

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
MACON COUNTY BOARD**

APRIL 11, 2013

**Jay A. Dunn
Chairman**

**Stephen M. Bean
Clerk**

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

The Roll Call showed all members present with exception of Mrs. Cox.

Mrs. Taylor led the members in prayer.

All led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. PROCLAMATION

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn presented a proclamation recognizing the month of April as National Fair Housing Month.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 14, 2013 MEETING

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Meachum to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2013 meeting.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

ROLL CALL.

Ayes: Ashby, Baxter, Bird, Dawson, Drobisch, Dudley, Dunn, Greenfield, Hogan, Jacobs, Little, Mattingley, Meachum, Minich, Oliver, Potts, Smith, Taylor, Williams, Zimmerman

Nays: (None)

AYES = 20

NAYS = 0

MOTION CARRIED.

ZONING/SUBDIVISIONS

1. Mr. Dudley presented Resolution Z-1126-4-13 which is regarding Case S-01-03-13, a petition submitted by Soy Capital Bank Land Trust/John C. Lee M.D for reissuance of a Special Use Permit to allow a doctor's office in R-1 Residential zoning on property commonly known as 1714 Blaine Lane in Long Creek Township. Staff recommended at hearing that the petition be approved with 4 stipulations. After hearing the evidence, the Zoning Board of Appeals voted 5-0 in favor of recommending to the County Board that the petition be granted with 4 stipulations. The EEHW Committee met and reviewed the

petition and recommended by a 7-0 vote that the County Board approve the petition, subject to the stipulations recommended by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

MOTION

Mr. Dudley moved, seconded by Mr. Williams to approve Resolution Z-1126-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

C. CORRESPONDENCE

A Notice of Application for Permit to Manage Waste from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regarding the City of Decatur Corley Landfill submittal of a “Groundwater Assessment Monitoring Report”.

A Notice of Application for Permit to Manage Waste from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regarding the Valley View Landfill Inc. submittal of Construction Documentation Report for landfill gas flare installation.

A notice from Comcast regarding relocation of Fox Business from Digital preferred to Digital Starter on the Comcast Channel line-up.

A notice from the Macon County Treasurer regarding acceptable forms of payment, including credit card payments.

An e-mail to Macon County Treasurer, Edward Yoder regarding questions about State Treasurer’s investment practices.

REPORTS

- Sheriff’s Report – March 2013
- Coroner’s Report – February 2013
- Treasurer Fund & Investment Report – March 2013
- Tax Collector Bank Report – March 2013
- Public Defender Monthly Report – March 2013
- Auditor’s Report – February & March 2013

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Potts 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.

2. CLAIMS

MOTION

Mr. Drobisch moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve payment of the claims by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

D. APPOINTMENTS

3. Resolution G-3853-4-13 – Appointment to the Argenta Sanitary District Board of Trustees

Ronald Grider, 280 W. East St., Argenta, IL 62501
Term Expires: 1st Monday, May 2016

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Ashby to approve Resolution G-3853-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

4. Resolution G-3854-4-13 – Appointments to the Macon County Regional Planning Commission

Mike McElroy, 425 Bay Shore Dr., Decatur, IL 62521
Term Expires: April 30, 2015

Marilyn Johnson, 195 E. Ruehl St., Forsyth, IL 62535
Term Expires: November 30, 2016

Rick Bright, 27 Prairie Rose Ct., Mt. Zion, IL 62549
Term Expires: November 30, 2016

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Williams to approve Resolution G-3854-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. Resolution G-3855-4-13 – Appointments to Sanitary District of Decatur Board of Trustees

R. Lee Sider, 2100 W. Williams St., Decatur, IL 62522
Term Expires: 1st Monday of May, 2016

Dana Miller, 1014 E. Cantrell, Decatur, IL 62521
Term Expires: 1st Monday of May, 2016

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Potts to approve Resolution G-3855-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

6. Resolution G-3856-4-13 – Appointment to the Blue Mound Countryside Fire Protection District

Leon Kallenbach, 221 S. Prairie St., Blue Mound, IL 62513
Term Expires: 1st Monday of May, 2016

