



MACON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

2405 N. Woodford St. Decatur, IL 62526

217-424-1404 FAX 217-424-2516

MINUTES

March 28, 2012

The Macon County Transportation Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. located at the Macon County Office Building, 141 S. Main St., Decatur, IL.

Transportation Committee Members Present:

David Williams

Gary Minich

Kevin Meachum

Mark Wicklund

Patty Cox

Don Westerman

Jay Dunn

Susanna Zimmerman

Transportation Committee Members Absent:

Bryan Smith

Highway Department Support Staff Present:

Bruce Bird, County Engineer

Amanda Askew, Office Assistant

Mark Funk, Road Supervisor

Other County Departments Staff Present:

Randy Waks, Assistant State's Attorney

Others Present:

Matt Foster, BGM Engineering

Charles Hunsinger, BGM Engineering

Theresa Churchill, Herald & Review

Dave Geitl, Harristown Township Road Commissioner

Mike Stacey, Niantic Township Road Commissioner

Brian Gillman, Illini Township Road Commissioner

Kevin Bird, Hickory Point Township Road Commissioner

Bob Rasho

Brad McCool, Landowner

Teresa McCool, Landowner

Jack Shaw

Larry Reed

Steve Grimm

Harold Gilberts, Forsyth Mayor

Call to Order:

This meeting was called to order by Vice Chair David Williams at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

David Williams

Mark Wicklund

Susanna Zimmerman

Gary Minich

Jay Dunn

Don Westerman

Kevin Meachum

Patty Cox

Approval of the Minutes:

Patty Cox made a motion to approve the minutes from February 22, 2012, seconded by Susanna Zimmerman. Motion Carried 8-0

Approval of the Bills:

Kevin Meachum made a motion to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Gary Minich. Motion Carried 8-0

No Public Comments

Old Business:

Resolution appropriating funds for the CH 20 Engineering Design project in Forsyth:

Motion made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Gary Minich. Don Westerman stated I am upset with the Committee and myself because the procedures we have to bring forth with these Resolutions are so segmented. When we start a project we have no clue of what they entail. Someone comes up with an idea and we allow some engineering funds to be spent. At that time we don't know what we are getting into and we don't have a plan or an estimate of the cost. Then we get to the engineering, and this time I was amazed at what the engineering was. We never have a real vote on the project as a whole. It is segmented. Tonight we are addressing the question of additional engineering overruns before we even start the project. Eventually if this approves we still will not have an up and down vote on the project as a whole. The first estimate I heard was \$6 million dollars then it was a \$6 - \$8 million dollar project, now it is an \$11 million dollar project. In ten years I do not think we have a clue how much this is going to cost. I have been a party to this for two years and the \$6 million dollars we talked about at the very beginning is now at least \$11 million and at that inflation rate it will be \$20 million in ten years. Mark Wicklund stated I agree with Mr. Westerman on this. Are we talking about County Highway 20 in this Resolution? Bruce Bird stated when we try to start a project we will take a look at it and a comparable project and come up with a cost based upon what the current costs are. We look at the length and the scope of the project. We don't know for sure the cost until we do the actual engineering. Invariably, especially in a reconstruction project you will find things underground that people never knew existed or you knew it was there but it ends up being a conflict. Therefore, there is a potential for cost overruns. In this case the ones that were itemized were: putting together the Project Development Report, a Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report (IDOT was not happy with the crosswalk at US 51). IDOT also requested a second Public Involvement Meeting and we also had to go door to door to several of the Residents and have discussions with them. All of these items added other costs to the engineering design. Trust me from my standpoint it is very frustrating when you think you have a pretty good idea on the costs, but then IDOT or the Feds say it's not good enough you have to do this or that. That has been an ongoing battle for decades for people like me. That is the reason for the increased cost on this project.

Kevin Meachum stated in 2005 asphalt was \$50 per ton they are projecting that it will be \$110 per ton this summer. The price of asphalt alone has doubled, that is not counting the increases in concrete cement. All those prices have gone up also probably 40% over the last few years. That is driving this market insane. The asphalt producers in this Community will not bid prices 30 days out because they do not know what the oil price will be. It has been very difficult to forecast costs with the economy in the shape it is in.

