

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
MACON COUNTY BOARD**

JANUARY 15, 2019

SPECIAL CALL MEETING

**Kevin Greenfield
Chairman**

**Josh Tanner
Clerk**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the State's Attorney present.

Mr. Tanner: Mr. Tanner presented the request for Special Macon County Board Meeting, which was signed by the membership for the purpose of conducting a study session regarding the proposed recycling center and its associated purposes.

The Roll Call showed all members present with the exception of Ms. Buckner, Mrs. Dawson, Mr. Drobisch, and Mr. Hogan.

Mrs. Taylor led the members in prayer.

All led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENT:

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said as Josh said the purpose of this meeting is for Laurie to come up and talk about the proposed recycling center. There will not be any action taken this evening. We will allow public comments. He suggested that any of those who wanted to talk in favor of it should get together and pick a couple of people and any of those against should pick a couple of people. Mr. Greenfield said we will have public comments and those who are for it will get 10 minutes and those against will get 10 minutes. We will do that after the proposal. This is really for the board members to hear about the facility and let Laurie explain it. He said if they have questions for Laurie, as board members, they should by all means ask them. If they have something they want to write down and think about later, do that.

Ms. Buckner and Mrs. Dawson are now present at the meeting.

Laurie Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said she was very excited to go over this proposal and would take about 25 minutes of their time and then open it up to hear their questions, insights and comments. She would be referring to a handout by page numbers. It is not the handout that shows the slides, but the other one she had prepared for them. She wanted to talk briefly about their department and give them a quick overview. Some of their functions are listed on the slide. The last two items in blue are recycling collections which will be especially enhanced with the proposal of the new facilities. Our department now offices in this building. We run our recycling operations out of a rented warehouse on 21st Street and we park our recycling trailers at the highway department. The proposed site facility would allow sufficient space for the department's offices, and our operations and storage areas to all be housed together at the same site. Currently we operate collection events in the parking lot of our rented space on 21st Street. These are seasonal, weather dependent events in which we collect a single category such as paint or electronics. To prevent long lines we use a registration system with attendance by appointment. Now for the proposal: In an effort to dramatically improve customer service and offer additional services a new recycling center and new compost facility is being proposed. Why is a new recycling center important? What difference does it make if recycling services are available and convenient? First, recycling and composting

services give people a way to comply with the law. For instance, select electronic items such as computers and televisions are banned from Illinois landfills. In fact, for medium and large sized TVs our events are the only current, available in-county option. Landscape waste was banned from landfills in 1990, and now almost 30 years later we are still struggling with a viable in-county option. Another reason these proposed facilities are important is because convenient options for recycling will help curb open dumping. In fact, research has shown that there are two factors that contribute to decreases in open dumping. First, having viable options and second promoting a mindset of stewardship for the land, especially public lands. There are many environmental reasons for offering convenient recycling services and composting, and just a couple of those reasons are listed on the slide. Over the past year-and-a-half she has had numerous conversations with individuals, groups and businesses; and these are just a few of the reasons that were conveyed to her as to why they would like to see this proposal become a reality. She asked them to read those on their own time. Perhaps the most important reasons for this proposal have to do with economics and timing. The timing is ripe with the recent retirement of a 20 year bond for this building and the courthouse. Because of this, a homeowner with an average priced home of \$75,000 saw a decrease on their real estate taxes of \$18.14. To fully fund this project as described in the table on page 2 of your handout, the levy of the same home is expected to increase \$6.17 for an overall reduction of \$11.97 a year. So, down \$18.00 and up \$6.00 for a reduction of \$12.00 wrapped up in a tremendous benefit. Even beyond that let's look at what that homeowner can get for \$6.00. With the proposed facilities, not only will residents and businesses have access to new services, all with the convenience and reliability of a permanent facility; but they also have the opportunity for significant savings. These benefits are listed on pages 3 and 4 of the handout in the shaded columns. She was just going to go through two of them. Currently, the only in county options for legally recycling a large TV is to register for an appointment with our event and pay a fee of \$10.00. However, for small TVs there are two options. Our event for \$10.00 or you can drop it off at Best Buy for \$25.00. So the new recycling center will give the convenience of regular hours with a \$15.00 savings. What about bulk items? Things like a mattress or a furniture piece that you might need to get rid of. Now, she is not trying to take away from local haulers or any businesses, she is talking about items that are too big to fit in the trashcan but not big enough to want to get a roll-off for. Although, some residents and businesses can take advantage of a bulk pickup from their hauler, many do not have that option. That leaves their only legal option being to self-haul to the landfill. Since the landfill has a one ton minimum, to dispose of that mattress or that couch cost them \$95.00. With the new facility and the proper permits we could accept bulk items for a nominal fee and then once we fill a roll-off dumpster, it would be transported to the landfill. There are many opportunities for savings outlined on page 3 and 4 and beyond that a board brought up the idea of a coupon that would even bring greater savings. So, that is something that we can explore as well. There are also opportunities for new services for businesses where there are now no in-county options. These new services would give businesses convenient options while generating modest revenue for the recycling center. She has mentioned a few of the benefits of the new facilities that they could provide, giving legal options, providing permanent solutions with year-around regular, predictable hours regardless of weather; and perhaps most importantly good timing and economic savings. Ms. Rasmus

