



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit

Peoria County Extension Board Meeting

Minutes – August 26, 2024

The August 2024 Peoria County Extension Board meeting was called to order by Earl Allen, County Extension Director, at 4:50 p.m. on Monday, August 26, 2024, at the Peoria County Courthouse, Rm 403 in Peoria. Board members present were County Extension Director Earl Allen, and Peoria County Board members Brian Elsasser, Jimmy Dillon, and Matt Windish. Others present included Peoria County Administrator Scott Sorrel. Earl welcomed the participants and thanked everyone for attending.

The August 2023 minutes were reviewed. It was moved by Jimmy Dillon and seconded by Brian Elsasser to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

Earl presented and reviewed the draft **FY26 Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit Extension** budget containing the **FY25 Peoria County Board** levy request. The budget presented by Earl requested a flat rate funding level resulting in an expected dollar amount request of \$127,027 plus or minus an increase or decrease depending on the change in EAV (Scott Sorrel indicated an increase reflective of a significant growth in EAV is expected at this time). Discussion by the group followed.

Matt Windish asked questions regarding the level of reserve being held by the local Extension Unit. Earl and Matt exchanged their views on what constitutes an appropriate level of reserve. Earl has been working to draw the reserve down slowly while being fiscally responsible with funds. His drawdown is expected to continue during the next three years to reach his target level.

Matt also expressed his desire for greater visibility and reach of the Peoria County 4-H and SNAP-Education programs. Earl described the unit's three-year ongoing strategy to bring 4-H reach back to pre-COVID levels. Earl also informed the group that SNAP-Ed reach is determined by policies outlined in the Federal USDA grant that funds this program. Several rural schools/communities in Peoria County do not currently qualify, but if they do, Earl plans to offer programming in these schools. Currently, six SNAP-Ed instructors serve Peoria County, two serve Tazewell County, and one each serves Fulton and Mason County.

A motion was made by Jimmy Dillon to recommend a levy request maintaining the Extension levy at \$0.0039/\$100 assessed valuation for FY25 (in FY24, this rate translated into \$127,027) and to forward the levy request to the Peoria County Board Finance Committee with a recommendation to accept the request. The motion was seconded by Brian Elsasser. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Earl Allen, University of Illinois Extension County Director, Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit.