

OPERATIONS & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING
June 15, 2015
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Linda Little, Chair
Jerry Potts (@ 5:32)
Dave Drobisch
John Jackson
Kevin Meachum

MEMBERS ABSENT

Verzell Taylor
Bryan Smith

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office
Carol Reed, Auditor
Mary Eaton, Recorder
Sheri Wallace, HR
Steve Bean, County Clerk
Robyn McCoy, Workforce Investment Solutions
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

The meeting was called to order by Chair Linda Little at the Macon County Office Building.

MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting, May 18, 2015 made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Dave Drobisch and motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL AND CLAIMS

Motion to approve payroll as presented made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Dave Drobisch and the motion carried 5-0.

Motion to approve the claims report as presented was made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Dave Drobisch and motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS

Auditor's Office –

Carol Reed reminded everyone that the Benefits Fair is being held this week on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the 8th floor.

Sheri Wallace updated the members on the benefit meetings. That is when the changes to the Blue Cross/ Blue Shield health plan were rolled out. There were 14 departmental meetings held with approximately 180 employees attending. That is out of the 475 that are insured. The changes to the health plan were explained along with the new EyeMed program. EyeMed was very well received with 400 of the 475 already enrolled. The deadline to sign up is the 17th of this month. The Catapult health checkup was also rolled out at these meetings. Catapult is the wellness

initiative where the employee can do a blood draw and receive cholesterol, blood pressure, glucose, etc... information. There is no charge and the results are reviewed privately on the spot with a nurse practitioner. Each employee that takes advantage of this free service receives a \$150 wellness credit. There are just under 100 people signed up as of last Friday. Totals are calculated each Friday. The program is going to need a little coaxing, but we're getting there. Deadline to sign up for this is mid-July.

There is a change to the worker's comp process and folders were made up and distributed to the departments to help explain who to contact in the case of an injury. The State of Illinois, under the watchful eye of the governor, is looking at some reform, but it continues to be one of the most expensive parts for the employers to manage. With that in mind, we've partnered with some of the local health centers like DMH & St. Mary's for minor injuries. County employees that have an injury and are able to walk in to these centers save the county emergency room charges. The information was delivered to supervisors at the last quarterly meeting along with the new packets and it gives the employee all the contact information that they need. If there is an accident, they can still go to the emergency room, but this streamlines some of the costs.

The FMLA process has been improved to insure constant delivery across the county. That was part of the clarifications that were made in the handbook update. All of that will be delivered out to the departments in August.

Kevin Meachum asked if as long as county employees have plenty of sick leave banked and vacation, they do not get deducted on accumulated benefits later. Sheri said that was correct. If they are on FMLA and they're completely unpaid and there is no time left, then that is where benefits could become a problem. Kevin clarified, asking that as long as they have sick leave and vacation, then it is not an issue. Sheri confirmed.

Kevin Meachum stated that once the 80/20 plan is implemented, employees will find that they have a little more flexibility and they will save money on the 80/20 plan vs the 90/10. Linda Little agreed that most of them would. Kevin Meachum went on to say that he is very glad that the employees are starting to take advantage of the incentives to get their cholesterol, etc.. checked to get their deductible down. That is a big savings to each employee, their spouses and their families. This is a step in the right direction and he is hopeful that employees take advantage of it.

Linda Little asked what a wellness point was. Sheri explained that it is an incentive where, when they earn the \$150 for going to the checkup, Blue Cross/ Blue Shield holds it in their "kitty" so the next time they have an expense occur, that \$150 wellness credit gets taken off the bill before it is even received. It can be used for any member of the family. Ms. Little asked if the Catapult would be a one time only or if it would be offered annually. Sheri said they would like to offer it yearly, but they would have to see how it rolls out.

Mr. Meachum added that this is a big incentive to get healthy and stay healthy.

County Board –
No report

County Clerk –

Steve Bean distributed several reports and stated that the voter registration cards had been mailed out from northern Illinois today. That is done every 2 years. The company that is used in northern Illinois runs our list against the national postal list so it saves us mailing to about 5,000 people who have moved and if they've moved within Macon County, they can be re-registered to vote and have a card mailed to them at their new address. It saves a lot of time and effort.

Mr. Bean explained that the voter registration office had signed up for a grant of \$53,763 to help with expenses. They were told that besides getting that amount of money, we could get additional funds. For example, if a county was supposed to get \$20,000, and they asked for \$25,000, they would get \$25,000. We were supposed to get \$54,000 so we asked for \$68,000. That includes the post card mailing (voter ID cards) which costs about \$30,000 every 2 years.

