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**COUNTY CLERK AND COUNTY BOARD TAKE MAJOR
STEPS TOWARD OPEN GOVERNMENT**

County records dating as far back as 1972 added to new public website; most recent county audit now available online in its entirety

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Carlenville - Evidenced by the expansion of the Freedom of Information Act, it is clear that members of the general public are gaining more and more access to all public records much to the call for more "open government" processes. Macoupin County Clerk Pete Duncan and Board Chairman Andy Manar took recent action to take things a step further.

At the January meeting of the County Board, County Clerk Duncan made note of the release of www.macoupincode.com which now houses **thousands** of resolutions and ordinances adopted by the County Board, dating back as far as 1973. In addition, recorded minutes of the County Board meetings **from December 1972 forward** are also posted on the website.

"Not only are all of these documents truly open to the public, but my office was able to take this action without spending one additional dime of taxpayer money," Duncan told the Board. "All of these county records will now be available to the general public at their fingertips and won't require them to go through the hassle of coming to the Courthouse or going through the process of making a formal request for the documents."

Manar applauded the County Clerk and his office for taking this action, saying, "Macoupin County is demonstrating through actions like this that our county government is and should remain completely open to the taxpayers on a daily basis."

Manar also noted that the Board office recently undertook several changes to ensure accountability and openness to the public by posting the most recent county audit online in its entirety. Manar said that upon his inception as Board Chairman, he made it a priority to ensure the financials be provided on the County website and such has been done dating back to the county's audit for the fiscal year beginning in 2001.

"This year, the decision was made to post the 153 page document on the website in its entirety for public viewing," said Manar. "For the past eight fiscal years, we have posted financials and highlights of each audit and allowed any member of the public to view a copy of the full audit in the Board office; this year, we bridged that gap and made it

easier for anyone to have access to the County's financial information."

A copy of the county's most recent audit ending August 31, 2010 can be found at www.macoupincountyil.gov/budget.htm.

In related news, Manar noted that pursuant to a recent amendment to the Open Meetings Act, the County will soon post on its website the compensation packages for any and all county employees earning more than \$75,000 and \$150,000 thresholds. Though the information is not required to be posted publicly until six days prior to the approval of the compensation package or annual budget, Manar said the plan is to add the information to the website by the end of the month.

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