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Ashby to approve Resolution G-3856-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. Resolution G-3857-4-13 – Appointment to the Hickory Point Fire Protection District

Tim McQuality, 181 E. Cox St., P.O. Box 82, Forsyth, IL 62535
Term Expires: 1st Monday of May, 2016

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Dudley to approve Resolution G-3857-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

8. Resolution G-3858-4-13 – Appointment to the Niantic Fire Protection

C. Daniel Carr, 10855 Pebble Rd., P.O. Box 139, Niantic, IL 62551
Term Expires: 1st Monday of May, 2016

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Mattingley to approve Resolution G-3858-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

9. Resolution G-3859-4-13 – Appointment to the South Macon Fire Protection District

Stephen J. Coffman, 700 N. Woodcock Rd., Macon, IL 62544
Term Expires: 1st Monday of May, 2016

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve Resolution G-3859-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

10. Resolution G-3860-4-13 – Appointment to the South Wheatland Fire Protection District

Sidney Duffer, 6960 Mt. Auburn Rd., Decatur, IL 62521
Term Expires: 1st Monday of May, 2016

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Williams to approve Resolution G-3860-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

11. Resolution G-3861-4-13 – Executing deeds to convey property on which taxes were delinquent

MOTION

Mr. Dunn moved, seconded by Mr. Meachum to approve the Consent Calendar by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

12. Mr. Mattingley presented Resolution G-3862-4-13 which is approving the contract with the University of Illinois to provide training for command and general staff training.

MOTION

Mr. Mattingley moved, seconded by Mr. Drobisch to approve Resolution G-3862-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

13. Mr. Mattingley presented Resolution G-3863-4-13 which is increasing appropriations in the DPBC Lease Fund FY 2013 budget for Energy Savings Grant.

MOTION

Mr. Mattingley moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution G-3863-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

COMMENT:

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he needed to make a motion to amend this. He apologized for not talking to Mr. Mattingley earlier, but it just came up at the last minute this evening when we were looking at the check that came in today. We have actually received more money than what we thought we were going to get on that grant. If you look at the

resolution it has Increased Revenue, Total, and then FY2013. Then it's got Increased Expense. All of those numbers say \$105,940.65. He wanted to make an amendment to change those numbers to \$119,021.13.

MOTION TO AMEND

Mr. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Drobisch to amend Resolution G-3863-4-13 by changing the amounts from \$105,940.65 to \$119,021.13 by prior roll call vote.

QUESTION:

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby asked how much energy savings will be derived from this modification.

Mr. Jerry Lord: Mr. Lord said he was not prepared to bring all the details to make a presentation. He asked again what Mr. Ashby's question was.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby said the resolution mentions some energy savings on the cooling tower. He would like to know approximately how much the energy savings would be compared to the increase, on an annual basis.

Mr. Lord: Mr. Lord said we are looking at about 7% on this grant application versus energy savings.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby said, so it will take about 12 to 15 years to pay for it.

Mr. Lord: Mr. Lord said no. On the overall project itself, we are looking at about a 7 to 9 year payback depending on how much money we are going to get back on the grants. So we are closer to 7 years on the payback.

MOTION CARRIED. (TO AMEND RES. G-3863-4-13)

MOTION CARRIED. (MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED FOR RES. G-3863-4-13)

14. Mr. Mattingley presented Resolution G-3864-4-13 which is recognizing April 2013 as "National Donate Life Month".

MOTION

Mr. Mattingley moved, seconded by Mrs. Zimmerman to approve Resolution G-3864-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

EEHW COMMITTEE

15. Mr. Dudley presented Resolution G-3865-4-13 which is correcting the Decatur Macon County Enterprise Zone Intergovernmental Agreement.

MOTION

Mr. Dudley moved, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve Resolution G-3865-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

16. Mr. Dudley presented Resolution G-3866-4-13 which is correcting Resolution G-3804-12-12 approving participation in the Enterprise Zone.

