

LAW & LEGAL

February 3, 2025

The Law & Legal Committee held its monthly meeting on Monday, February 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the McDonough County Courthouse, 3rd Floor, Law Library. Committee Members present included Committee Chair Joe Erlandson, Vice Chair Ken Durkin, Clayton Cook, Travis Hiel, Ryan Litchfield, Terra Litchfield, Jack Lowderman, and Terry Thompson. Other persons in attendance were Dave Schaab, Deborah Cousins, Sheriff Nick Petitgout, County Chair Eric Blakeley, County Board Secretary Sara Kluthe, and County Clerk Jeremy Benson.

Chair Erlandson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Review & Approve January 6, 2025 Minutes

Member Durkin moved with a second by Member Cook to approve the minutes with a correction. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Nick Petitgout gave the report. He discussed with the Committee the need for Flock cameras in various locations in the County, surrounding Counties have them and there is a great need for them here. The cameras would scan vehicles and the license plates and store that information. They can search the database with the vehicle description and it will pull images from all Flock cameras, not just ours. Petitgout requested permission to start the permit process.

Member Lowderman moved with a second by Member Thompson to approve the McDonough County Sheriff to start the permit process. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Waste Management Update

Dave Schaab gave the report. Schaab stated that this a low point in the year. Member R. Litchfield inquired as to whether or not they accept glass at the landfill. Schaab stated that they do when it is in regular garbage but that you could not take a load of it there.

Tri-County Recycling

Report received and filed.

Veteran's Assistance and Van Report

The report was received and filed. Eight Veterans were given assistance in January. Total assistance amounted to \$1,821.00.

Assessor's Office Update

Assessor Deborah Cousins gave the report. They are on track for the assessment year, and they have mailed out the homestead exemption renewal forms. She discussed the various exemptions that require a renewal every year.

Discuss Solar Ordinance

A discussion was held about the ordinance. Chair Erlandson informed the Committee that letters have been drafted to send to those that had inquired about a Solar Ordinance prior to it being approved.

Discuss BESS Ordinance

Chair Erlandson had reached out to the Farm Bureau, and to Oliver Ellen with RWE regarding the ordinance. Oliver made some suggestions for changes. Currently the State does not have any statutes, but they are in the works.

Discuss Proposed Prairie Hills Land Bank Authority

County Chair Blakeley held a small discussion and gave a brief overview of it. He felt that it was a good idea but didn't like the idea of having to pay every year. Chair Erlandson felt as though there wasn't a need for this in rural areas, and that the City of Macomb takes care of this for Macomb. There was no action taken.

Approve Resolution of McDonough County Board in Support of Agriculture

A small discussion was held regarding the resolution. The resolution is more of an explanation of the importance of agriculture, and for the County to show support of agriculture.

Member Hiel moved with a second by Member R. Litchfield to approve the Resolution of McDonough County Board in Support of Agriculture and to send it to full Board. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Approve Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Macomb and the McDonough County Board for the Provision of Glass Recycling Services

A discussion was held regarding whether or not there really was a need for this, it would benefit those in rural areas the most, as recycling is not offered to them. The cost would be \$2,000.00 a year with a two-year commitment, there would be a dumpster placed at Farm King and Ripple Glass LLC will pick up the dumpster and dispose of the glass.

Member Durkin moved with a second by Member Hiel to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Macomb and the McDonough County Board for the Provision of Glass Recycling Services and to send it to full Board. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Claims Review and Approval

Member Cook moved with a second by Member R. Litchfield to approve the claims as submitted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Other Items as Needed

Chair Erlandson informed the Committee that Public Defender Scott Terry contacted him regarding the liability insurance premium for his office. They discussed which fund this premium should be paid from.

Executive Session

None.

Public Comment

None.

County Board Chair Comments

County Chair Blakeley informed the Committee that County Board Member Dave Bartlett has resigned. Previous Board Member Mike Kirby has agreed to fill the vacancy, this will be on the full Board agenda for approval. McDonough District Hospital has offered to give a tour to members that are interested. Blakeley has been in contact with Will Kolbuck who has replaced Oliver Ellen with RWE, as he has moved up. Kolbuck said that construction will start on the new wind farm in the spring of 2026 and should be completed by December of 2026.

Adjourn

Member Hiel moved with a second by Member Durkin to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote.