

OPERATIONS & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING
March 17, 2014
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Patty Cox
Jerry Potts
Gary Minich
Verzell Taylor
Pat Dawson (arrived @ 5:35p.m.)
Bryan Smith

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Jay Dunn, Board Chairman
Kevin Greenfield, Board member
Mary Eaton, Recorder

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

Susanna Zimmerman

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patty Cox at the Macon County Office Building.

MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting, February 18, 2014 made by Gary Minich, seconded by Jerry Potts, and motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL AND CLAIMS

Motion to approve payroll as presented made by Jerry Potts, seconded by Gary Minich and motion carried 6-0.

Motion to approve the claims as presented was made by Bryan Smith, seconded by Verzell Taylor and motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS

Auditor's Office

Carol Reed reported that the health insurance renewal is up and more information will be brought to next month's meeting. The preliminary figures are that there will be a 3.25% increase due to the Affordable Care Act which will be built right into the new rate for next year. Hopefully, the total increase can be kept to 5% to 6%. They are coming in at around 7.5%. The insurance committee meets next week to discuss and work on getting it whittled down.

There was a new public act enacted in 2012 which says that whenever a retiring person's 12 month earnings exceed 6% of the prior year, that we, as the employer, have to pay in the future pension benefits due to that increase. People have some payouts when they leave, most notably in the Sheriff's Department, who will have buyouts because they can buy back up to 120 sick days plus vacation. We have some very large payouts. Recently, there was one that the County has to pay within 90 days \$27,000 to cover that future pension. This is now coming up. Before, people

were exempted if they were under a contract that was enacted before. Now the Sheriff's Department has a new contract, as of last November, and we are getting hit with this. We will be trying to figure out ways, if there are any, that we can shift some of this around. As of right now, we will have to pay in increased pension amounts for those. There will be more discussion later. Patty Cox asked if this comes out of the IMRF fund. Carol confirmed that it would come out of IMRF employer expense.

County Board

Macon County Board Resolution Re-Establishing a Public Aid Committee and Appointing Its Members

Jay Dunn reported that this committee had been a committee years ago. He said that Bryan Smith had brought it to his attention some time ago, but he hadn't done anything about it. David Williams recently attended a Township Supervisor meeting, got some information about it and brought it up again. Jay said that after some research, the county does need to have this committee set up. Jay said that since he came on the board in 2003, he did not remember any appeals. He said that Patty Cox did remember some.

Motion to forward to the Full Board with recommendation for approval was made by Gary Minich, seconded by Verzell Taylor. There was discussion as to what the name of the committee should be. Patty Cox said she thought it should be Public Aids Appeals Committee. Jeannie said that when the resolution was first drafted, that was the name given the committee, but during his review of the resolution, Mike Baggett had changed it to Public Aid Committee explaining that the statute creates the name. Jeannie will double check with Mike Baggett and if revisions in wording are necessary, they will be made to the resolution prior to presentation at the board meeting. Bryan Smith wanted to make a clarifying comment. He said that this is dealing with the Township. When people say public aid, people think about the state. That is not what it is dealing with. It is dealing with the townships and general assistance. If people are applying or denied general assistance or terminated receiving their general assistance, they have a right to appeal. They appeal to their township supervisor. If they are not satisfied with the result that they get there, they can take it a step further and that is to the County Board Chairman who is the chair of the Public Aid Committee. That group will make a determination on the appeal. Patty Cox added that the reason it is called the Public Aid Code is because the townships follow the guidelines that Public Aid has presented. Motion carried 6-0.

County Clerk

Steve Bean reported that an article in yesterday's newspaper caused some panic. He read what he sent them.

Voters must remember on years in which the constitutional officers are elected, there is an election law change. Under that state law, the ballot must kick out if any offices or public questions are not voted upon. It is a check to make sure the voter did not over vote - overlook something on the ballot. The voter may vote on the missing section or ask the

election judge to override the voted ballot. The system only counts offices or public questions voted for by the voter.

So, in other words, there was some . . . we got a lot of phone calls, including an email from Jack Ahola. You can under vote. You can go in and vote for one person. We've had that happen. There's one group that is asking their union members to go in and vote for a particular person for Governor. They are going in and voting for that one person and that is it. All we do is push the button that says yes and it overrides. If you do it on a TSX machine, you do it all in the privacy of the touch screen and you do not have to have the voter's request.