MOTION

Mr. Dudley moved, seconded by Mr. Mattingley to approve Resolution G-3866-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

17. Mr. Dudley presented Resolution G-3867-4-13 which is consenting to the boundary modifications to the area known as the Decatur Macon County Enterprise Zone.

MOTION

Mr. Dudley moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution G-3867-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

18. Mr. Dudley presented Resolution G-3868-4-13 which is consenting to the boundary modifications to the area known as the Decatur Macon County Enterprise Zone.

MOTION

Mr. Dudley moved, seconded by Mr. Meachum to approve Resolution G-3868-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

QUESTION:

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby asked what Niemann Foods does. What would they be on here?

Mr. Dudley: Mr. Dudley said they own Country Markets, a grocery store chain. It is going to be a new grocery store they are going to build in the Colonial Mall area across from Walgreens.

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMENT:

Mr. Dudley: said there is scrivener's error on G-3867-4-13 on the Exhibit "A" page. It has been corrected from the 34th Amendment to the 36th Amendment to the Zone boundaries. Mr. Dunn has the corrected resolution. Mr. Dudley wanted to thank Mr. Coil for coming tonight and for the work he has done on Enterprise Zones. Mr. Dudley has worked with him on some other deals and he does a really good job on those. Mr. Dudley appreciates Mr. Coil staying up and advising us on this.

OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

19. Mrs. Taylor presented Resolution G-3869-4-13 which is approving a budget amendment for Workforce Investment Solutions FY'13 budget – TAA Grant.

MOTION

Mrs. Taylor moved, seconded by Mr. Meachum to approve Resolution G-3869-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were not questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

20. Mrs. Taylor presented Resolution G-3870-4-13 which is approving a budget amendment for Workforce Investment Solutions FY'13 budget – Rapid Response Veteran's Grant.

MOTION

Mrs. Taylor moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve Resolution G-3870-4-13 by prior roll vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said last month she reported that House Bill 2820 made it through committee and was heard on the full house floor, and passed unanimously. It is now in the Senate where Senator Chapin Rose and Senator Manar have both picked it up. She expects it to fly through the senate as well. IMRF has been watching closely on some pension legislation to make sure the state doesn't try to include them in their problems, because IMRF has no problems. So far we have been successful and IMRF seems to be pleased with that. The state just went back into session this past week so we are beginning to watch very closely as things trade houses. We are expecting things to go pretty fast so she might be sending out updates by e-mail instead of waiting for the next board meeting.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he asked Gary to get Linda's contacts and talk to her before the board meeting so he could give us an update at our caucus on what is going on.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

21. Mr. Ashby presented Resolution G-3871-4-13 which is approving a contract between West Law (Thomson Reuters) and the Macon County Law Library.

MOTION

Mr. Ashby moved, seconded by Mr. Minich to approve Resolution G-3871-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

The Negotiations Committee had nothing to submit at the meeting.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

22. Mr. Williams presented Resolution H-1844-4-13 which is appropriating funds for engineering expenses for a bridge condition study on a bridge located on Boody Road in Pleasant View Township.

MOTION

Mr. Williams moved, seconded by Mrs. Zimmerman to approve Resolution H-1844-4-13 by prior roll call vote.

There were no questions or comments from the board floor.

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMENT:

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams had a few facts that Bruce Bird presented to the Transportation Committee last week that he wanted to share with the board. It is in regard to the big snow storm of the year, the one we had about 2 ½ weeks ago. It was the largest 24 hour storm on record, ever. Our crews moved 380,000 tons of snow in a 50 hour period. This was an average of 7,600 tons per hour. The comments on the Highway Department's Facebook page were overwhelmingly positive. There were over 50,000 hits in two days on the page. So, the public had ample opportunity to dump on us, and instead they loved the job our guys did. The Transportation Committee expressed their gratitude to Mr. Bruce Bird and asked him to please express that to all of the employees.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said Bruce was going to do a presentation tonight on highway funding, but he has been sick for the last couple of days. We will probably see that later in the year.

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

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

There were no citizens' remarks presented at the meeting.