Transportation Committee Minutes
March 28, 2012

Jay Dunn stated we have been looking at this for some time. I have driven around the areas; we have a good road out there. I have a problem with this being called an Intergovernmental Agreement when it looks like we are bailing out them for problems created by others. I don't know if it was the Developers or Forsyth but we have people involved in this that are protesting their Tax Assessments who created this problem that we have to spend tax dollars to bail out. I have a problem with that. I am not saying I am not going to vote for it, I probably will, but I want to know what Forsyth and the engineering company are going to do to prevent this. I see they already have other subdivisions going up in the area. This is a problem that we should not be looking at if it was the original installation that was not done right. We are working on a mitigation plan if this would not have a bearing on this project at some point as far as grant money to help offset some of this cost. It is a County wide program to create a hazardous mitigation plan where flooding would be one of the objects that would be important to all of us. I wonder if any of that has been thought about in this process. Maybe someone from Forsyth or Mr. Hunsinger can answer that. I would like to know a little more about both of those issues.

Mayor Harold Gilbert, 240 Magnolia Drive of Forsyth: I am surprised that after all this time that all of you were not cognizant of this. When it was suggested to us that we enter into an Agreement with the County to work on this problem, we were aware that the County had already scheduled to redo Forsyth like they did through Oreana. Our thought was that if we are going to do any kind of drainage work it is going to affect the construction of County Highway 20, so those designs need to be done in parallel. We encouraged BGM to talk to Mr. Bird about the possibility of an Intergovernmental Agreement so that the engineering could be worked together, so that whoever did their work first would not interfere with the future work of the other project. What the Village has always done in the past, if there is a project with a private Developer or whoever, if in the process of a Developer doing their project for instance, if it is a 4 inch water main that they are going to extend to a development and the Village can see the need for in the future for that to extend to other portions that need to be an 8 inch line we will have the project bid at the 4 inch size and the 8 inch size and the Village picks up the additional cost to put in the 8 inch water main. It does not cost the Developer anymore money. That has always been the intent of the Village that the County's portion of the cost to put in the road and to work on drainage would remain the same. The additional cost to the ultra storm drain and retention ponds would be picked up by the Village. How Chuck and Kevin came up with the 50/50 split on the engineering fees, I will let them defend that. The Village has supported this all along. We have agreed to pay for the additional cost that is being presented to you. Our motion was made in such affect that we will pay our half if you pay your half. We are trying very hard to make this as easy as it can be for both parties, plus any private property owners that are involved.

Patty Cox asked if the question had been brought up before about removing those homes. Wouldn't it be cheaper to tear those homes down that were built on those flood plains? Mayor Harold Gilbert answered that is technically not a flood plain. Possibly there was an engineering problem when the development was laid out. I am assured that when they calculated how much water to count on to disburse through the system they probably were not calculating how much water comes over County Highway 20 when we have an unusual rainfall. There are more than five or six houses involved in this. Patty Cox responded I do not think it would be over \$11 Million dollars. Mayor Harold Gilbert stated it is not going to cost the County \$11 million dollars. It is not going to cost them half of that. It is going to cost them what their road project is going to cost. Patty Cox replied the road has already been repaved and the bridge redone. Mayor Harold Gilbert replied the bridges are put in at the right elevation so that they are at the height for the new construction. We are not telling you that you have to do it six months from now we just want to work this project around your project.

