

PETE DUNCAN
MACOUPIN COUNTY CLERK
P.O. BOX 107 CARLINVILLE, IL 62626

MACOUPIN COUNTY PUTS "CHECKBOOK" ONLINE

Announcement made at February Board Meeting as a follow-up to several "open government" moves made previously in January

County News: February 17, 2012

Carlinville - At the County Board's January meeting, Board Chairman Andy Manar and County Clerk Pete Duncan made an announcement that the County would begin to expand their definition of "public documents" by placing thousands of county records on the county's public website. This past week, Duncan and Manar discussed actions that continue to build upon their moves to facilitate an open government and allow taxpayers an easier path to public records - the establishment of a process to put the "checkbook" online monthly.

"It is obvious to me that we have to continue to find ways to provide more access to all records that are public," said Manar. "And in terms of public records, nothing is more important to people today than how their tax dollars are being spent. So with the addition of these monthly spending reports, a huge step is being taken and I commend our County Clerk again on taking this action conservatively at no cost."

Duncan explained that he plans to add the "checkbook summaries" online each month following the meeting of the County Board and has added historical monthly spending summaries dating back to 1996. The spending summaries indicate monthly spending figures by each office of county government and are broken down into specific spending categories. In addition to checkbook summaries, the monthly posted reports also house information on county revenue, various caseload information, and public official and employee salaries.

"There is rarely a day that passes when my office does not receive a request to make county spending information available to the public," said Duncan. "Putting these spending summaries online really amounts to the first step to opening the county's finances to every person in the county."

In January, at no cost to taxpayers, the County enlisted thousands of resolutions, ordinances, and meeting minutes dating back to the early 1970s to a newly created public website (www.macoupincode.com) and also added the most recent county audit report in its entirety to its county website. The County already maintains other various reports on its website concerning quarterly and annual reports for certain county-held funds.

-###-