said she will take a minute to look at where we are in the process of the proposal. We are now at the point where the county board approval is needed for the Decatur Public Building Commission to move forward in securing bond funding. Let's back track a bit and take a look at the site. The site is 107 acres just north of Route 36 and west of Wyckles Road. It was selected and then acquired by the Decatur Public Building Commission through a generous donation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. This truly is the ideal site. It's in close proximity to Decatur. It's along a truck route. It has accessible utilities. The site is nestled between the interstate to the west, a railroad to the north and an Ameren property that is earmarked for a future substation to the southeast. That little cutout in the parcel is Ameren's property. In addition, the parcel's 10 acres of timber, which you can see how it divides the site, serves as a buffer. The proposal for the site is to construct a new recycling center and develop a new compost facility. Because of the site's adequate size, this site could prove to be instrumental following a time of disaster. As we all know it is not if a disaster strikes, but it is when. Tornados, high winds, ice storms all create incredible amounts of debris. The proposed site has ample space to accommodate the staging and processing of disaster debris. Plus, with the development of the compost site, the site access and internal roadways would already be in place. This site appears to be well suited to compatible uses as a showcase for environmental stewardship. Possibilities include a solar farm, community gardens, a honeybee farm, and an outdoor classroom. There are many other possibilities and she would love to hear their ideas. Ms. Rasmus said they would continue with the primary purpose for the land, the recycling center. The department's primary objectives for the new recycling center are listed on page 10 of the power point handout. We wish to make recycling services more accessible for residents by having a permanent site with regular hours. We also wish to expand services to include new opportunities for businesses. Through the features of the building, we expect to increase our efficiency and productivity. They would now take a closer look at the recycling center, the site and the building. The building proposal consolidates Macon County Environmental Management's Offices, operations and storage areas. Customers bringing items to drop off will follow the driveway in and loop around to the right. There is a drive-up window on the smaller part of the building where they will stop, and at the window pull forward to get their items unloaded in the unloading zone. It is a covered unloading zone. Then they can just drive out and exit the site. The photo on the left of (page 11 of power point handout) depicts the type of covered area where customers will be unloaded. On the right, the photo shows the type of recessed loading dock that will be on the west side of the building. The dock will allow for the loading of skids and electronics as well as drums of paint onto a semi-trailer. Much of the landscaping around the building will consist of native flowers. The 20 acres east of the wooded area, just west of Wyckles Road has already been seeded in a pollinator mix that will provide a food source from spring through fall for bees and butterflies. This photo depicts the type of look that we can expect once plants are well established. Ms. Rasmus asked Larry Livergood from Architectural Expressions to come up and give them a brief description of the building and site.

Larry Livergood: Mr. Livergood wanted to give them a feel for what a metal building might look like (see page 12 of power point handout). This is a very utilitarian structure.

It's designed from the inside out so to speak so it has a purpose. We have taken it to the point where this building is going to set back from the road. We are looking at the aesthetics of what people will see from the road. The important part about this slide is that all the activity that is going to go on at this facility is not happening on the roadside. So, there is only one garage door here and most everything is occurring on the other side. It will actually be shielded from the road. Laurie had the slide up earlier showing the isometric of the building and the area immediately around the recycling center. There is an awful lot of paving involved. You can see an appendage coming out toward the upper left that is the administrative portion of this building. The long section is the recycling and storage areas. As Laurie indicated you would come in and go all the way down turn around and come back through the unloading zone. So there is a good amount of stacking that can occur, and all of that stacking should occur off the street and unloading should be very quick. You will also be able to operate no matter what the weather conditions are with this kind of layout. On the next slide you get an idea of what this building is like on the inside. They are operating with about 3,500 square feet today. This new facility is about 10,000 square feet which is made up of 4 different functional areas. They will have the drop-off zone that is about 1,000 square feet. There is a storage facility that is about 2,000 square feet. The recycling center itself is about 4,500 square feet. The admin and office piece is up to the top and just adjacent and to the right of that is loading dock that Laurie had mentioned. The recycling area is about 18 feet high so they will have plenty of room to operate inside. There is a dedicated pour-off area inside that will help deal with things like paint and thinners that have been dropped off. What is not on this plan just to the left of it is a hazmat storage container system, so anything that is considered hazardous doesn't stay in this building. It basically gets put in a canister and stored in a hazmat storage facility. That has its own fire suppression and is designed especially for that. This building has in-floor heat. That is very helpful for a facility where the garage doors are up quite a bit. You will see this utilized in automotive facilities, etc. With in-floor heat the floor is always hot so the heat comes back in the building a lot quicker than just through ventilation air. That is the large area. The administrative portion on the top, the 2,000 square feet is what we call light commercial construction. It is built out of wood with about 9' ceiling heights. So, again it is a metal building structure. It is sided with typical metal building siding. They have been concentrating on the function of the building, not so much on a facility that requires anything more than what the function of the facility is. Mr. Livergood said he could answer more questions after the presentation, but he just wanted to get them oriented with the plan that they are looking at.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said they would continue with information on how the new recycling center will be operated and how that would affect the department's budget. Additional staff will need to be added including one full-time recycling technician, one or more part-time recycling technicians, and a full-time office manager who will be split between the recycling center and the compost facility. All of the new expenses for the recycling center are personnel related and are described more fully on pages 13 and 14 of the handout. An increase in revenue is also expected since we expect a sharp rise in the number televisions received at the facility, each for \$10.00. Although not part of the proposal at this point, it is expected that modest revenue can be generated by offering