Brad McCool, 943 Jacobs Way of Forsyth: I am on the other side of the poles. I am on the north side of County Highway 20. I have been hearing that we are going to have retention ponds, which is no fun to be working around. We are talking less ground to farm, which is getting fewer every year, everywhere. We need all the ground we can get. We have been going along fine without them and I do not see why our farm has to have the retention pond in order to help the problem across the street. Kevin Meachum stated if I understand this correct the County will not be building the retention ponds that will be all negotiated through the Village. We are only looking at upgrading the road. I understand your concerns but I think you need to be talking to the Village and letting them know your feelings. Brad McCool replied okay. Jay Dunn stated I would like to ask Chuck Hunsinger a couple of questions. Chuck have you been involved in this project personally, or is some other members of the staff? Chuck Hunsinger, BGM & Associates, responded I am not the Design Engineer; Matt Foster with our company is. From a Manager standpoint I have been involved. Jay Dunn stated it seems like north of the McCool's there is some ravines that I would think would be more conducive to a borrow pit or whatever you call it, than prime farm land. Maybe I am off a mile or two. Dave isn't the Moser property north of the McCools? Dave Williams responded that is on W. Wise Road it is commonly known as the old Christmas Tree Farm. Jay stated there was quite a bit of ground in there. Dave Williams stated that there was some land I believe that was actually in the flood plain because it precluded construction. Jay stated I was just curious if they had looked at any land north, rather than prime land that is right next door to the road. Chuck Hunsinger stated if you are looking at trying to slow down the water on Stevens Creek, it would certainly help that situation. Along County Highway 20 it's not just the McCool property, it extends through town to the east side. The natural drainage way is through the town to Stevens Creek. On Mr. Westerman's property it does not drain very well and does pond in that corner. There are several places that are just not adequate drainage for large storms. We talked to the Village about alternatives to just correct those problems. The County had a long range plan of updating County Highway 20 through Forsyth like they did Oreana. The idea was that if the County is going to be doing County Highway work and there is drainage in the ditches and inlets that the County does not want water going over their roads either. Forsyth has a drainage problem that is much bigger than that, and it is not just the McCool property it is all along County Highway 20. If we can work together maybe we can save everybody money. The intent was that the County would pay for their cost of the road. As far as the 50/50 split on the engineering when we started the design the costs were not well defined. So we decided on the 50/50 split and we will go from there. I am sorry we have gotten in the middle of a controversy here. The question tonight is we did some engineering working for the County and the Village that was outside of our quote. We are just asking for an increase in our engineering. As far as the long term plan for County Highway 20 and the drainage we don't have a lot to say about that. The engineering is done so any work that the County or the Village does will not conflict and could be used together. Jay Dunn stated I plan on supporting the Resolution to pay I am just concerned and want to make sure that in the future Forsyth is aware of the drainage problems more so than they have in the past. Everybody in the County is trying to preserve farm land. I did look at Don's property and I understand that probably would be okay for a basin. It is low and not prime flat land. With the McCool's it seems like there is an area north of there that would be more conducive in outing the water basins. Chuck Hunsinger stated unfortunately it has to be along where the storm sewer goes. That would not function the way it would have to. You put the detention basins in to slow the water down as it runs out. You could put a much larger pipe in to carry it all without detention basins. That could adversely affect Steven's Creek and the cost. There is a balance between how big the detention basins are and how many storm sewers are necessary to carry the water without a detention basin. Jay stated I do not know if you are aware of the mitigation process and the possibility of some grants down the road for flood control

that should open up some potential Federal Funds to mitigate flooding. Chuck Hunsinger stated the one thing you asked about Forsyth policies, it is much like the County they have been burned in the past and as time goes on they are continually working on their Zoning Ordinances to improve the situation. Forsyth is fortunate to have growth where other areas may not have had growth. They are experiencing some of the problems as a result of that growth. Mark Wicklund stated we are focusing on the Forsyth area and the McCool property and north of there. The one thing that concerns me is whether or not you have looked south of the Forsyth area to see if there are going to be problems down the Stevens Creek basin area somewhere within the City limits of Decatur. Chuck Hunsinger replied we have looked at this. The County, City, Park District, and the Village have looked at this problem over the years. In order to cut back on the volume of flow or the rate of flow down through the City of Decatur you will need to go further up into the drainage basins of Stevens Creek. There were ideas about terracing the drainage basin to slow the water, green ways like trees to slow the water, and more field tiles to drain or lower the water level is another idea. That will be a big project involving the County and other Communities as well. That is beyond the scope of this project, but it has been looked at. Bruce stated this goes back to the question Patty had about when are going to be doing the roadway project. Between Hap and Chuck it has been laid out pretty well. The roadway project will not be done at the same time as the storm sewer project. The intent for designing them together is that when we do the road project we come in and it just drops right in. It is frustrating that something gets built and then in ten years you have to do something else and you have to tear out something that has been there for ten years. It should last about fifty years, because you are trying to get something to fit in. This road was paved five years ago. We should get at least ten more years of service out of that roadway and I plan on getting at least ten years out of it. If the price of asphalt is still \$110 a ton it may be more than that. I want to get the life out of the dollars that we put out there before we do the road project. But when we get around to doing it we have a plan ready to go and it will fit like a glove. There will be no waste involved in getting that inserted and put in there. To me that was a very important concept when we started this project.

