accountability Grant. This resolution appropriates funds already received to allow them to be spent.

Motion made to forward the resolution to the full board with recommendation to approve by Mr. Mattingley, seconded by Ms. Cox and the motion carried 6-0

Macon County Board Resolution Amending the State's Attorney's F2015 Budget for Additional Funds to Pay Trial Expenses Incurred

Mr. Baggett explained that there was one remaining invoice that came in from the Cutler trial from Dr. Nelson, one of the expert witnesses in the case. All other witnesses in the trial have been called to make sure there are no other outstanding invoices and are sure this is the last one for that trial. .

Motion made to forward the resolution to the full board with recommendation to approve by Mr. Mattingley, seconded by Ms. Little and the motion carried 6-0

OLD BUSINESS

Veteran's Administration – FY16 Budget

Chair Dunn explained that the Finance Committee had been ok with the budget, but the levy was way low compared to what it was and so they had asked Ms. Powless and Ms. Reed to meet and present some options.

Ms. Powless explained that she would really like to have the \$191,000 (tax rate of 0.012) which would allow her to increase the amount of bus passes they could give out. Currently one is issued every 2 months which gives 20 rides, but with winter coming on, she would like to be able to give one card a month. They cost \$18.40. She explained that they had tried, unsuccessfully, to get discounts. She said she would also like to start providing emergency Veteran's Assistance. That would be for veterans who are about to be evicted because they cannot pay their rent and also for utilities. Phone bills would not be included, but they could help with other utilities. The vets would have to pitch in and help to and there would be a certain amount that they could get for 2 years and then it's done. Ms. Powless explained that she had spoken with Sangamon

County and they would go over and sit with them to see how they go through the process. They have \$20,000 in their fund for rent & utilities plus \$7,500 for food and prescriptions. Champaign County has \$80,000 which is split between Veteran's Assistance and Emergency Assistance. She said she would like to just do Emergency Assistance to see how it will go over before jumping in. She said they've had several call throughout the year from people needing help with rent or utilities. She said she'd like to start with \$10,000 to \$15,000 in a fund to see how it would work. Chairman Greenfield asked how much money the department receives from the state. Ms. Powless said none. He asked if the levy were to go to 0.025 (\$239,400) what she could do. Ms. Powless they could kick right into Veteran's Assistance too. Mr. Dudley asked if she was being conservative on the 0.012 (\$191,520) with her programs. She said yes. Mr. Dudley said he was thinking along the lines of if the levy is going to be raised, it should be raised to the level that will help. Even at 0.015, it is still only at half of the maximum. He said he would be in favor of going to the 0.015. Ms. Little agreed saying her concern is that if they go with the 0.012, after a year's time it would be felt that if there was just a little more, so many more people could be helped, but she said she would not vote to raise it two years in a row. Mr. Dudley added that if they end up freezing property taxes in Springfield, there won't be a chance to do it. Next year, if there's a surplus, it can be taken back down. He said with everything that is going on with the budget crisis, it just needs to be taken to the 0.015.

Mr. Dudley made a motion to approve forwarding the VA budget proposal with the increase to the levy to 0.015 on to Display, seconded by Chairman Greenfield, and the motion carried 6-0.

Chair Dunn asked Mr. Bean about the need of having to hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing. Mr. Bean confirmed that if the levy is increased more than 105% a hearing would have to be held.

Ms. Powless thanked the committee on behalf of the veterans.

State's Attorney's Office – FY16 Budget

Mr. Baggett stated that the 3% cut was met

Revenue Lines – The 708 Board Deferred Prosecution increased their award as did the Attorney General's Victim Witness Grant Award. Everything else remained the same.

The Circuit Clerk and the State's Attorney have just entered into a new contract with a new vendor on collections of unpaid fines and fees and they are hoping to see a pretty decent amount collected at the very beginning.

