

NEWS RELEASE
MACOUPIN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

**COUNTY CLERK AND BOARD CHAIRMAN
TO SEEK SPECIAL AUDIT**

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2 pages*

Carlinville - Macoupin County Clerk Pete Duncan and County Board Chairman Andrew Manar will be asking for a special audit of specific accounts and financial procedures in the County Clerk's office for calendar years 2009 and 2010.

"Unfortunately, we've come across matters that need an independent assessment," said Duncan. "Since assuming office, there are discrepancies that we have recently become aware of that need immediate attention."

While the County Board is responsible for setting budget amounts and policies related to the County budget, the County Clerk's office is responsible for nearly all of the daily accounting and retention of paper records, such as bills, payments, checks, ledgers, etc.

"The County Board through the leadership of the Finance Committee has taken great strides to maintain a balanced budget since the mine closures and through the national economic downturn," said Duncan. "Chairman Manar and I would not be asking for this measure if it weren't warranted."

"State Statute gives County Boards the authority to perform special audits when office holders change hands. In my opinion, a thorough independent audit is a prudent course of action at this time," said Manar.

Manar noted that the audit would be an expense that the County Board had not planned for.

"If the outcome of the audit is having the Board and Clerk's offices take steps to correct things that were not done properly, then the expense is worth it, and it certainly our obligation to the people of Macoupin County to follow through on this," said Manar.

"I compliment Clerk Duncan for his assessment and for bringing to the Board's attention these urgent matters. It is my hope that a professional third party will give us a full assessment of what needs to be addressed so we can solve the problems," said Manar.

The Illinois Counties Code states the following:

55 ILCS 5/6-31005. Funds managed by county officials. In addition to any other audit required by this Division, the County Board shall cause an audit to be made

of all funds and accounts under the management or control of a county official as soon as possible after such official leaves office for any reason. The audit shall be filed with the county board not later than 6 months after the official leaves office. The audit shall be conducted and the audit report shall be prepared and filed with the Chairman of the County Board by a person lawfully qualified to practice public accounting as regulated by "An Act to regulate the practice of public accounting and to repeal certain acts therein named", approved July 22, 1943 as amended.

As used in this Section, "county official" means any elected county officer or any officer appointed by the county board who is charged with the management or control of any county funds; and "audit" means a post facto examination of books, documents, records, and other evidence relating to the obligation, receipt, expenditure or use of public funds of the county, including governmental operations relating to such obligations, receipt, expenditure or use.

Duncan took office in December 2010.

For more in formation, please contact Chairman Manar or Clerk Duncan.

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