



choice. Ms. Reed said if that was the case, it hasn't been followed. Mr. Meachum asked her to check on it because he believed that it stated that any employee that was hired after the resolution was approved has to with no choice. He said he knows it hasn't been enforced, but employees need to be reminded that they don't have a choice. Ms. Reed said their preference is that they do it, but . . . Mr. Meachum said the resolution was very clear. Anyone before this date is not required, but anybody after that is required 100% direct deposit. Ms. Reed said she would research it.

***County Board – No Report***

***County Clerk – No Report***

***Recorder – No Report***

***Workforce Investments –***

Ms. Wilkerson reported that she wanted to give an update on Workforce since she took over as Director at the end of February. Robyn McCoy retired the first of March. It has been almost a year and there have been a lot of changes, especially for the staff. First, WIOA has changed their performance measures to determine how customers are worked with and how effective it is. Second, there is a new director. Third, the retirement of Jackie Madson who had about 36 years and whose expertise was in dealing with in school youth and out of school youth. She knew the performance measures and she knew the customers. That was a big loss. Tony Warden, who specialized in trades grants was also lost. Both of those employees were extremely knowledgeable with the customers, grants and performance measures. When all of that is taken into consideration, the staff has definitely been through some changes. It was fortunate that Robyn McCoy was still available to guide. She had 34 years of experience and was willing to assist. She worked one day a week or as needed. The fiscal coordinator position was filled by Debby Wright and Robyn McCoy is training her. The goal is to develop a fiscal department. Years ago, Robyn was the fiscal department. She then took over as Director and took those skills with her. Springfield and Champagne both have fiscal directors and under the new WIOA guidelines, it should be more effective to have that department. She has provided some experience with the fiscal reporting system as well as the alignment process with the accounting during the transition phase with the Macon County Office. In addition, making sure Workforce is consistent with GATA, the new statewide fiscal system. Debby Wright is being trained in performance and monitoring, Federal & State Grant reporting systems which is monthly, quarterly, & closeout. She is also going to assist with budget preparation. The first monitoring visit is the first week of April and then the audit. Robyn is travelling a lot. Debby Wright no sooner came on board when the funds for the consortium, the Adult Ed Richland Community College Grant that was funded in November, came in and Debby had to be pulled to work on that since she was experienced and had 15 years of experience in fiscal and adult ed. There has not been a good chance to get her fully documented into Workforce because she was needed in different places.

Six part time instructors have been hired for the Consortium. Two weeks ago, the first pre-test was held. 84 were tested. 34 of them passed with a 10<sup>th</sup> grade reading level, 26 had grade 6 -9 reading level, and everyone else was below. Those are all people wanting to be employed. These people were test assessed and gotten into bridge classes to teach them how to go to work.

One-Stop is mandated by WIOA. Core training is going on. This involves the three programs that are in the building; Workforce, Department of Rehabilitation, and Unemployment Office. By law, federal mandate, the three departments have to work together so that anybody that walks through the doors is going to be treated with exceptional customer service because they are knowledgeable about all three departments. It is now more unified and that means more staff training for everybody in the building. That is good except not everybody in the building is always on board for more training. Some of the topics include customer service, technology, diffusing anger, resume' development, etc... The Department of Rehab is a state program, so this is not always in their job description. This is a whole new approach.

Monthly meetings for the business service team have been held with different business members at different sites to talk about problems employers are having and how solutions can be put together whether it be an interview, a training session, or writing a grant. The biggest topic is lack of health care workers. People have to be sent to Springfield for training because Macon County does not have adequate training available. You start out with a problem and come up with solutions. You work together with the idea that someday, if you keep track of the data, it can be used to solve another problem for someone else.

The Workforce Investment Board is up to 23 members. They have just recently gotten involved in the weekend newscast where each member signed up for a specific date to be there at 6:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning to talk about positions they have open. Workforce Board members have to walk the walk and monitor and get people interested in letting them know the jobs are available and what the skillsets are. 14 people signed up so far.

Workforce Wednesdays are going very well. Every Wednesday, there is something on WAND whether it is about resume's, interviewing, orientations, etc... Whatever is going on in the building is being talked about the public is being encouraged to come in and take advantage of the services that are being offered. There is a monthly article in the Business Journal and now there is involvement in the weekend newscast where the Workforce segment is sponsored by the Workforce Board.

Workforce is now getting ready to start work on a Talent Pipeline Grant. In the past Workforce has been involved with manufacturing, healthcare, transportation grants that are through the Talent Pipeline Grant. This is a big grant.

Mr. Jackson asked what her personal feel for the job is now that she has been onboard for about a year. Ms. Wilkerson said her favorite part is working with the employers. All the State and Federal reporting system under WIOA has gotten extremely complex. She said she is excited

about developing the fiscal department so they can stay current with it. That is the biggest challenge because it is a new system. Even people with years and years of experience are not sure how to navigate it. She said she loves the job and working with the customers and is excited about the future.

Mr. Oliver asked about the closing of the Adult Continuing Education Center. Ms. Wilkerson said that is the reason they wrote the Consortium. Mr. Oliver asked how someone would go about being a part of that. Ms. Wilkerson said that when the Adult Ed Center closed due to lack of funds, Workforce and Richland went together and wrote one grant called the Consortium. All the programming is free at the Decatur Public Library. The bridges are to teach people how to go to work in health care, manufacturing and hospitality. There is a GED class and a ESL class and it is all free under the grant. Mr. Meachum said this is on the Facebook page too. Ms. Wilkerson confirmed. Mr. Oliver said that some people don't have electronics to find out. Ms. Wilkerson said they can go see her, go to the library, or go to anyone in Workforce. Mr. Oliver asked what the Saturday morning thing is. Ms. Wilkerson explained that it is the weekend newscast where Workforce Board members talk about jobs that are available every Saturday morning. Mr. Oliver asked about the public having access. Ms. Wilkerson said it is open to the public for anyone that wants to watch it. Mr. Oliver wondered how that program could be beneficial to the public. Ms. Wilkerson said that is why the Board members are on there – to tell about what jobs are available and what the skillsets are and where they can go to apply for it.

**Citizens' Remarks** - none

**Old Business** - none

**New Business** – none

**CLOSED SESSION** None needed

**NEXT MEETING:** March 19, 2018

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Mr, Oliver, seconded by Mr. Drobisch, motion carried 6-0, Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, County Board Office*