Explaining the reports, Mr. Bean said that when you look at basic, that is what is being taken in for the General Fund. That is up \$34,447 from last year through the end of May. He said they've been getting a lot of people in the last few months who work at Caterpillar. Caterpillar is doing a thing that most companies do where every so often, they check to see if you are married or have dependents. They save 1% to 2% by doing an audit like that.

A lot of people forget that the Treasurer prints the bill, makes the bill and sends it out. The County Clerk's office creates the bill from the information from the various taxing bodies from the State of Illinois and does the extension. One column to look at talks about exemptions that are put out. It shows that in general homestead, there is \$165 million, \$49 million in homestead exemptions, \$15 million in senior freezes. That is a lot of money that gets taken away from the tax rolls. It also has on the report, how much is lost through TIFs and enterprise abatements which aren't much. Going back and looking at 2011 vs 2014. The extension is down by about \$136,000. When you look at the difference between these two, there is a million point one general fund levy reduction. That means that all the other levies during that time period have eaten up that million point one dollars that we could get if we were at the whole quarter set for levying taxes.

With all the additional costs of a presidential election, we will now have 50 days of early voting. This will demand more hours be put in. The difference between the 2012 budget and the budget for this year was \$20,000 in election judges. Extra help was cut \$2,000 and overtime was cut \$4,000. The various associations tried to get everything put on line, but hit a lobbying force that they could not handle. Legal advertising is very costly. The difference between what was asked for this year was \$25,000 last time we had a presidential election. We have to run all those lists of delegates. With 14 candidates on the Republican side and 4 on the Democrat side, they are going to have a lot, plus all the 72 precincts have to be listed if they have a committeeman or not. Chair Little asked how small the font could be. Mr. Bean replied that as small as it is now, there are complaints because you have to remember you're dealing with an older population. The polling

places costs will go up because we've lost 2 union halls that had 2 precincts each in. They were allowing the use of these facilities free. That will cost more money. Looking at the budget right now, the only way to meet the requirements of cutting 3% after the insurance increases would be to lay off an employee. The problem is missing employees in the elections. An election department cannot be run with one person.

Steve said he wanted to let the committee members know that Mike Baggett has really been doing a great job for them. He has helped with the property tax problems; he's there for both the Clerk and the Coroner in vital records situations; he takes care of all the FOIA. He's done a heck of a job and it's really nice to be able to send an email and know he'll be there and do a great job.

Jerry Potts asked if the person Mr. Bean had spoken of laying off could be a part time person. Mr. Bean said the two people in elections make less than the person in charge of elections in other counties. You're getting a good bang for the buck. There is still an empty desk in vital records. The county automation fund brings in around \$40,000 a year that offsets employees on that side. We can't offset costs with the reimbursement from the state. They'll let you reimburse printing and various other functions, but not employees. They did pay for the election this year and in the proposed budget, they're supposed to pay for election judges for both elections. Mr. Potts said he'd rather have the people working. Mr. Bean said he did too and didn't want to lay off anybody, but it's going to be tough to make additional cuts in the budget. Precincts have been consolidated. Mr. Bean explained that when he started, there were 104 precincts in 103 sites and today there are 72 precincts in 45 sites. That's cutting it pretty good.

Recorder –

Mary Eaton added to the comment Mr. Bean had made about Mike Baggett. She said he has been very helpful. They've had several FOIA questions in the last couple of weeks that he has helped them with.

Ms. Eaton distributed her monthly report and offered to answer questions. She said they've been busy in the last couple of months.

Workforce Investment Solutions –

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Budget Amendment for Workforce Investment Solutions FY15 Budget – Rapid Response Innovative Project - Health Care

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Budget Amendment for Workforce Investment Solutions FY15 Budget –Rapid Response Innovative Project-Manufacturing

Robyn McCoy explained that both of the resolutions for grants that she had applied for a couple of months ago. They are Rapid Response Innovative Projects with one being for health care @ \$350,000 and the other for manufacturing @ \$290,000. She said she just received the grant approval letter. They are for incumbent worker projects.

Motion to forward both resolutions on to the finance committee with recommendation to approve was made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Dave Drobisch and motion carried 5-0.

Citizens' Remarks None

Old Business None

New Business None

CLOSED SESSION None needed

NEXT MEETING Monday, July 20, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Little adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, County Board Office