Kevin Bird, 3110 N. Westlawn of Decatur: I am the Highway Commissioner at Hickory Point Township I would like to bring this fact that they are talking about the flood pain of County Highway 20. I have two bridges north of there that this last summer I had a significant amount of money I had to spend on them because of the flooding there and the backing up onto my bridges. I think they need to look at not just the pipe size, they have got to stop letting these subdivisions go along the creek because they create a lot of issues and problems. I would really appreciate it if in the future if they can correspond and look at the things upstream and not just in the middle of Forsyth. I did spend significant money that Townships don't have. Don Westerman stated I would like to thank Bruce Bird for his explanation of my question and I sympathize with him. Also, I would like to thank Mr. Foster and Mr. Hunsinger who was gracious enough to meet with you and me last week to come up with some alternatives. Unfortunately I do not think we came up with any. I had several suggestions that would help alleviate the situation and it was concurred that it would not be a satisfactory answer for a hundred year flood. I do not know if my suggestions were technically correct. We didn't make any headway on any alternative plans so we are back to this one. I would like to offer this amendment. I believe that we incurred this bill and I would like for us to pay it, but enough is enough. This is our money we are Citizens of the United States whether it is a Federal Grant it's the State of Illinois, Motor Fuel Tax, County money, or Forsyth money it is our money. We are spending an awful lot of money that we do not even have. We do not know where we are going to get it all and we do not know what the final is. I would like to offer this amendment that after this Resolution as printed we add that this will be the last

Transportation Committee Minutes
March 28, 2012

and final appropriation for any and all expenses related to this County Highway 20 Forsyth Road project on the Counties behalf. Motion by Don Westerman, seconded by Mark Wicklund.

Jay Dunn stated so ten years from now when that road is a piece of crap we will not be able to do anything with it. Randy Waks stated you are basically stating the opinion of this particular Board. You do not want to have to expend any further funds, but a Board down the road will not be bound by this. But it is making a statement of today. Mayor Harold Gilbert asked Don if he meant any expense or just engineering expenses. Don Westerman replied I mean any expense. If Forsyth wants to do it I have no say so. Mayor Harold Gilbert stated I just wanted to clarify. David Williams called for a Roll Call vote. Jay Dunn stated I am still in a question here if somehow that road is damaged two months from now we can't go out and repair it. Randy Waks stated if it requires a further vote from this Board, this Board can always change its direction. Don Westerman stated I said this Forsyth/County Highway Road project meaning the project that is before us today. I did not intend on being encompassing for 1,000 years. Jay Dunn asked Bruce if this was an \$11 million dollar project just for the road or is that the total project. Bruce replied that is the total project. Jay Dunn asked how much is for the road. Bruce replied the drainage west of 51 is about \$1.5 million. Matt Foster from BGM Engineering explained that the \$1.5 million dollar estimate would have been for part of what we ended up doing with theorizing some potential splits of the project, breaking it up into smaller pieces. The \$1.5 million was for the pond that is immediately north of Phillips Circle and the out fall pipe to get it to Steven Creek. Bruce stated it would be \$1.5 million for the trunk storm sewer and a drainage solution. Matt Foster replied that is about 1/3 of the main trunk, that main trunk for future would end up having to run all the way up a 1/2 mile past Route 51 to the east. That is still a very large pipe that has to go in. Don Westerman asked Mr. Foster is not the answer \$4.5 million for the road itself. Matt Foster replied I do not specifically have it broken down. Without having the numbers on me I cannot say one way or the other. The only things we broke out were to pull drainage pieces out. We never sat down with a single road project.

