

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
MACON COUNTY BOARD**

**MARCH 12, 2015**

**Kevin Greenfield  
Chairman**

**Stephen M. Bean  
Clerk**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with Lt. Jon Butts and the State's Attorney present.

The following 4-H Members were introduced at the meeting: Rhett, Banman, 4-H Crossfire, Lauryn Rowe-Adams, SNAP! Junior Leaders, Christian Flinn, Julius Slaughter, Authy Russ, Cedric Gumilter, Marcus Brown, Diamond Knapp, Aniah Jones, Tiarah Hicks, Alliah Jones, Cerenity Golliner, Tommy Slaughter, Randianne Isam, Randashia Isam, Dashawn Brown, Mario Tarrett all from OKO Tech Wizards, Julia Taraszewski, Homesteaders, Jessica Best, Sarah Best both from Mt. Zion Eagles, and Ellin Hong, 4-H Teen Teachers.

The Roll Call showed all members present with the exception of Mr. Dudley, Mr. Mattingley, Mr. Minich, and Mrs. Taylor.

Mr. Smith led the members in prayer.

All led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2015 MEETING**

**MOTION**

Mrs. Cox moved, seconded by Mr. Meachum to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2015 meeting.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**ROLL CALL.**

Ayes: Ashby, Baxter, Bird, Brown, Cox, Dawson, Drobisch, Dunn, Greenfield, Hogan, Jackson, Jacobs, Little, Meachum, Oliver, Potts, Smith

Nays: (None)

**AYES = 17**

**NAYS = 0**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**B. PROCLAMATION**

Julia Taraszewski from the Homesteaders 4-H Club read the proclamation recognizing March 9-13, 2015 as Macon County 4-H Week.

There were no zoning or subdivision issues presented at the meeting.

**C. CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter from Comcast regarding their Annual Report.

A letter from Ameren regarding upcoming vegetation activities in the area.

Two letters from Ameren regarding tree trimming that will be done in and around the Decatur and Blue Mound areas in the near future.

**REPORTS**

- Sheriff’s Report – February 2015
- Treasurer’s Fund & Investment Report – February 2015
- Tax Collector Report – February 2015
- Coroner’s Report – January 2015
- Public Defender Report – February 2015
- Auditor’s Preliminary Report – February 2015

**MOTION**

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Meachum to approve the Correspondence and Reports and that they be placed on file by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**1. CLAIMS**

**MOTION**

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mr. Drobisch to approve the claims as presented by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

There were no appointments presented at the meeting.

**D. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 2. Resolution G-4263-3-15 – Executing Deeds to convey property on which taxes were delinquent

**MOTION**

Mrs. Cox moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve the Consent Calendar by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

3. Mr. Baxter presented Resolution G-4264-3-15 which is approving a contract between the Macon County Sheriff's Department and the Decatur Public Building Commission.

**MOTION**

Mr. Baxter moved, seconded by Mr. Drobisch to approve Resolution G-4264-3-15 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Mr. Baxter presented Resolution G-4265-3-15 which is recognizing April 2015 as "National Donate Life Month".

**MOTION**

Mr. Baxter moved, seconded by Mr. Dunn to approve Resolution G-4265-3-15 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

5. Mr. Baxter presented Resolution G-4266-3-15 which is dissolving the rules and regulations of the Macon County Merit Commission for Court Security Officers.

**MOTION**

Mr. Baxter moved, seconded by Mr. Bird to approve Resolution G-4266-3-15 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

6. Mr. Baxter presented Resolution G-4267-3-15 which is approving an amendment to FY2015 budget for the Probation Department regarding the collective bargaining agreement additional expenses.

**MOTION**

Mr. Baxter moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve Resolution G-4267-3-15 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

The EEHW Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

The Operations and Personnel Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said we are still watching the legislation and so far no bad votes have been made. There are a few that have been moved to the Rules Committee which is usually a good sign because it usually dies when it gets sent there. We are still watching closely what they plan to do with the Distributive Fund and other direct impacts on the county.

The Finance Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

**NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said we have had a couple meetings with Corrections. We did settle our agreement with Probation and are working on Corrections now. He thinks it is going pretty good. We have a meeting coming up and hopefully after one or two more meetings we should have that resolved.