OFFICEHOLDERS' REMARKS:

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little had one request for Mr. Dunn and that is when appointments are coming up for approval that he would let the 3 district representatives that are affected by that know, prior to the board meeting.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams wanted to thank the board members for their kindness and the time they showed the 4-H kids and the scouts, and the time they took to explain the process. As always we get a positive response, but we really got an overwhelmingly positive response from the kids. He knows they greatly appreciate the few minutes we spend with them. He again thanked everyone.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he thought most of them would remember Judge Paine who retired and Judge Webber took over his place as the presiding judge. Judge Paine has been involved with CASA for many years. The last two years they have built a pirate ship, which they sell tickets for. If you remember, the County Board gives them \$15,000 a year. He puts the report in the Justice Committee member's box every month of how many kids they are taking care of and how many volunteers have to go through training to work with those kids as they go through the court system. He just wanted them to remember CASA, and if you happen to see anybody with any tickets around after the meeting; you could always support them.

Ed Yoder: Mr. Yoder said he had 3 items he would like to mention briefly tonight. On April 2nd, he and Cherie Meyer attended an all day conference with Fike & Fike in

Bloomington. Fike & Fike represents 13 counties and the state. It was well attended. The meeting started at 9:00 and the schedule said 3:30 but we actually went past that. It was a good meeting. Our main focus is about the tax collection cycle and some of the things going on. There are always things evolving with that process. The next item he had was regarding VISA cards. He thinks it is really good because the state did not have the ability to take payments from VISA. He said right after he was elected that came to his attention. The Health Department approached him asking if they could work together to try and get this VISA thing so people could come in. We had a lot of requests from people wanting to pay with a VISA card, and it took two years to get this done. Macon County was one of 13 counties to make the request, and we were notified in early February this year that we got it. We have it in place, so now we can take VISA, MasterCard, American Express and Discover Card. That will be better for the people who want to use VISA, and we did have a lot of requests for that. During the last Finance meeting a question came up about Illinois Funds and if we are safe. Mr. Yoder said his response was that he would look into it. He knew from the last summer conference he had in August of last year when we were given a presentation that Illinois Funds are not appropriate funds; it's secured and collateralized 102%. A lot of things could have happened since August. On Wednesday he got a hold of Joe Roberts who is the Illinois Funds Manager. Mr. Yoder sent him 4 questions and he wanted to read them. The first question: Does the unsecured collateral cited in the Audit (from the State Treasurer) include funds which counties invest through Illinois Funds Accounts? His answer to question #1 is: The audit does not mention unsecured collateral of any amount. It does mention that collateral taken under the securities lending program was not covered by the investment policy. The office has amended the policy to include the securities lending program and collateral for it. Question 2: If it does include counties' money, what steps have been taken to correct the issues with unsecured collateral in the Illinois Treasurer's Accounts? His answer to question #2: No monies other than State monies are under the audit report in question. Question #3: Macon County has over 40 accounts through the Illinois Funds/US Bank, is each account considered a separate FDIC insurance account, or does FDIC apply to the FEIN as a whole? His answer to question #3: Illinois Funds accounts are not US Bank accounts so FDIC insurance is not applicable. Question #4: Are there any steps that Macon County and other counties need to take to ensure our funds are in compliance with the Illinois Public Funds Investment Act? His answer to question #4: Any investment in the Illinois Fund is in compliance with all statutes because the Illinois Funds is a separately authorized investment under the Public Funds Investment Act. See Statutory reference 30ILCS 235/2 (e). There is a website you can go to. There is a 28 page report on this thing. There are three places he highlighted that he was going to read. This Investment Trust Fund is not held in the State Treasury and is a non-appropriate fund, so the governor can't sweep it and the treasurer can't touch it. Also, the Illinois Funds is rated AAM by Standard & Poor's ratings, which is a high rating. Mr. Yoder read: The Treasurer policy requires all time deposits another interest bearing deposit to have collateral equal to at least 105% of the amount of the deposit not covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance. Securities eligible to be pledged as collateral are US Treasury and Agency obligations. Obligations pledged to security deposits must be delivered to the appointed custodian of the Illinois Funds prior to placing the deposit and on a daily basis. Thereafter, the Treasurer determines that the