Chair Dunn asked Mr. Baggett if the 3% cut included pay raises. Mr. Baggett said no. There are minor increases in the SA Assistant Office Manager lines based on the extra payday in the year, but the majority of the 3% cut has come out of salary. A total of \$42,254, but with the extra day pay it comes to a total cut of \$41,539 which is where the vast majority of the 3% cut came from.

Hospitalization – went up over \$34,000 due to the increase in premiums

Travel & Training expenses have been eliminated.

Postage has a slight increase due to need

Library fund is down over \$2,500. Some of the costs there are being transitioned to the Drug & Sex Crimes Fund to pay for the attorneys who are dedicated to those units. Those funds are restricted by Statute as to what can be paid out of them, but the fact that there are dedicated prosecutors, their law library expenses can be paid for out of those funds.

Copy Machine remains the same.

The supplies line, originally was to be increased substantially because of the fact that at the halfway point into FY15, 95% of the budget has been spent. There is a fund balance in the Automation Fund which will be utilized next year, but this will be a one-time fix because it will be exhausted by the end of next year from the purchases that will be needed.

\$49,000 and change has been cut, which is the 3%.

Ms. Cox asked how many investigators the State's Attorney's Office has. Mr. Baggett said that currently, there are 3 total. There had been 4, but Ed Culp left the office this past Friday. Mr. Mattingley asked if the budget proposed that Mr. Culp would be replaced since the hospitalization has not gone down. Mr. Baggett said the budget does anticipate replacing Mr. Culp. That hospitalization is still built in, but not a salary. Mr. Mattingley asked if the proposed replacement would make less. Mr. Baggett said it is hoped to hire at lower than a max salary of \$50,000.

Ms. Little asked what the cost of a 3% increase for employees would be. Mr. Baggett said it would be \$39,000. Ms. Little asked how important the 4th investigator is. Mr. Baggett said it is critical.

Mr. Dudley made a motion to forward the proposal as presented on to Display. Chairman Greenfield asked if they wanted to do anything with raises. He said he knows the committee was told the investigator position is critical, and he wouldn't argue with Mr. Baggett or Mr. Scott, but he would rather see the money be used for raises rather than to hire another investigator. Mr. Baggett said the criminal unit cannot operate effectively with two investigators for the majority of the crimes. Chairman Greenfield asked what the investigator for the Sheriff's Department does. Mr. Scott said they put together cases to bring to the State's Attorney's Office. The State's Attorney's Office Investigators help put cases together in the SA office for prosecution. Occasionally they are called in if the Sheriff has a conflict or if another agency will not investigate something, then one of the SA investigators will step in if they are asked. If they are not out putting together cases for an arrest, they are helping put cases together for the prosecution. Chairman Greenfield asked why two couldn't do that. Mr. Scott said there have been three since 2002 or 2003. Things are done differently here than in other counties and they are pretty good at what they do. There would have to be more attorneys if there were less investigators. They do so much in helping to get witnesses tracked down, getting evidence, sitting in on witness interviews, etc.. Ms. Little asked if there was 3 times more investigation going on in the SA office than in the Public Defender's Office. Mr. Scott said more than likely, yes. Mr. Baggett added that there are more cases and a higher burden of proof for prosecutors. We have to prove beyond reasonable doubt. Chair Dunn asked if the investigators serve subpoenas. Mr. Scott said yes, but the biggest part of what they do is to track people down.

They hide from us, they move. A lot of witnesses and victims are a pretty transient population. Other counties may feel that if they can't find them, no big deal. The case just doesn't get prosecuted. Traditionally, we don't do it that way here. That's why we have good numbers and why we do succeed. These guys rouse these people and track them down and find them. Mr. Mattingley asked what the percentage of pre-existing case load Mr. Buffett's investigator has taken off of the other 3. Mr. Scott said that at the half-way point of this year, there were 70 elderly victims cases versus about 60 the previous year which was prior to the grant.