some of the new services that have already been discussed. In order to offer those, permits will have to be obtained from the IEPA. Conversations with the IEPA have indicated that they would be willing to fund the cost of household hazardous waste transportation offsite and make sure that it gets recycled or properly disposed. Some of the other items that could bring in revenue would be processing commercial paint. Also on page 3 and 4 they talked about grain bags and other things they could look at to bring in revenue as well. The second major component of this proposal is to develop a new compost site. Perhaps they were wondering why Macon County would need another compost site when we already have two privately run and privately owned sites. Neither facility appears as though it is able to accommodate the long-term needs of the county and its municipalities. One site sits inactive and the other is improperly managed and undersized for the county's needs. Furthermore, neither site will accept large diameter tree waste leaving the county without any options for large diameter tree waste. Do we really need an in-county compost site at all? Landscape waste is banned from Illinois landfills and it may not be burned by most of our population. A viable compost site is essential to proper disposal of landscape waste. Landscape companies, waste haulers and municipalities, residents and businesses all need a viable site. Currently the county is without a compost facility that can serve our long-term needs for landscape waste management. So, a compost facility is being proposed to accommodate the county's long-term needs for the proper management of landscape waste and select organics. There is more. The compost site will also be able to provide high quality end products such as compost and mulches. The customer base for those who are in need of a compost site is quite broad. She has had numerous conversations with leaders in most of these areas and was told over and over that the services provided by the current sites were inadequate and that a county site will be well utilized. It is not only what goes into a compost site, but it is also about what comes out in the form of marketable products. Again, in conversations she learned that these products are being sourced from out of the county and that a local avenue for purchasing products is needed. The facility will be operated to accelerate the compost process. The production of marketable end products is going to be our primary focus. Proper equipment and facility development are essential to the process. To help with the selection of equipment, demonstrations were observed and site visits were made. She thanked all of those who helped with that process. She also thanked all of those who went on one of the visits to Urbana Landscape Recycling Center which serves as our model for this proposed site. In terms of equipment, the major pieces of equipment to be purchased with bond funding are pictured here. That includes a tub grinder, front end-loader, tractor with a windrow turner and a screener. She would discuss equipment operations in more detail when she discusses expenses and revenues in terms of operation. She wanted to go back to the facility. The compost site will be developed to the west of the wooded area that divides the site, so it will be more than ¼ mile from Wyckles Road. Vehicles that are either dropping off material or picking up products will be pathed across the scales and they will follow the access road around the one-way loop. Those that are dropping material off will drop it off in the bays designated for that. Ms. Rasmus pointed out where the operations like the grinder. From there after the material is ground up it will be transported into the windrows and it takes a period of time, months, for the process of the composting to happen in those windrows. Once it's finished it will be stockpiled in an area she pointed

to on the slide. There it will be cured and screened and made ready for sale in the final product area. Wood chips will be handled a little differently in that path. The sizing of the facility was based on being able to hold 24,000 cubic yards of material in the windrow area. Based on a sum of the reported incoming material from the two privately owned sites, it is expected that the facility will indeed receive 24,000 cubic yards of material for composting which will produce 8,000 cubic yards of compost product. In addition, the facility expects to receive 10,000 cubic yards of woody landscape waste that can be incorporated into the compost mix or kept separate to make mulch. Jerry Schreck of SKS Engineering would give them a few comments on designing of the compost facility.