collateral has a market value adequate to secure the deposit. Repurchase agreements are purchased from various brokerage firms and financial institutions. Securities pledged as collateral to secure these agreements are required to have a fair value of at least 102% of their agreement. The agreement requires both parties to maintain an acceptable margin or yield on underlying securities to ensure that the agreements are adequately collateralized. The Treasurer accepts only US pledge to secure repurchase agreements required to be delivered to the appointed custodian of the Illinois Funds. Other instruments such as the US Treasury obligation may be purchased from various brokerage firms or held in safe keeping by the appointed custodian of the Illinois Funds. So the answer is that the Illinois Funds are safe. It would be a tough situation if he had to pull them out, which he could.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby asked on the MasterCard and VISA what the discount rate is that we pay and who pays it.

Mr. Yoder: Mr. Yoder said you have to go through Illinois E-Pay. It goes to the carrier. All the credit cards listed, MasterCard, Discover, American Express Debit cards requires a 2.1 % minimum or a minimum of .65 cents per transaction.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby asked about credit cards and what the discount rate is on them.

Mr. Yoder: Mr. Yoder said on here he only has 2.1%. He knows there is a convenience fee. He doesn't know about the credit card but he knows there is a convenience fee and he believes it is 2.1%.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby said the Illinois Funds pay 0.0590%, whereas Earthmover Credit Union pays 0.6000% which is over 10 times as much. He would take a look at leaving our money in Illinois Funds. We could do much better locally.

Mr. Yoder: Mr. Yoder said he tries to invest where he can locally. A lot of banks don't want the money quite frankly. They just don't want it. In fact, Soy, for the last two years that he has been here and this year included; they don't want over \$10,000,000. He has to sweep it over to Illinois Funds or put it in another bank.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby asked if he had \$3,600,000 or \$3,700,000 in the Illinois Funds now.

Mr. Yoder: Mr. Yoder said yes.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby asked if there is nobody in Decatur who will take that money.

Mr. Yoder: Mr. Yoder said it will be.... He said Regions Bank is paying 0.000%. Hickory Point is paying 0.005%. Soy, on the Collector's side, he believes is 0.003%. He could farm it out to different banks, but that is just a daily average. He was just saying there are not a lot of choices here.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn asked if we invest any of our money in credit unions.

Mr. Yoder: Mr. Yoder said about 3 months ago he took out about \$1,700,000 and moved it over to Staley Credit Union because they were paying 0.50%. He took it from Soy and they were paying 0.21% at that time. It may not sound like a huge amount, but that current month for that much money, we were receiving \$480.00. After 30 days over Staley, he was able to \$718.00. It is not a huge amount, but he is making some on that.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn asked if Mr. Yoder had checked with Earthmover Credit Union.

Mr. Yoder: Mr. Yoder said he had not really talked to them.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said it sounds like they are paying more.

Mr. Yoder: Mr. Yoder said he didn't know if they are going to change. Currently that is what they are paying?

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby said they are currently paying 0.600%.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he would appreciate if Mr. Yoder would check with some of them if they would take more money. If we have \$3,600,000 making less than 0.059%, we should check into the other avenues for getting a little more investment. He also asked Mr. Yoder to run this report by Patty Cox because she is on the Finance Committee and deals with banking so would be interested in getting the full report.

There was no old business presented at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said we do have a presentation from the Macon County Conservation District. He pointed their attention to the last 3 pages in the agenda which had a nice report on the Friends Creek Campground and Picnic Area. We got a report before from Dean Padgett. He asked them to look at those because there is quite a bit of information about the campground in those 3 pages.

Darrel Parish: Mr. Parish said he is one of five trustees of the Macon County Conservation District. Mark Stahl is also here tonight and he is another trustee, along with Kathy Merner and Jeff Tish from the staff. He was here to give them a little bit of information about the Conservation District, what it does, the programs and where it's located. Mr. Parish said he likes pictures so they brought along a map to show you where the sites are that the Conservation District owns and operates. He started with the Friends Creek Conservation Area. They are all called a conservation area. This one happens to be where the camp is located that you have heard so much about. The flagship of the operation is at Rock Springs Conservation area, which is on the southwest corner of the city. Another major area straight south of the city is the Sandcreek Conservation area. Fort Daniel Conservation area is out in the southeast corner of the county and is east of

Mt. Zion. There are several other sites that are less developed but very interesting from a conservation standpoint in the southern part of the county. He has always been concerned that the northwestern quadrant of the county where he grew up has almost none, but it's not too far from any place in the county to one of these sites. He would encourage you all to go and visit them. The mission of the Conservation District is to promote conservation of the natural resources in the county. We acquire property, maintain it and restore it when we can and when the budget permits to get it as nearly as we can to something like the original state. It is not always possible to do that, but we do what we can. We have a staff that maintains the operations and take care of the property. Jeff runs the part of the operation that has to do with programs. He has programs for school teachers, students and the public, all kinds of things of a conservation nature that might surprise you. The Conservation District has 3,300 acres of property which is a little over 5 square miles of property. Some of the sites are actually not accessible to the public. We have to get permission to go out to some of these places which are called Illinois State Nature Preserve. The one that comes to mind is on Lake Decatur near where the old Inner Urban Right-of-Way crosses the east side of the lake. It is very much in its original state. The district operates several sites for conservation of property, and we also have several cultural sites which are very interesting. The Homestead Prairie Farm at Rock Springs is an old timey house. It is set back in the 1860's, so if you walk in the door you could picture yourself in an 1860's farmhouse in Macon County. Another site which is not one of the mainstream sites is the Governor Olgesby Mansion which is downtown near the corner of William and Edward Street. It is the home of maybe the only Illinois Governor from Decatur. The Bethel School is an old school that was relocated to the Friends Creek Park. It is a one room school house. Mr. Parish's mother said it reminded her of the school she went to and taught in. It is restored to that state. The Rock Springs Bottling Plant is an old building on the Sangamon River in Rock Springs where water was bottled in the old days. There is a little piece of Paris-Springfield Road which is out in Sandcreek. If you go out there to the right place you can walk along the footsteps where Lincoln and his family would have ridden and lots of folks would have gone from Paris to Springfield in the old days. There are 6 pavilions available for rent. You don't really have to rent them, but if you don't you might not be the exclusive users when you show up there. Anybody can go there anytime and use these pavilions. There are 4 playgrounds and 26 miles of hiking trails. There are 2 ½ miles of bicycle trails which connect to the Fairview Park trail and you can ride almost up to Forsyth from Rock Springs. There are 7 ½ miles of equestrian trails. There are 7 miles of cross country skiing trail. There is a nature center at Rock Springs. There is a place where you can launch or disembark from your canoe on the Sangamon River at the Wyckles Road Bridge. There is of course the campground at Friends Creek. The district offers several special events. There is a Festival of Spring which is about Earth Day which is coming up. There is the Astronomy Jamboree where people are invited to look at the stars at night. There is a Harvest Festival in the Fall. There is a historic reenactment of the Fourth of July at the Prairie Homestead site. It is not on the Fourth of July because folks have other things to do, but it is on a weekend near the Fourth of July. They have artisans come at the Prairie Celebration and demonstrate their old crafts. There are places you can ride your bicycle that are not a competition, but instead an exhibition. The Conservation Foundation, the foundation that is related to the district,

has a bike ride in the Fall to raise money for the district. There are all kinds of activities out there, hiking, bird watching, bicycling, horseback riding, fishing and camping. You can take pictures of anything you see there like wildlife, nature or birds. You can snowshoe. Teachers can take workshops there. If you are a baseball fan as Bob Sampson is, you can go out and play old time baseball, 1860's style. He said they pronounce that base ball. There are two words in that the way they do it. There are Nature Day Camps for all kinds of children, from little bitty kids up to high school and older. There are dulcimer classes for the folks who like to play music. There is Trust Course. If you doubt your ability to climb a tree or a climb over a big fence, you can go out and find out whether or not you can do that. There are clubs, as he said the Dulcimer Club. There are all kinds of activities. He said a picture is worth a thousand words; being there is worth a thousand pictures, so he hopes they will all come out and enjoy some of what the Conservation District has to offer.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little asked how she finds out about deer hunting. She walks at Fort Daniels and goes out there and sees hunter parking. She doesn't want to get shot. She hopes she doesn't look anything like a deer but she also doesn't want to tick off any hunters because she is disturbing things. She asked how she finds out because she called the Illinois Conservation number and never got called back. She also called Macon County Conservation and never got called back, so she just stayed near the playground.

