



**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 8, 2023
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Higdon called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. All Board Members, County Manager Derek Roland, Deputy Clerk Mike Decker, Finance Director Lori Carpenter, County Attorney Eric Ridenour were present, as were a number of county employees, media, and citizens.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(A) Mr. Roland announced that an adjustment would be made to the order of the agenda to allow Macon County Public Health to go first followed by the Department of Social Services.

WORK SESSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 BUDGET:

Macon County Public Health - Health Director Kathy McGaha gave an overview of the department structure including filled and vacant positions. She explained that the majority of vacancies are positions that require a college degree and are more difficult to fill. Ms. McGaha talked about retention issues and gave an example of a recent vacancy in Environmental Health in which the employee had been employed long enough to get some of their required certifications and is now leaving after Macon County has paid for his training in order to work in a larger county with a higher salary as well as a sign-on bonus. She explained some of the budget requests for fiscal year 2023-24 as reclassifying a Coordinator, Health Services position to an Animal Control Officer I due to the increase in animal control calls and the number of animals being sheltered, replacing the Molar Roller which is approximately 20 years old, and replacing the contracted Physician position as a full-time employee classified as a Physician I. Finance Officer Melissa Setzer gave an overview of the funding sources and revenue received by the health department.

Department of Social Services – Director Patrick Betancourt gave an overview of the structure of and services provided by the department. He talked about the opportunities and challenges Medicaid expansion will bring to the department. Mr. Betancourt shared that approximately 3,239 new Medicaid enrollees are expected. He said that additional funding will be received from the State which will allow them to hire three additional Income Maintenance Workers (IMCs) to handle the increased enrollments. Mr. Betancourt indicated that an increase in the foster care reimbursement rate for foster families is to become effective July 1, 2023, and said the department currently has 23 licensed foster families with 75 children in custody.

Macon County Solid Waste – Solid Waste Director Chris Stahl gave an overview of the department, location of facilities, revenues, and the enterprise fund. He said the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget included requests for some fee increases and informed the board of additional mandated monitoring of groundwater that may require requests for additional funds at some point during the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Stahl spoke about capital projects funded by the enterprise fund and projects funded by other funding sources that are included in the 2023-24 budget. Commissioner Shearl asked about the new trailers that were to be purchased in the current fiscal year. Mr. Stahl said the trailers had been ordered and the wrong one was received and they are waiting for the replacements. Commissioner Shearl and Mr. Stahl had a brief discussion about the hours, written signs, and considerations/restrictions for the recycling centers.

Macon County Parks and Recreation – Parks and Recreation Director Seth Adams gave an overview of the department, budget, capital expenditures, operating expenditures, and the Highlands Recreation Park. He explained that \$550,000 is given to the Town of Highlands each year to help manage and operate the recreation facilities in Highlands. Mr. Adams said this amount of half of his overall budget. He shared about the survey that is currently on the county website regarding improvements to the recreation park on Georgia Road and encouraged everyone to take a minute and complete the survey.

ADJOURN: After some discussion regarding another work session and what is needed before voting on the proposed budget, Commissioner Shearl and Commissioner Antoine said they were not ready to make a decision and need more time to review the information. Commissioner Young said he felt the schools need to be addressed. Commissioner Shields said education is key and needs to be discussed. Chairman Higdon said he wanted to discuss the revaluation regarding the growth factor as well as allocations to fire departments.

He also requested an update regarding the end of the current fiscal year as soon finalized. Ms. Carpenter said she could provide that information in October. At 8:30 p.m. upon a motion from Commissioner Antoine, seconded by Commissioner Higdon, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.



Derek Roland
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board



Paul Higdon
Board Chair