

## Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit

## **Tazewell County Extension Board Committee Meeting**

Minutes - August 15, 2024

Location: Tazewell County Farm Bureau Building; 1505 Valle Vista Drive; Pekin, IL

Attendees: Earl Allen-County Extension Director; Greg Sinn-County Board Member; Mike Deluhery-County Administrator; Emily Rogier and Janine Donahue-Extension Council Members Absent: Dave Mingus, Mike Deppert, Holly Koch and Sue Beeney

Meeting was called to order by Earl Allen at 4:00 PM. Earl welcomed participants and thanked everyone for attending. Each member introduced themselves and their role.

Minutes from the August 8, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved by consensus.

Earl presented and reviewed the **draft FY26 Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit Extension Annual Budget Plan** containing the **FY25 Tazewell County Board levy request of \$148,000**. This represents a 0% increase compared to the FY24 levy request. Earl indicated the levy request for the following year might be a slight percentage increase to continue to move the unit to the pre-pandemic levy request amount.

Earl discussed the matching funds that the state provides and the possibility of additional monies from the state to support the growing Ag Business program. The FMPT County Extension has just hired Tara Heath as the Crops Educator, and she will begin this position August 16, 2024. Earl discussed her background in farming and her educational background. Kevin, the Ag Business and Farm Management educator has experienced success with his community programming. Over 200 attendees participated in the Landowners conference that was held at ICC and organized by Kevin. Earl discussed the success of the SNAP-Ed program and the benefits of this program for the Tazewell County community. This program is federally funded and not part of the proposed budget presented today.

Greg discussed his attendance at the 2024 Tazewell County 4-H fair. He viewed project entries and talked with youth attending the fair, and it was his impression that the 4-H fair was more impressive this year than in previous years. Earl discussed the past impact of the COVID epidemic on the 4-H fair, and the efforts to improve participation. Earl is awaiting the data on the 4-H fair attendance and final numbers for annual club participation which are determined at the end of August each year.

Greg advocated for granting Extension a percentage increase this year, but due to the upcoming expenditures of a large construction plan for the city of Pekin in the upcoming year, Mike indicated that the Extension levy request of a 0% increase was most appropriate.

## A motion was made by Greg and seconded by Emily to forward the budget and a \$148,000 levy request to the Tazewell County Board Finance Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to be brought before the meeting, the group adjourned at 4:34 PM.

Minutes recorded by Janine Donahue, Extension Council secretary, and submitted by Earl Allen, County Extension director.

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