Jerry Schreck: Mr. Schreck said their team has been working with Laurie and her team on designing the compost facility going back to April of last year, so it has been a pretty lengthy design process. To summarize it briefly, they looked at numerous configurations and variations of those but in general it was an iterative process of looking at making the most efficient use of the property as far as maximizing the use to meet the county's needs, minimizing the construction cost to do so, and at the same time meeting the state's requirements for locations standards and design requirements. Those three factors really kind of work opposite one another to drive the design. As far as maximizing the use, they looked at the area and that key volume that Laurie mentioned the 24,000 cubic yards. They also looked at the truck routing and getting vehicles onto the property in an efficient manner to minimize the amount of space required, but still provide safe and effective flow of traffic for un-hauling the materials as well as processing the materials and for then for reloading and sale and distribution. As far as minimizing the cost, it is really a matter of keeping the footprint as small as possible and minimizing the amount of earth work. He said what was directly opposed to that was the state requirements. There are numerous requirements imposed by the state and he wanted to highlight some of the most critical ones. They are required to maintain the composting facility at least 5 feet above the water table. So they had to do a minimum of 3 months of monitoring ground water levels and then insure the designed elevation stays 5 feet above that. It has to be 5 feet of what the state considers an impermeable layer. In this case it will be compacted clay. Mr. Schreck said this is in a blessed area where it is easy to find water, which is good if you are doing a well. It is a factor that works against you when you are doing a compost facility. That is something that is common throughout central Illinois. If you have flat ground with a shallow water table you have to bring in some fill to raise it up. Also, further driving that earth work cost is the state requirement that any of the compost material has to be on a minimum 2% grade. That is to insure that the composting material stays dry enough for the composting process to occur. Maintaining that grade also increases the amount of fill that needs to be onto a site and affects the cost. At the same time we want to keep water from the compost area, but we also have to retain any storm water that falls in the compost area which is considered leachate. It is the same standards that are considered for a regular landfill. Any rainwater falling on a landfill has to stay there which is the same thing with the compost facility. We had to design the facility so that storm water associated with a 10 year event is kept on site and kept in a detention basin and that is in the bottom right hand corner of the site. Getting the water there also requires that we either put in a network of ditches to surface flow to that area or

put in a storm sewer system to collect it and drain it to that basin. Again, that is an iterative process of looking at not raising it more than we need to and offsetting that with the cost of putting in pipes. That is a brief run-through of the design factors that we looked at and what went into designing the facility. Through that iterative process what we have come up with is a design that we are presenting you that we feel meets the county's needs for the space they need for the projected volumes and meets the state requirements for the design and location; and at the same time we are trying to minimize the cost for doing so.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said she would discuss how much it will cost to operate the site once it is developed. The annual costs are listed in the table on page 9 and more detailed breakdowns for the fixed and variable cost are in the tables that follow on pages 10, 11 and 12. Personnel costs are split between fixed and variable. The personnel needs for the facility are a full-time operator, a full-time technician, the other half of the full-time office manager, a part-time technician, and a ½ time marketing person. Other major expenses include equipment operation costs, an equipment depreciation fund to allow new equipment to be purchased after year 6 and a marketing budget. Marketing, especially of end products is key to the success of operations. As previously mentioned, we need to look at a wide customer base that includes land developers and farmers as well as landscape contractors and residents. Projected revenues from gate fees and product sales are summarized on page 8 in Table 12. The projections are for material received. The material received is increased each year according to a factor in Table 13. Additionally, a price increase for end products is planned in year 4. The table on page 7 summarizes the first six years of operation showing that projected revenues will exceed expenses. Those gains can be used to help subsidize the operations of the recycling center. In summary, the proposal is to construct a new recycling center and develop a new compost site each with a tremendous public benefit. This can be accomplished through a \$12.00 reduction in bond funding for the average homeowner. For those taking advantage of services, further savings can be gained. Here is where we are in the process (pg. 23 of PowerPoint) with the green arrows indicating what still needs to be done. Approvals are needed to further the proposal. The next step is to run this proposal through the county process. A resolution is being prepared to seek county approval beginning with the EEHW Committee on January 24th. Ms. Rasmus asked for questions from the board.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson asked in regard to the engineering study side, if it was safe to say that the two operating facilities now meet the same standards.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said that would not be true. They do not. They should, but do not.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson asked as far as the volumes coming in, how were those quantified? Is it an honor system?

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said currently neither facility has a scale so it is an honor system when a truck comes in, whether it is a compacting truck or whatever, they will

report they have maybe 15 yards on the truck. It could be 50. That is one thing, they do want their facility to be fair and that is why the scale is important. There is not going to be any favors for her uncle or anything like that. It is going to come across the scale. Everyone will be treated fairly.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Jackson said he brings that up because the 80/20 rule will come into play, to where the 20% opportunity, in addition to what they see here.