Ms. Cox asked if the SA Office personnel had received increases last year. Mr. Scott said yes, 3% for the first time. Ms. Cox said she hates to see no raises, but she didn't know where they would come up with the money. Ms. Little said the proposed amount on the investigator line is \$165,851 and asked if that was for 4. Mr. Baggett said no, it is for 3. The other investigator is under the grant. He explained that that was the problem. There are 3 investigators currently, but one can only work on elder victims crimes pursuant to the grant. All the other work has to go to two investigators if Mr. Culp is not replaced. Chair Dunn said that with several of the other departments, if they got their 3% cut, salary increases were given, but they were asked to do it on a merit basis rather than everybody getting a flat 3%. He asked if that was how the SA office has done it in the past. Mr. Scott said last year, it was done across the board, but he is big on the merit part. When they've had extra money, it's gone to the people who have done a good job. Not that they are not all doing a good job, but some are better than others.

Chair Dunn said there is a motion on the floor to approve the budget and asked if there was an amendment to include the increases. There was none, so Chair Dunn said he would make it just to see if it would pass. Ms. Little asked if a second on the original motion was needed first. Mr. Mattingley seconded the original motion to approve the budget. Chair Dunn stated that he was making the amendment to add the 3% surplus to use not as a 3% for everybody, but to use the amount to give merit raises. Ms. Cox seconded the amendment.

Voting on the amendment. Roll call vote: Dunn – Aye, Greenfield – no, Dudley – no, Mattingley – no, Little – no, Cox – aye. The amendment failed with 4 no & 2 yes votes.

Chair Dunn called for a roll call vote on the motion to approve the budget. Chairman Greenfield stated he would like to make an amendment and motioned that the State's Attorney has the option to either replace his investigator or take the money and divide it amongst his people however he sees fit. Mr. Dudley seconded the motion. Ms. Cox said if someone got 18% she wouldn't be very happy. She said she thought it should be clarified. Ms. Little said the board's only authority over that category not the lines. Chair Dunn said the board has line item authority. Ms. Little said she would like to see a cheap investigator be hired and the rest used to give raises and she would like to know that absolutely no one gets more than 3% and she would like for them to be meritiorials. Mr. Dudley said he didn't disagree with what has been said, but felt that Mr. Scott knows what he needs. If he needs an investigator, he needs to hire one and we don't need someone that is not worth having. The department needs good investigators. He said he feels that Mr. Scott knows whether he needs an investigator or whether he wants to give raises. Chairman Greenfield said that Mr. Scott can make that determination, but he has to make the tough decision just like we have to. Chair Dunn asked Chairman Greenfield to repeat the motion. Mr. Greenfield said it is that the State's Attorney have the option to take the money

from Mr. Culp's salary and be given the option to take that money to either hire an investigator or take the money and give merit raises to the people in his office. Chair Dunn asked, "What if he wants to cut an assistant state's attorney, or a support staff instead of an investigator?" Mr. Greenfield said he would not tell him how to run his office, he's just going to give him the money to do what he feels is best. Chair Dunn summarized saying Mr. Greenfield is saying that this is the budget unless he wants to modify it somehow to increase salaries. Mr. Dudley said the budget could just be voted on and it's the same money either way. Ms. Little said that was what she had thought, but was told we have line item authority. Chair Dunn said he could resubmit before Display. Mr. Greenfield said he wants the State's Attorney to know he has that option and we're not going to tie his hands. Chair Dunn said the idea is to approve the budget the way it is, but if he wants to modify it as to how it is divvied up prior to the time it goes on display. Ms. Cox asked for clarification. Mr. Greenfield said we are going to pass the budget as it is with the State's Attorney having the option to take the money that is in the fund for the investigator to either hire an investigator or to take that money and give merit raises to his people. Ms. Cox asked if a limit was going to be put on the merit raises. Mr. Baggett said the County Board cannot control how much the State's Attorney pays his employees. They can only control the amount of money budgeted, but not internal operations. Chair Dunn said that technically, they could lay off 14 assistants and pay one about \$300,000. Mr. Baggett said that as a point of clarification and if it would make Ms. Cox feel more comfortable, the State's Attorney and probably any elected office holder who has independent control of their office understands the board's feelings and takes them with a large measure of importance when they are expressed, but as far as a legal basis, the County Board cannot control the percentage. Chair Dunn said that next year is probably going to be a worse year than this. He said he has already mentioned that they are going to be talking about caps on certain areas, possibly more budget cuts, and hiring freezes which has been done in several counties, but it has to be agreed upon with all the elected officials because the only control the Board has is their budget, but like Mr. Baggett said, if the Board expresses what they would like to see, they normally accommodate it. Technically, the Board is just in control of the budget.

