

**OPERATIONS & PERSONNEL  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 24, 2020  
5:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Linda Little  
Bryan Smith, Vice Chair  
John Jackson  
Grant Noland

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Bill Oliver  
Patty Cox  
Rachel Joy

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Carol Reed, Auditor  
Mary Eaton, Recorder  
Josh Tanner, County Clerk  
Rocki Wilkerson, Workforce  
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

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

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting (1/21/2020) made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and motion carried 4-0.

**APPROVAL OF PAYROLL AND CLAIMS**

Motion to approve payroll as presented made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Jackson and the motion carried 4-0.

Motion to approve claims as presented made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Jackson and the motion carried 4-0.

**REPORTS**

*Auditor's Office –*

***Macon County Board Resolution Amending Macon County Employee Handbook Updates***

Ms. Reed explained that last month she had advised the committee members of the potential for a resolution that would amend the county's employee handbook for updates to include cannabis or illegal narcotics as a part of the Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace. She reminded them that last month she had said that if a resolution would be needed that she would be back this month. Mr. Baggett has advised that a resolution would be needed, so she said she is back this month to present it. All it does is include cannabis or illegal narcotics.

Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Noland and the motion carried 4-0.

***Macon County Board Approving a 2 Year Agreement with IPMG for Workers Compensation Third Party Administration Services***

Ms. Reed explained that this is the exact same contract as the last two years with them. It is a 2 year contract. We pay them \$1,155 a month to administer our worker's comp cases. It is based on about an average of 30 claims a year. Chair Little asked how long we have been with this company. Ms. Reed explained that we have had them two different times. It was bid around 2014 or 2015. We had them prior to that and then again after that. It has probably been about 5 or 6 years.

Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the finance committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Noland and the motion carried 4-0.

***County Board – No Report***

***County Clerk –***

Mr. Tanner reported that early voting is underway. It has not been real busy.

The resolution for authorization to pay for the recount which was pulled from the agenda at the February meeting will be back on the county board agenda for the March meeting.

There will be one more O&P Committee meeting prior to the election, but it seems to be ready to go. The difference this year is that we have printed applications to vote. So people will not be checking in on a laptop. When you come in, your application will be pre-printed and they will find it like they used to. This is a cost saving measure and for cyber security. That is the only real difference in the election this year. So far, everything is running relatively smooth. He said they are short of Election Judges, but that is every year anymore. The shortage seems to be more Republican judges than Democratic judges this time. He said he did not know what the reason is, but it is hard to get the right balance and they've had to move some people around. Something has been put in the newspaper and the radio and TV covered it. It is just that civic engagement in the US as a whole is not what it used to be. It's a long day. It's a tough job. The association will lobby the legislature for an increase to the reimbursement for election judges, but even at another \$50 which would be \$200 a day it wouldn't make much difference. People don't do it for the money. They do it because they feel it is something they should do. It would be nice to be able to reimburse them a little more. Other counties that have increased their reimbursement rate don't really notice a huge uptick in participation. It is what it is. People are doing it just because they feel it needs to be done.

Mr. Smith asked about the date, if it is 2 weeks, after the Primary when it is finalized. Mr. Tanner confirmed, saying that yes, in 2 weeks, they have to certify exactly 2 weeks after the election. He

said that they would continue to receive mail in ballots that were post marked on Election Day. At that time they would adjudicate any provisional ballots. So, people who voted provisionally on Election Day – they would open those up and make a decision on them. He said he did not anticipate a lot of that in March. In November, there will again be provisional ballots. The increase in provisional ballots is being generated by mail in ballots. People are requesting a mail in ballot, then don't mail it back or bring it in to the polling place to surrender it so they can be issued a new ballot, so they have to vote provisionally because potentially, there is a ballot out there. He said they hold them until 2 weeks after the election and then, if a mail in ballot has not been received, which they are attesting that there will not be one, and if that is the case, then the ballot is counted. Some of the strategies of the parties were to get people to request the mail in ballot so they would cast it, but they hold on to it and it sits on the desk, then they go to work and they realize it is Election Day. They go to cast a vote and don't have that ballot with them to surrender. They still get to vote. It is provisional. If they do not mail that other ballot in, it will get counted. This is causing larger numbers of provisionals. Mr. Smith asked how many mail in ballots were being requested. Mr. Tanner said a little over 100. Not a lot. Some of those are people who knew they were going to be out of town. More requests may still come in. But the numbers will not be anywhere near the numbers that were seen in 2018 General Election. He said he assumes that in November, the numbers will be higher again. It depends on the strategy the parties take. Early voting is better as far as Election Day results and accuracy. With the mail ins, you have to wait the full 2 weeks and a lot of them may or may not come back. Only a handful of them have been received back so far. Some people are probably waiting until some more of the Primaries and the Presidential candidates are narrowed down to come in. That is just speculation.

***Recorder –***

Ms. Eaton distributed monthly reports and offered to answer questions. There were no questions.

***Workforce Investments –***

Ms. Wilkerson explained that they are holding their first hiring event for Lowes on Thursday, 2/27/2020.

A Health Care Day is scheduled at Richland Community College for April 15 & 16. The 15<sup>th</sup> will be for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and the 16<sup>th</sup> for high school kids. This will be to get them excited about the different career pathways in healthcare. Last year was the first time doing this. It was a success, so it is hoped that more kids can be involved this year.

A position for Health Care Recruiter has been posted via the Healthcare Sector Grant for \$240,000 that starts March 1<sup>st</sup>.

The grant at Opioid is moving along. There are 6 to 8 people that have been selected for Workforce services. Per the grant, they have to get 84 work experiences in the next 2 years, so that is a good start.

Ms. Wilkerson said they are also busy with the Youth Grants as well. It is a busy time for Workforce.

**Citizen's Remarks** - *none*

**Old Business** - *none*

**New Business** – *none*

**CLOSED SESSION** *None needed*

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, March 23, 2020

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned by Chair Little at 5:37 p.m.  
*Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, County Board Office*