Mr. Mattingley: Mr. Mattingley asked if it was correct that when Champaign first went into the recycling, they were at a loss for several years instead of breaking even. He said he actually meant the composting.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said Urbana has a compost facility. They opened up in 1986 for years before the actual ban of landscape waste went into effect. It took them a number of years to come to a gain. She thinks Macon County is fortunate in that Urbana has been extremely forthcoming about their struggles, as well as their successes. Mike Brunk who is the operator there has been giving her a wealth of information. She is very thankful for that and Macon County won't have to go through a lot of their mistakes. She said the key is marketing, and it is marketing for those end-products. In the operating cost she has included \$3.00 per cubic yard for every end-product that is sold as part of the budget that the marketing person can use. They have to work with marketing before the composting facility even opens. She asked Mr. Mattingley if that answered his question.

Mr. Mattingley: Mr. Mattingley said basically. He asked if the reason they are not looking at going through some of the same losses Urbana had, attributable to not only marketing but the ban on landscape waste that they couldn't take to begin with. There wasn't really a market there to begin with.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said yes because it did take them a while to build up because they opened their facility four years before the ban on landscape waste. Once that ban came into effect, it did need to be utilized, it was no longer a choice. She thinks that is probably true.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she saw that they would be hiring new employees and that was great. But, she also saw that on page 9 under Variables, equipment labor. Does that mean they won't actually be hiring union operators that they will be renting them when needed? She didn't understand why that was under variables instead of employees.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said when she figured out how many hours, and she could go into that if they wanted to, but basically each piece of equipment was broken down and decided how many hours they were going to use that equipment. There are two ways they can do that. The reason she put that in variable cost is because if they decide to do a contractor, they can pay that contractor \$45.00 an hour to contract it out. If they decide to hire someone then they could pay them \$63,000. She handed out a sheet with information on personnel for the new facility. She said there is an error on the handout where she had a breakdown of the fixed costs. They could actually cross out Equipment

operator health care and Equipment operator benefits because it is in variable cost. If they have a full-time person they can pay them \$63,000 or \$35.00 an hour and give them benefits or they can contract it out for \$45.00 an hour.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little asked if the employees she listed that they would be hiring, either compost or recycling, would those be members of the county's bargaining unit or would they be at will employees of the county.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said if they are full-time employees they would be obligated to work with the unions.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield had a couple questions. He had a note that said they did not expect revenue for the first year and a half.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said this has been an evolving process and they are on version 6. She said when she started with version 1 it was basically showing year one as pretty much self-sufficient. As they could see now, year one was pretty much self-sufficient in terms of the compost facility. Version 6 is more like version 1 than perhaps the version they were looking at. It has been an evolving process. The numbers have changed. She feels like they have been refined and refined and refined. They are at the point where she is very comfortable presenting them. These are conservative estimates, industry standards.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said if that is correct, then year 1 they are in the negative about \$750,000. He asked if that was correct.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus asked Nick to hand out the cash flow.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said his second question is, they have talked several times and she had talked about the possibility of making money. He said Ms. Rasmus has given a really good business plan there. He wanted to commend her for that. But, nowhere in the business plan does it talk about paying off the bond. The bond payments, he had a couple figures that if they bond \$5,700,000 at 3½% interest we are \$400,000 and another \$40,000 for PBC for maintenance, so there is \$440,000. How do they generate that cash?

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said Nick was handing out the cash flow analysis. It has 3 different scenarios for them. The first one is to operate both the recycling center and the compost facility. On the back those are separated out with the recycling center by itself and the compost facility by itself. She would first answer the question about the bond payment. They could see there was a column that says property tax. So, for year one the bond payment, with interest and principal would be \$524,581. That will come in through the tax levy and it will also go out. It is coming in and is going out every year for those 20 years. It will come through the levy to the Decatur Public Building Commission. She asked Carol if that was safe to say. Carol acknowledged that it was. That is how the bond would be paid back, by the \$6.00 on a \$75,000 home.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said his point is that the compost facility can't pay that payment.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said no. She is looking at this as two separate funds. The development costs for both the recycling center and the compost facility, including equipment is paid in the \$7,500,000 with bond funding. The operations of the recycling center and compost facility are operating under the department's budget. The cash flow statements you will see on Table 51. They are really looking at new expenses and new revenue. She had already told them that with the recycling center she wanted to bring in 1 ½ positions and the revenue she is counting at this point is only televisions. So the recycling center is a loss. The compost facility, if you look at it on Table 52 has a much better opportunity to not only break-even but generate revenue that can help subsidize the recycling center. That brings them to the front table, Table 50 where they can see the first 6 years and in the last 2 columns they can see the revenue increases she has put in, in terms of bringing in more material. There is always an increase in expenses as well. The first 6 years are right from her plan. They could see that this Table 50 is much more optimistic than the recycling center by itself. She said if they were wondering where some of this revenue would come from to operate the deficit for the first couple years, their office does have a reserve fund of about \$200,000. There is also the opportunity every year with the compost facility beginning with year one they are putting away \$150,000 a year in a separate fund for depreciation because at the end of the 6 they want to be able to buy new equipment. So that depreciation fund is being set aside year one, but if she needs to use it to help get through a cash flow during year one she could. She would just have to make sure that by the end of 6 years she has that full amount.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield asked Carol Reed to come up and give an overview of the county's finances this year and where she expected them to be at the end of this year.