Roll Call vote on the amendment: Dunn – aye, Greenfield – aye, Dudley – aye, Mattingley – aye, Little – aye, Cox – aye. Motion carries 6-0.

Chair Dunn then called on a vote on the original motion to approve the budget and the motion carried 6-0.

Audit Sub Committee Report – None

Auditor Report – Budget Presentation

Insurance / Self Insurance -

Ms. Reed said the self-insurance fund is funded by the insurance fund making them one fund that operates individually. Looking at Fund 13, Self-Insurance, first, the \$230,000 income comes from the insurance fund. The outflow from that fund is the Supervisor of Safety which is the Sheriff; there is no Director of Insurance currently; and Temporary Disability. There is a little bit of salaries, a little fringes. Most of the expense is the Self-Insurance things we do - the Workmans Comp and the claim losses that are under our level. Pretty much everything that goes into the fund, goes out of the fund. It is funded as needed and is pretty much a break even.

Going back to the insurance fund, it is taxed based. The proposal is to take it down \$30,000 just because we've had a pretty good year, things are pretty steady, there is a pretty good fund balance. She said she thought \$20,000 less would be fine. The other revenue item for the insurance fund is from E911 who pay for their portion of the general liability insurance or about \$15,500.

Expenses of the insurance fund include a part of Rona Beasley's salary and part of Sheri Wallace's salary for Work Comp Administration plus the associated fringes.

7000 items are unemployment, general liability, all of the insurances we pay for. The renewal application has just been done, so it is not known for sure what the rates will be for general liability. A 10% increase has been allowed here and John Malachowski at A. J. Gallagher feels that should cover it. There is a pretty good fund balance.

Chair Dunn said it looked like it was going up but you're going to cut the levy. Ms. Reed said the expenses are going up, but yes she was going to cut the levy a little by \$20,000.

On the self-insurance fund side, there has been better experience this year with the claim loss. Work Comp is up but the other liability insurance is down.

Ms. Little asked about line 5500 that has \$10,000 for Temporary Disability and asked if that was a salary. Ms. Reed explained that when people are out on temporary disability / workers comp, their wages are reclassified to this account, usually at the end of the year. Those are actual wages that get reclassified from other units.

Ms. Little asked what increases are being given in the Auditor's Office. Ms. Reed said 3% with one being contractual and one not.

Ms. Little made a motion to approve sending the proposed insurance budget on to display, seconded by Mr. Dudley and the motion carried 6-0.

Retirement / Social Security

First on retirement, the same amount in taxes is being requested as in the prior year. The retirement fund depends on the rates from IMRF. The regular IMRF goes down 3% next year and the SLEP and Elected Official rate goes up a little so in taking those into account and running an analysis based on current salaries and where they will be classified, it is felt that the same amount as last year will help again this year. The fund balance in the retirement fund is \$885,000 so there is a little wiggle room there. This budget looks similar to last year with the exception that there are some shifting.

Ms. Little made a motion to approve sending the retirement budget on to display, seconded by Ms. Cox and the motion carried 6-0.