Roll Call Vote on the Amendment:

David Williams	No	Kevin Meachum	No
Jay Dunn	No	Don Westerman	Yes
Gary Minich	No	Patty Cox	Yes
Mark Wicklund	Yes	Susanna Zimmerman	Yes

Vote Tied 4-4

David Williams stated I believe with a tied vote the Amendment fails, so we will move on to the original Resolution.

Roll Call Vote on Original Resolution:

David Williams	Yes	Kevin Meachum	Yes
Jay Dunn	Yes	Don Westerman	No
Gary Minich	Yes	Patty Cox	Yes
Mark Wicklund	Yes	Susanna Zimmerman	Yes

Motion Carried 7-1

New Business:

Resolution approving the Macon County Sign Maintenance Policy:

Motion made by Patty Cox, seconded by Kevin Meachum. Motion Carried 8-0

Resolution approving the purchase of one ¾ Ton Pickup Truck:

Motion made by Gary Minich, seconded by Patty Cox. Motion Carried 8-0

Resolution approving the purchase of one ½ Ton Pickup Truck:

Motion made by Gary Minich, seconded by Kevin Meachum. Motion carried 8-0

Resolution approving the purchase of two Rotary Flex Wing Cutters:

Motion made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Patty Cox. Motion carried 8-0

Resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Long Creek covering the repair of a bridge on Firehouse Road:

Motion made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Patty Cox. Motion carried 8-0

County Engineer's Report:

The County Highway 30 project west of Elwin will be closed April 9, 2012 for the duration of the project. I am guessing that the project will be done around September.

The north bridge on Baltimore had the deck poured last week and is curing right now. They have to pour the sidewalls and they have a lot of embankment work to do. The completion date for both bridges are set up for August, but they are ahead of schedule, depending on if the weather stays nice.

Our guys have been doing ditch work, today is the last day to use the machine. Mark Funk stated we are running into the fact that the farmers are getting ready to plant, but we may try it one other place. We are going to see if we can load into a truck, we will see how that works.

Bruce stated we are progressing forward with the Country Club Road project. I have three more parcels of Right-of-Way to acquire. After I get that we can look to advertise and send out bids for that project. We would like to get that started this year.

The bridge on County Highway 25 north of Argenta is on the IDOT June letting. That will probably start about September.

There is also a bridge on Lincoln Memorial Parkway that is on the June letting also.

We have a lot to keep ourselves busy. We have a few repair jobs on bridges that you have heard about. This will be one of the busiest summers from a construction standpoint we have had in a long time.

David Williams stated I am assuming our line items are in excellent condition as far as our overtime and our materials for the winter. Bruce replied yes. Tomorrow is the deadline for ordering salt. Mark and I were trying to figure out how much salt we could pack into the shed because it is already rather full. We want to make sure we get as much in there as possible. Come next winter we will have the largest amount of salt, so we probably won't see a flake all winter long.

Transportation Committee Minutes
March 28, 2012

Mark Wicklund asked if the mowers were ready to go and have you already started mowing grass.
Bruce replied no not yet.

No Miscellaneous Business

Closed Session:

Motion made by Kevin Meachum to go into Closed Session, seconded by Patty Cox.
Motion Carried 8-0

Motion made by Kevin Meachum to reopen from Closed Session, seconded by Mark Wicklund.
Motion Carried 8-0

Adjourn:

Kevin Meachum made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Don Westerman. Motion Carried 8-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

***The next Transportation Meeting held at the Macon County Office Building will be
Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.***

Minutes submitted by:
Kathy Gerhold & Amanda Askew
Macon County Highway Department