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

7. Mrs. Cox presented Resolution H-1924-3-15 which is approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Macon County Board and the Village of Warrensburg.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Cox moved, seconded by Mr. Drobisch to approve Resolution H-1924-3-15 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

8. Mrs. Cox presented Resolution H-1925-3-15 which is approving an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Sharing of Certain Costs related to Drainage Improvements on Wyckles Road and Park Road in Macon County, Illinois between Hickory Point Township Road District, the County of Macon, Illinois, and Heartland Ag Group Ltd.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Cox moved, seconded by Mr. Meachum to approve Resolution H-1925-3-15 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED. (BIRD SHOWED HIS VOTE AS PRESENT)**

9. Mrs. Cox presented Resolution H-1926-3-15 which is appropriating additional funds for Section 14-00000-00-GM the 2014 MFT General Maintenance Project.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Cox moved, seconded by Mr. Meachum to approve Resolution H-1926-3-15 by prior roll call vote.

**QUESTION:**

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby asked is this was the original budget.

Mr. Meachum: Mr. Meachum said this is a cleanup resolution adjusting the actual funding expenditures.

**MOTION CARRIED. (BIRD SHOWED HIS VOTE AS YES)**

10. Mrs. Cox presented Resolution H-1927-3-15 appropriating funds for an agreement with IDOT on the construction of a bridge on Sefton Road (CH60).

**MOTION**

Mrs. Cox moved, seconded by Mr. Drobisch to approve Resolution H-1927-3-15 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

11. Mrs. Cox presented Resolution H-1928-3-15 which is approving the sale of county owned real property to Macon County Conservation District for the U.S. Route 51 Beltway Project.

**MOTION**

Mrs. Cox moved, seconded by Mr. Bird to approve Resolution H-1928-3-15 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

The Siting, Rules & Ordinance Sub-Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

The Building Sub-Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

**CITIZENS' REMARKS:**

Amy Leman: Ms. Leman said she is the 4-H Youth Development Educator for Macon County and she just wanted to say thank you to everyone for allowing the 4-H members to come today. We look forward to this every year and it is a great opportunity for our youth to see government in action. She placed on their table some information about 4-H and an upcoming event they will have. There is also a pin in the shape of Macon County with a 4-H clover on it that was made on our 3-D printer. 4-H is definitely looking forward at what our youth need to succeed in the future, so we are into 3-D printing now too.

Liz Hager: Ms. Hager is with the Illinois Secretary of State Organ and Tissue Donor Program. We have a very active "Life Goes On Committee" here in Macon County, in fact she considers it one of the best in the state. We do a lot of work with the organ donor program and our main goal is to get people to sign-up in the registry as donors. That is very important because she has a very special guest with her here today. She introduced Jillian Irons who lives in Maroa and is a kidney recipient. Because of a generous donor family, Jillian is alive and with us today. She wanted them all to think about organ and tissue donation and if they haven't joined the registry please do so. She thanked the board for allowing them to come and for passing the board resolution. She had brochures with her today and they can sign-up using those or go online to [www.lifegoeson.com](http://www.lifegoeson.com). It takes about 20 seconds and if you hit the button that says register, a page will come up and you just put in your name and driver's license number and join and you will automatically be put into the donor registry. There is also a 1-800 number on the brochure that you can call and join the registry that way as well. Today there are 5,000 people waiting for organs in Illinois. When you go to the driver's license facility they will also ask you if you want to be a donor. She thanked the board for having them.

