



Economic Development Committee

215 S. East Street

Carlinville, IL 62626

<http://www.macoupincountyil.gov/>

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

5:00 PM

County Board Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Armour, Starr, Blank, Kilduff, Klausing, Rosentreter

ABSENT: Payne

Motion by Blank, seconded by Klausing to seat Kilduff at 5:14 pm. All in favor.
Motion carried.

II. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Energy Transition Community Grant Program Application Process

Dan Fisher, the Treasurer from the City of Gillespie, spoke about the grant opportunity of the closing or scaling back of a energy producer such as a coal mine. This is obviously something that could work for Macoupin based on the former Shay Mine #1 scaling back or closing. The minimum grant looks to be about \$50,000 a sub applicant. Because the mine is unincorporated area of the county, either the county would need to apply or supply a letter of support to any community that would be applying on their own. There are 14 taxing bodies seeking funding and 2 sub applicants who are not taxing districts that are seeking letters of support. There were questions regarding what the money could be used on and if projects that are combined, who would be the main applicant with sub applicants underneath them.

2. Energy Transition Community Grants Letters of Support Approval

Based off the discussion under the previous item, the following motion was made:

Motion by Rosentreter, seconded by Klausing that the county should apply on their own for a grant and would sign any letters of support for other applicants received by the end of business on Monday the 11th.

RESULT:	MOTION TO RECOMMEND [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Molly Rosentreter, Member
SECONDER:	Holly Klausing, Member
AYES:	Armour, Starr, Blank, Kilduff, Klausing, Rosentreter
ABSENT:	Payne

3. Resolution regarding burying of power transmission lines in Macoupin County

Jerry Thomas spoke on this request that since Grain Belt Express wants to run power lines through 9 counties in Illinois. He was requesting the county adopt an ordinance that requires those lines be buried through Macoupin County. There had been a resolution passed already, but he was requesting an ordinance be on

the books. Armour said he wasn't sure this would be enforceable, but it would be nice to have the county to be on record. Klausing discussed she wasn't sure if the legislation would allow for the County to do this. Garrison said he had reviewed the Christian County ordinance and had found no authorizing statute allowing that.

4. **Potential Sale of Property – Trustee Property South of Carlinville**
Whitney Strohmeyer with the County's trustee program discussed the potential sale. The trustee would handle the sale in it's entirety. It would be a sealed bid which could be done as a special sale or at the regular sealed bid auction in late September/early October. The profits from the sale would be split between the taxing districts based on their rates for that property. Since this would be a split of the farmland off from the former land fill site, it would require a survey. The committee felt doing it as part of the regular sale made sense in terms of the existing lease.

Motion by Blank, seconded Klausing to recommend pursuing the sale of the 13 acres through a Trustee sealed bid.

RESULT:	MOTION TO RECOMMEND [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Blank, Member
SECONDER:	Holly Klausing, Member
AYES:	Armour, Starr, Blank, Kilduff, Klausing, Rosentreter
ABSENT:	Payne

5. **Presentation about the Carlinville School District gift of the Aladdin Steel Property**
Armour said that the Carlinville School District had been gifted the old Aladdin Steel property. They were currently seeking options for what to do with the property. Armour would be attending a walk thru with Dr. Schuchman next week and if Board members wanted to attend they were welcome to do so.

Energy Transition Community Grant Program

Illinois' Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) states that, "as part of putting Illinois on a path to 100% renewable energy, the State of Illinois should ensure a just transition to that goal, providing support for the transition of Illinois' communities and workers impacted by closures or reduced use of fossil fuel power plants, nuclear power plants, or coal mines."

Grant Program Overview

The Energy Transition Community Grants were created by the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ([Public Act 102-0662](#)) in 2021. The grants address the economic and social impacts of fossil fuel plant, coal mine, and nuclear plant closures. The first grant cycle was implemented in 2023.



Eligible Grantees

Eligible grantees include local units of government, incl. municipalities, counties, school districts, and other taxing districts within 30 miles of a closed or closing coal, gas, or nuclear plant or coal mine. The plant/mine must have closed or significantly reduced operation within 6 years before the application or will closed or significantly reduce operation within 6 years following the application.

To apply, grantees must have a "letter of support" from the city or village that "hosts" the plant/mine. If the plant/mine is in an unincorporated area, the county becomes the "host" and issues the letters of support.



Funding

The grant program is funded at \$40 million dollars per year. The funding for each eligible entity is determined by a funding formula based on lost tax revenue and lost jobs. All eligible entities receive at least \$50,000.



Grant Administrator

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is in charge of the grant. CEO.CEJACommTransition@illinois.gov

Other key details

- A 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity is expected to be released in early January 2024. The grant program is managed in a two-phase approach.
- An applicant must be registered in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal to apply.
- Grantees are required to solicit community input and consultation with a diverse set of stakeholders.

What is the grant for?

- Research, analysis, and planning regarding economic impact reduced or ceased operations of the regional facility
- Environmental remediation of sites of closed facilities and other local infrastructure improvements
- Marketing of tourist and recreation opportunities
- Business development initiatives to attract, expand, or retain employers
- Workforce development and support for individuals displaced by closures or reduced operations, including training for skilled trades in regional industries
- Investment for construction or improvement in local job training facilities
- Financial assistance for unemployed, underemployed, and/or low-income residents
- Public health initiatives
- Other initiatives to address the economic and social impact of reduced production or closure of regional facilities.