Mrs. Reed: Mrs. Reed said the General Fund is the one that most salaries and things come from which funds the operations of the county for the most part. At this point, for the last fiscal year into November 30, 2018 they are looking at about at \$800,000 deficit, revenue under expenses. She said for next year they are probably looking at a similar amount, unless we make some changes. That is in the General Fund. The Environmental Management group is just a small piece of that fund.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said he has been to both of the other compost sites. He said she is talking about replacing equipment in 6 years. It looked to him like their equipment should have been replaced about 50 years ago. He asked why Macon County is different.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said when they open this facility it is imperative they sell high quality end-products and that the facility looks neat and clean and well operated. She said they have to be able to sell a marketable product for years to come. For them to do that, from day one that product has to be excellent. That means they are selling compost that is not full of weed seeds, and when they tell a gardener or farmer that they will be able to improve their soils with it and it actually does what it is supposed to do. So, it does take equipment, a fair amount of equipment. The 6 year replacement schedule is

ambitious. She doesn't really think they are going to have to replace things every 6 years. Urbana has indicated to them that they keep their grinder for about 11 years before they replace it. In this proposal she wanted to be conservative. She didn't want to come back to the county and say that she had miscalculated. She was very conservative and is using industry standards so feels she like the numbers are very strong.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Dunn said on this product he has used quite a bit of it on his yard. He went to a couple of different places for landscape, Maske and Walker. Some of these places are buying their material, which some of it is colored and he didn't know if she was planning on doing that, trucked all the way from St. Louis. He asked if she was planning on selling the county's product to landscape companies.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said with their product they need to look at landscape companies and garden centers. In conversations she has had with these folks, they are interested in a local source rather than bringing it in from St. Louis. They also need to look at land developers, the public highway departments, gardeners and agriculture is a big new market as well. They may have heard about cover crops. If a farmer is interested in cover crops, this is a great companion to that in terms of building their soil.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she understands that the bond levy is a separate levy and that goes in and goes out. She asked what dollar figure Ms. Rasmus is looking at to increase the solid waste management budget on an annual basis compared to where it is now in order to maintain these facilities.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said their department brings in the host fee from the landfill which is about \$460,000 a year. Their department gets about \$213,000 of that and the rest of it goes to the General Fund. She does not expect to get any more than that. She would love to, but she doesn't think it is going to happen.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she misstated that. She was not asking how much they expect to get. She was asking how much they expect to increase the expenses of their department regarding personnel and that sort of thing, over last year's budget.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said that is laid out for them in the handout. It is near \$100,000 for year one.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little asked if that would have to come out of the General Fund for the first few years until these facilities are in a money making stance.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said no. There are two things that can happen. One is that their department does have a reserve. They have about \$280,000 right now. They are slowly spending out of it. There will be about \$200,000 of that available. She said if they look at the cash flow for the combined facility, it is going make it. So, if she needs a cash flow, she would take the Equipment Depreciation Fund and use it; but it would need to go back in before she could purchase new equipment.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she would be hopeful that any compost they are able to sell is top quality that folks want. She asked what kind of expert it would take to tell them they had good compost. They need to add more worms or take a few worms out. How would they know they are going to get Grade A, top quality compost, because they have landscapers driving to St. Louis to get compost and there are 2 facilities here and they don't want their stuff?

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said compost needs to be tested and analyzed. They are looking for no weed seeds and that it has trace minerals.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she understands what Grade A compost is. She is asking if they have the people and the skills and whatever to make sure that it is Grade A.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said they will and they do. Making great compost comes down to a couple things. It is accelerating the process as quickly as they possibly can. The way they do that is control moisture and control oxygen. That is done by turning. That is why that windrow turner is imperative. The turner she is looking at has a water wagon that can be attached to it so that it can be watered as well. In the compost design there is a barrow pit in which we can pump water out of, so they can fill that and make sure the moisture of the compost is sufficient.