The Social Security levy has not changed for a couple of years and this year is no exception. This also has a good fund balance of \$890,000. Based on salary projections, there are less

people by a few, but with 3% salary increases, it comes out about the same. The 6012, FICA for employer, was taken down a little. The new Vision Care which is paid entirely by the employee is all SS excludable and the health insurance premiums are also excluded from income and ends up being a savings benefit to the County.

Ms. Little made a motion to approve sending the social security budget on to display, seconded by Mr. Dudley and the motion carried 6-0.

Chair Dunn asked about the fund balance amounts in both retirement and social security and asked what the logic in keeping them so high is. Ms. Reed said it's always been that way. They have pretty high monthly payouts and this is about a 3 month balance. Ms. Little said she is comfortable with keeping it at about 3 months and everyone agreed that it would be looked at again next year. Chair Dunn stated that right now there is the issue with the sick days too. Ms. Reed agreed and said that she had put a \$200,000 line in the retirement fund for accelerated payments too.

DPBC Lease Fund

No changes are anticipated. There are a couple of years left on the bond payments so that stayed the same. The only thing that changed a little was bringing in the Health Department and for the next year an extra \$16,000 has been budgeted to assist with those payments. We will pay the Building Commission the excess for the agreement with the Health Department. Adding in that \$16,000 didn't really do anything to our overall. The levy will be kept the same. Some of the taxes are abated. This shows the full amount of the taxes. The agreement last year called for \$1,122,000 and it looks like it will be between \$1 million and \$1.2 million that will again be abated on the property tax levy. The \$5,920,000 that you see as taxes will be reduced and that will come later as a Board Resolution.

Mr. Dudley made a motion to approve sending the DPBC Lease Fund budget on to display, seconded by Ms. Cox and the motion carried 6-0.

Capital Project Fund & Capital Vehicle Fund

Just an FYI on this since it was not ready in time to be put on the agenda. This is a fund that was established to help offices buy copiers, equipment or computers. We are the financing for them. There are no tax monies involved. It is just money that has been set aside to use for this purpose. There is currently about 9 items on that. The Treasurer just used it. The money comes in and goes out. \$45,000 has been budgeted to be used for that and it may or may not be used. There is one vehicle that is being paid for through the Capital Vehicle Fund. The starting balance was \$200,000 with about \$180,000 left that is available to loan out next year. Chairman Greenfield asked if there is only one vehicle being purchased why is a balance of \$180,000 needed. Ms. Reed explained it is just there in case anyone wants to use it to purchase cars. Ms. Little added that it could be used to purchase squad cars, etc... Ms. Cox asked how much is used at a time. Ms. Reed said the one transaction was for about \$20,000.

This budget will be put on the agenda for the October 7 Special Finance Committee meeting to prepare for display. Ms. Reed said that everything should come together by then. Chair Dunn

said that if the SA wants to do anything with his budget, he'll have to have it in by October 7. Ms. Reed confirmed. The Veteran's final approval will also need to be put on that agenda.

Ms. Reed offered to give an update on the general fund.

There are \$138,000 more in expense, but the County Board had a \$549,566 P&Z mitigation grant that was taken out, so really the general fund is \$410,899 less than it was last year. The 3% cuts have resulted in that number being less than it was last year.

The projected revenue for this year is \$14,111,000 and for next year is \$15,818,000. Excluding the taxes, the revenue is still up for next year. It has increased. Knowing that the general fund is in need of more money, taxes have been projected to be at the maximum 0.2500 rate. Right now the taxes are at 0.17755. The 0.2500 rate is from four years ago. In 2012, it was at \$3,997,000, so in 2013, 2014, & 2015 we cut our levy. Ms. Reed said she felt that it is time to take it back up to help recover.

Chair Dunn asked if we are down \$2.6 million or is that the projection. Ms. Reed said that is the budget which is projected to be a loss of \$2.6 million. Chair Dunn asked if by raising the levy and increasing the fees as projected, next year would be a loss of \$370,000. Ms. Reed confirmed.