Kathy Merner: Ms. Merner said during hunting season we always advise that you stay on the trail. It is only archery hunting. She gave the dates they will be allowed to hunt.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she knows when it is. She was just trying to find out if there is a particular area at Fort Daniels that the hunters are restricted to.

Ms. Merner: Ms. Merner said they have maps available that show the area.

Mr. Parish: Mr. Parish said if that information is not on their website, it will be very soon.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams said he was not familiar with the two sites he spoke of in the southern part of the county. He asked what they are and if there is a pavilion on those sites.

Mr. Parish: Mr. Parish said at the very bottom of the map, that rectangle is 80 acres of conservation area that is the Sheriff's shooting range. That is not open to the public. There is also a site that crosses Route 51 and that is just a natural area; there are no facilities there. It is same thing with another one farther up. In turns out that this stream has a lot of pretty unique, natural stuff there. There are some unusual animals he believes some turtles or something, some kind of species that are not very common.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams asked if that is just north of Moweaqua a couple of miles.

Mr. Parish: Mr. Paris said it is just 2 miles southeast of Macon. It is straight east of Walker.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams asked again if there are no facilities at those places.

Mr. Parish: Mr. Paris said no, not at this time.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby said we have heard quite a bit about Friends Creek Campground and Picnic Area. He asked how the camping fees are structured as far as electrical outlet and non-electrical outlet.

Ms. Merner: Ms. Merner said to camp for one night on an electric site is \$18.00 if you are an out of county resident; and it is \$15.00 if you are a county resident. She said it is \$10.00 and \$12.00 for the non-electric sites.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby said he noticed that in 2012 they ran a deficit of about \$9,700. He asked if there was any thought to raising those fees to get to a near breakeven point.

Ms. Merner: Ms. Merner said we look at fees every year, and the board makes a determination on that. One of the reasons we had higher costs on the campground last summer than previously is because most of the maintenance and cleanup of the campground is done by our seasonal employees, and our seasonal employee got sick last summer and left early. Therefore, fulltime staff, which is more expensive staff, did a lot of the cleaning.

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby said you have about \$24,000 in employee wages, approximately how many of that were making up.... What would the normal, annual wages be?

Ms. Merner: Ms. Merner said off the top of her head she couldn't tell him that, but she could look it up and get back to him

Mr. Ashby: Mr. Ashby suggested the board consider raising their fees in order to approach a breakeven point. He asked how the deficit is made up.

Ms. Merner: Ms. Merner said it is subsidized from our General Fund.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams asked how the slots are rented. Can they rent 30 days at a time, 2 weeks at a time, or is it by a night? Do they rent with reservations or just drive up?

Ms. Merner: Ms. Merner said it is a little bit of everything. The maximum stay is 14 days, which is pretty standard. You can make a reservation in advance if you want to be guaranteed a site, otherwise you can take your chances and drive up. We have people who do both.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams said there were some comments a couple years ago about the concrete pads. He asked if they are concrete pads.

Ms. Merner: Ms. Merner said they are tar and chip.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Williams said there were comments about them not being long enough for some of the trailers, motor homes, or whatever. He asked if that is a problem they see that people are not able to stay because of that.

Ms. Merner: Ms. Merner said the campground was built in the 1970's and trailers were a whole lot smaller then. The only way to make larger sites is to make fewer sites. There are varying lengths and they have pretty much been able to accommodate most everybody who has pulled in.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he is going to try and get a ride with Kathy to some of these sites in the next week or two so if anyone is interested in coming along they should let him know.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Potts to adjourn until Thursday, May 9, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55.