Mr. Mattingley: Mr. Mattingley asked if that would be the job of the compost tech.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said the compost tech and the compost operator, yes. Ms. Rasmus said she intends to be involved as well.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver asked what kind of emphasis she is putting on increasing the business of composting. He asked how she would go about increasing the revenue by increasing the amount of work they do.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said she has put in a factor for the amount of material that she expects to see increased each year. It is between 5 and 7.5% for the first 6 years depending on the year. As that increases the revenue will go up because their fixed costs will remain the same. The thing is these numbers are conservative. When she said 24,000 cubic yards, she took the two privately owned compost sites they have and combined the numbers. As they had talked about, that is on the honor system. She thinks those numbers are grossly under estimated, but those are the numbers she went with because those are what she has on paper.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver asked if there are any local entities that could be using some of this compost material now that are not being tapped.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said there are places right now that are buying compost from St. Louis, or from the Chicago area or from Peoria, and bringing it into the county. That is their low hanging fruit for customers.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver said he was thinking of companies like ADM and Tate & Lyle that have to generate power to run their businesses. He asked what they could use from the composting facility for their business.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said the question was how large industry could utilize their facility. One of things they want to have conversations with ADM and Tate & Lyle about is taking in some of their select organics that would be easily composted. It would be a lot cheaper for them to bring them to the compost facility than to pay a landfill for those organics, what they are calling waste but she was calling resources. That would be a good opportunity for the county to bring in some revenue. As far as end-products whether that be compost or mulches, they have professional landscapers that could absolutely use them.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver said he was talking about for instance wood, lumber, etc. They are going to have a lot of demolition going on in this city for some time to come. If they have anything that will generate wood, lumber, etc., could they use this in their facilities or power stations that they have?

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said in terms of like the power incinerator that ADM has, they have to be quite particular because of their permits. She has not had a conversation with them about whether their permits could be modified to take some of this.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver said he has a friend who sells them rubber products, tires and so forth. He just wondered why some of the waste material they are talking about here could not be used for those generators. The thing that really bothers him is the fact that with the City, Park Board, and the Zoo doing things to magnify what's going on in the city, it is becoming a city now that is being paid attention to all over the country as far as being innovative about doing things in a modernistic way. Mr. Oliver feels that what they are talking about here is something they definitely need in the future. He said especially if they are talking about bringing in any outside businesses or the railroad that will generate more of this kind of material they are talking about getting rid of. He thinks they should take that first step because they are running out of landfill properties. Not everybody in this city is using recycling as it should be done even though they are being charged for it on their water bills. Mr. Oliver said they are going to run out of this land. He doesn't think it is too early to get started looking down the road toward fulfilling this obligation because when they run out of land where do they go from here? Will we be hauling it to Springfield, Clinton or to someplace else out of the City of Decatur and the County of Macon? Mr. Oliver thinks they have a golden opportunity to be one of the leaders in this particular project. He also wondered if there is such a thing as this property being big enough to generate its own power to run itself with some kind of generation out there, wind generation or heat generation that would furnish power to that particular entity.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said one thing they are looking at as an opportunity for revenue is a solar farm. She said if they did a 2 megawatt community solar farm and could have gotten the deal done last year it would have generated about \$1,200 an acre.

Generally what happens with a solar farm is that goes back into the grid and is distributed and people can buy shares or companies can buy shares or the county could have up to 40% of that share from power that is generated from a community solar farm.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said he noticed there are some large pieces of equipment in this. He wondered if there is a building out there to put them in or work on them or anything like that.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said on page 2 in the table there is an equipment storage building so that is what that cost is so we can put some equipment inside the building and take good care of it.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield asked if her proposal at first is not to have a building out there, a big building to put the equipment in.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said it is all part of the proposal to have the equipment storage building.

Mrs. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield asked where it is at.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said it is east of the woodland area.

Mr. Oliver: Mr. Oliver asked if that is where it shows \$216,000 allocated for that.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said yes. She showed on the slides where the proposed storage building would be.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield asked how big the building would be.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus asked Larry what the size of the building would be and he thought it was either 80 or 100 feet by 40 feet. It is a pole barn.

Mrs. Dawson: Mrs. Dawson asked if the marketing would be handled in house.

Ms. Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said that is still on the table. The proposal is to have a half-time marketing person and they would have a budget on year one of \$39,000. There is a tremendous opportunity to take some partnerships whether it be somebody that has a niche in relationships with farmers that they work separately with that niche and somebody else works with developers. There is a number of ways to do this and that hasn't yet been finalized. She said what they have here is the proposal for the budget. They know that is a very important piece and they need to learn more about it.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said Laurie had done an excellent job and he wanted to open it for public comments.