Chairman Greenfield said that with the talk that the Governor may cut the income tax which could be between a \$800,000 and \$900,000 cut. Ms. Reed said that will have an effect as it is not taken into consideration here. Usually you don't spend all your budget so this \$2.6 million projected for this year is totally per budget, but we don't expect it to be that much. Potentially, it could be. That will take down our general fund fund balance which right now is about 4 months reserves. After this year giving the projected \$2.6 million, which is worst case scenario, it will be down to about 2.5 months of budget expenses which is about the minimum you would want to be at per the Government Finance Office Association recommendation of 2 months. This is why Ms. Reed said she feels that they need to try to get the fund balance back up. Mr. Greenfield asked if she would feel comfortable raising the levy maybe half of her recommendation. Ms. Reed said that would just leave a bigger hole to dig out of. She said she did a few projections to see how much difference it would make. If the levy is raised all the way, a Truth in Taxation would be needed because the budget would be increased by 10.28%. If we kept the general fund levy, instead of the 3.995 and just did 3.2, it would be about a 5% increase. If we kept it the same as it is now, it would be a 2.2% increase, but Ms. Reed said she didn't know if it would be enough to keep the county in 2 month reserves. Mr. Greenfield asked if the old levy is gone back to, if a Truth in Taxation Hearing would be needed. Ms. Reed said if it goes back to 2.5, yes. That involve publishing a notice and holding a Truth in Taxation Hearing prior to voting on the budget. Mr. Dunn asked when the last time that was done. Mr. Bean said he thought about 12 years ago. It was during a decline and there was some large contractual agreements with the Sheriff's Office or something. There were a lot of layoffs and had to do a Truth in Taxation just to cover it. Ms. Little added that it was when there were a year's worth of negotiations and a year and a half of back wages had to be paid. Mr. Bean said that the other rates for the other items involved have gone up the difference of what you cut the general fund levy. So, you don't really have a lot of savings there. He said he was at a County Clerk meeting earlier in the day and everybody is in pretty bad shape. The other thing we have to look at is what happens if the state doesn't ever pay us back. Chair Dunn said that no good deed goes unpunished. He said

they had cut the levy when the economy was really bad in trying to help. Unfortunately, a lot of the other taxing bodies raised theirs. We were always honest with the public and the paper printed it that eventually we would have to raise it back up. We tried to help some taxpayers and now we've pretty much used up our reserves where we need to do something. He asked if the Truth in Taxation Hearing was held at the same Board meeting where they voted on the budget. Mr. Bean confirmed that it was done about an hour prior. Mr. Greenfield and Mr. Dunn commented on how much they hated to have to raise it. Ms. Little added that they have repeatedly made it clear that this is just because we had the surplus to spend down.

Mr. Dudley commented about the resolution that was pulled from the County Board agenda last month on the landfill. He said he spoke with the attorney and now understands fully what is going on. The whole idea of the thing was to stop getting PCB's dumped in the Clinton Landfill. That was the whole idea. That has now been done. The citizens group that was here and spoke at that meeting is trying to get the Peoria Disposal to take what they have already dumped in out. The whole idea from the start was to stop the dumping and we have done that. The consensus now is that if they go back in and try to do that, Peoria will walk away from the table and we won't have any type of agreement and that will be bad. He said he would be recommending that it be passed at the next County Board meeting on the 8th of October. Ms. Little said that the man that was at the meeting does not represent the views of everyone. Mr. Dudley said this is an important matter. Chair Dunn said he appreciated it being pulled so everyone could get a clear idea of what was going on, but he would be supporting it at the board meeting.

CLOSED SESSION - None

NEXT MEETING – Wed, October 7, 2015 – Special Meeting to Prepare for Budget Display

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Little seconded by Mr. Dudley, the motion carried 6-0, and meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office