Sherry Procarione: Ms. Procarione wanted to say how refreshing it is to see all the young people here involved in governmental processes, and she thought she had a full house when she was raising 12. She wanted to speak on two issues this evening, on a more serious note but good for the children to be aware of. The first issue is the proposal of law enforcement wearing body cameras. This along with any other warrant lists, surveillance cameras including any audio whether in neighborhoods, red lights or on the persons of law enforcement or in their cars or vehicles is an egregious violation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment. It shifts the burden of proof from innocent until proven guilty, so precious to the right of due process, to the idea that the individual is guilty until he passes the camera's eye without incident, that is if the camera is functioning properly and its evidence isn't corrupted in any way. Meanwhile, in this theory the criminal moves to where the camera's eye isn't and law abiding citizens have information on them taped, collected and stored which is a direct infringement on their rights. No matter how well intentioned or in the name of transparency an elected official would have to deny his oath of office to raise fees, tax, accept donations, or apply for grants to implement these surveillance programs. Not to mention what it adds to the budget for surveillance equipment, maintenance, updating and replacement, as well as storage of the collected information which no one seems to know at this point for how long that storage will need to be, yet to be decided by the assembly. Another possible budget concern could be litigation for the invasion of privacy. She asked them to imagine this possible scenario, if the body cams proposed are used. A resident hears a noise in the middle of the night and calls law enforcement. Officers show up to investigate or take a report. The body camera is on as he enters the residence, catching in the camera's eye the resident's valuables, grabs the child's crib, gun cabinet, and the layout of your home. Now, through a Freedom of Information Act request the resident's home and personal property and effects ends up on You Tube. This could put residents at risk if a potential criminal views the surveillance. This is of serious concern. Video from FOIA requests of law enforcement have already been showing up on You Tube. America is exceptional because we adhere to the rule of law which protects us from these kinds of intrusions. Other nations that didn't have these foundations and safeguards cease to be great or have long been forgotten. Many in our nation's history have paid dearly for our rights. Let's honor and respect the sacrifices of our soldiers and veterans, and do everything we can to preserve and retain these freedoms. The other issue she wanted to comment on was the proposed bypass that would go around Decatur. She wrote down some bullet points to contrast the proposed east side highway bypass to a possible west side of Decatur bypass. Please consider the west side for the bypass. A two lane U. S. Highway 51 and I 72 is already there and could be repaired and or made into a 4 lane with less acreage needed for that future expansion than the east side. There might be less disruption to landowners or possible eminent domain issues. This could take less rich farmland out of production in our ag community. Our Central Illinois soil is irreplaceable, so we need to really consider that. It may prove a shorter route saving taxpayer dollars and budget which in turn could shorten completion time with less interruption to all parts of the community. She has also heard some concerns by the people in the Mt. Zion community about the disruption a south and east Mt. Zion bypass will cause to the Silverleaf housing addition. These are \$500,000 homes and a highway located right there would be off-putting to the homeowners and future potential buyers who are willing to make that kind of investment



in today's economy. The east side option would bypass the Decatur Conference Center & Hotel, the owners of which have invested heavily into that business for the community's benefit. From there, by way of Eldorado, shopping traffic could access the heart of downtown Decatur for events, shopping and dining as small businesses. It would also be a straight shot to Airport Road to access the airport or accommodations in close proximity right there at Route 121. She thanked them for letting her make some observations on this proposed project. She sees a west side of Decatur bypass as more beneficial to Mt. Zion, the taxpayers, Decatur, and Macon County as a whole. She counts that as a win, win, win, win situation.

### **OFFICEHOLDERS' REMARKS**

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he would like everyone to read the last minutes of the Justice meeting. We had some pretty good reports from our officeholders on identifying some of the costs that the county is incurring because of the municipal court that the city set up. As a result of this we are being required to warehouse a lot of people in the jail, which costs us somewhere between \$50.00 and \$75.00 per day. Some of them have been there for a month or two. Most of them are there just a week or two but they identified at least 300 people who went through this process. He thinks the board should be aware of it and the community should be aware of it. Also, with the report that was just released from the federal attorney general on Ferguson, he contacted the Sheriff because he wondered after that report where we were at as a county. He asked Tom and he has actually had someone come in who was involved in the Ferguson investigation. Mr. Buffett may have helped pay for that process. That gentleman has reviewed our policies. Mr. Dunn is hoping to get the paper to interview Tom because our initial results look pretty good. He thinks the citizens should know that too as well as the cost of this municipal court.

There was no old business presented at the meeting.

There was no new business presented at the meeting.

### **MOTION TO CLOSE SESSION**

Mr. Drobisch moved, seconded by Mr. Potts to go into closed session per 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (6) by prior roll call vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **MOTION TO OPEN SESSION**

Mrs. Little moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to return to open session by prior roll call vote.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Meachum moved, seconded by Mr. Drobisch to adjourn until Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.