Don Roderick: Mr. Roderick said he owns Decatur Compost. He said he had several questions. Mr. Roderick said when Laurie was the inspector she penalized him for not inspecting all garbage trucks taking out all their trash and everything, so they met that with the City of Decatur. He said they met with their attorneys and did all that. Mr. Roderick said whenever they are grinding all this material he wondered how they are going to contain all of the dust that comes as a result, from affecting the church that is right in that vicinity. He said she also mentioned having a borrow pit. He asked how they could dig a borrow pit if they don't get in the water table. Also, he said they will have all of the farmland draining farm water down through this compost site. He questioned how they would contain all of those herbicides and everything that would be coming down through this big field tile. It goes through the property and has to go in one place through the railroad. She also mentioned taking material from ADM. It is a stinking material as it lays there, so how are they going to control the odor of the material? Mr. Roderick also asked how they are going to contain all of the rodents when they are taking in all of this material. He said when he designed his compost site his engineer designed it to handle anything like a tornado or something for the City of Decatur.

Elizabeth Jeffery: Ms. Jeffery said she has lived in Macon County for about 30 years. She is very excited about the idea of Macon County doing something that is so forward looking. They hear so many people saying so many negative things about the area. This is an exciting time for us to get ahead and to look absolutely wonderful as people come off the freeway because this is what they will see with the wildflowers growing in front of it. She thinks the point was made very, very well that this is the time to do it. This is the time when the taxes are going way down and so we are just going to bump them back up again by doing this, but only a little bit. So, people will still see a good drop in their house taxes. Why do it now? Not just that, but the fact that when we first heard about this it was a little cheaper and now it is a little more expensive. If we wait, our need for recycling is not going to go away; it's going to increase and the cost is going to increase. The very best thing we can do is to get a handle on it and do this very positive thing for our area right now. Ms. Jeffery said she hoped they would see that this is an exciting thing they could do instead of just talking about demolishing houses which is such a sad thing to have to talk about. Let's talk about this positive thing and they can really do something to help. Personally, she uses compost and she uses it around the library gardens, right in the middle of Decatur making Decatur look more beautiful. Here they have a chance to make their own compost very, very well.

Alan Rider: Mr. Rider said he has lived in the Niantic area for over 25 years. His family uses the Niantic recycling center at the firehouse multiple times each month. He said when they go there they see what is in the picture he handed out. He said the picture was taken 4 hours ago. The recycling collection container is full. Mr. Rider said multiple times when they go there it is always full. Sometimes they have to physically force their recycled products into that recycle bin. That is telling him what the people in the Niantic area of Macon County think of recycling. So, he asked the Macon County Board what they think of recycling.

Jen McMillin: Ms. McMillin said she lives at 1888 Heritage Rd., just south of town. She thanked the chairman and members of the board for the opportunity. She said as a proud Macon County resident she has watched it change and grow over the last 10 years. One of the highlights of our community is that we are one of the best places to raise a family here in central Illinois. We have the Children's Museum of Illinois. We have a great park system and with this facility we have an opportunity to be a forward thinking community, to bring in these ideas and sustain our community into the future. She wanted to point out that we in this community seem to have an issue with the retention of young professionals. She feels that with this facility it would be a step in the right direction to show those young professionals that come in and work at CAT or that work at ADM that we're committed to a sustainable community, we care about their future and want them to have a place that is growing. She feels this facility is a great opportunity for us to keep that promise to them. Ms. McMillin agreed with Mr. Oliver this makes us more responsible to our environmental concerns. She thinks this is a great opportunity and a compliment to our status as a marketplace to the world. We need to be responsible in both sharing our products that are made here in Macon County, but we also need to take care of the waste that is generated here in Macon County. This is a great opportunity for us to make an investment with that bond sale and move forward in a sustainable manner.

Dave Wilhour: Mr. Wilhour lives at 2171 S. Imboden Pl, Decatur, IL. He said as all of them know he is for recycling and this facility. The Prestone ad, you either pay now or you pay later. Think about that because as they said, cost will go up. As he told them before, he is an environmental dad. He sent his daughter to Southern Illinois and she graduated with a biology degree. She moved over to Edwardsville and got a Master's Degree in Environmental Science. She educated him on recycling. She lives in Corvallis, Oregon. In 2009 he took pictures of their recycling center and brought them back to Decatur and met with Jay and met with the city. The city and Jay have worked with him since then. The single stream recycling is a product of that and he is very proud of that. He texted his daughter today and told her he was going to a recycling meeting and she told him she just had 7.5 yards of top quality compost delivered to her raised bed gardens. She said she pays them to take it and then she buys it back. Mr. Wilhour said if we have the product the people will come. Class A product is what everybody wants and that's what we would produce.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said Laurie had said she had something she was going to present to the EEHW Committee.

Laurie Rasmus: Ms. Rasmus said they are working on drafting a resolution that can start with the EEHW Committee this month. That resolution would give county approval to request that the Decatur Public Building Commission seek bond funding. She asked Jerry Lord if that was fair to say and Mr. Lord said yes.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said he just wanted to know what her next step was.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mrs. Kraft moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to adjourn. The motion was approved by acclamation.

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.