Four years ago, the primary was on February 2. Total absentee and in house ballots including early voting and mail in ballots were 763. Just in house & nursing home was 1,161 and there are another 284 ballots out there that need to come in or have to be brought - will be counted tomorrow @ 4:30 by the central count judges. There could be another 284 votes out there. We are looking someplace between about a 13,000 to 15,000 turnout. Pat Dawson commented that she did not comprehend what Steve just read so as a person who would have read that in the paper, she would still be shaking her head too. She said she understood after he explained, but as a person who just read the paper, she would not understand. Steve said he didn't know who wrote the story, but it was cut down by the reporter. He advised her to go to the Decatur Tribune site or Re-Decatur to see the correct version and the Herald & Review would be writing a correction tomorrow. Ms. Dawson said that when Mr. Bean read what he asked to be put in, she still didn't understand it and as a consumer, she would not have gotten it. Mr. Bean replied that, under this system, every 2 years, the speaker decided, that for some reason, some people don't vote for Governor or Secretary of State or something like that and this was to kick the ballot out and give you a second chance to vote. Ms. Dawson said that if what Mr. Bean said just now had been in the paper, she would have gotten it. Mr. Bean said that that is what the other one says, is that it is kicked out for you to review. You can either tell them that you did miss that office and you do want to vote . . . Ms. Dawson said it happened to her the other day, but what Mr. Bean just said took a lot of words to say it would be kicked out. Mr. Bean said it was a hard thing to explain. He went on to say he noticed they had a bill in front of the General Assembly and he hoped they pass it. He said, "tell me, why in the world, they allow 17 year olds vote in an even year election if the election is going to be in November and they are going to be . . ." Ms. Dawson said to talk to his Legislators to which Mr. Bean said it seems like they don't listen to County Clerks any more. Bryan Smith asked if that pertained only to every 4 years when state constitutional officers are elected and not when we have all these people running for President of the United States. Steve Bean confirmed that Speaker Madigan only wanted this for the state officers.

The Clerk's Office started same sex marriages last week and so far, there have been 3. Most of the couples that have come in that had civil unions are waiting until June 1st to have their civil unions converted. Their marriage date will be the date of their civil union. Two of the couples did not have a civil union. Only one couple came in to get a marriage because it was going to save them \$700 a month on insurance or something like that.

We will be starting extending taxes in the next week or so.

Recorder

Mary Eaton distributed her monthly report. There were no questions. Verzell Taylor commended Mary for doing such a wonderful job in her position.

Workforce Investment Solutions

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Budget Amendment for Workforce Investment Solutions FY14 Budget – Decatur Public Schools 2014 Summer Internship Program

Robyn McCoy explained that this program was done last year at a level of about \$108,000. This year the amount is \$82,165. It will begin on April 1st, but an instructor is gathering information to do the work readiness piece of it right now. About \$48,420 will be spent on training, wage, fringe and work comp. This is an 8 week program in which 30 Eisenhower students will be enrolled. Students must be 16 years old or older. They will go through an 8 week preparation class during April and May one night a week. They then start an 8 week internship when school gets out. They will be working 20 hours a week at minimum wage. They will have 3 job coaches to take care of any issues that come up at the work sites. Support services, supplies and payment for job coaches have been built in. An evaluation on the program for last year and this year will be done by the U of I Extension Office. Robyn said her office just basically administers the funding because the Decatur Public Schools does not have the mechanism to provide these services so her office will be paying the kids, doing the timesheets, making sure they have all their payroll information and entering into contracts with job coaches, etc... Pat Dawson asked why Eisenhower. Robyn explained that it is a part of their 21st Century Skills Grant. They received the funding because of the characteristics at Eisenhower. Pat Dawson asked if minimum wage meant current minimum wage. Robyn confirmed that if the minimum wage goes up, they will increase also because this is a work experience and the budget will be adjusted accordingly. Pat Dawson asked if this program was done last year. Robyn said they did 44 youth last year which included 40 from Eisenhower and 4 from MacArthur. The students have the opportunity to apply for the program and they go through an assessment interview process and so they are selected to go into this program and the 44 kids from last year are not eligible to go into it this year.

Motion to forward to Finance Committee for their consideration with recommendation to approve made by Bryan Smith, seconded by Jerry Potts, and motion carried 6-0.

Citizens' Remarks

None

Old Business

None

New Business

None

CLOSED SESSION

None needed

NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 21, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Jerry Potts, seconded by Bryan Smith and motion carried 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham
County Board Office*