



# MACON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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## MINUTES

July 25, 2012

The Macon County Transportation Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, July 25, 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

Kevin Meachum

Don Westerman

Jay Dunn

Susanna Zimmerman

Gary Minich

### Transportation Committee Members Absent:

Bryan Smith

Mark Wicklund

Patty Cox

### Highway Department Support Staff Present:

Bruce Bird, County Engineer

Mark Funk, Road Supervisor

Amanda Askew, Office Assistant

### Call to Order:

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

### Roll Call:

Mark Wicklund

Kevin Meachum

Jay Dunn

David Williams

Susanna Zimmerman

Gary Minich

### Approval of the Minutes:

Kevin Meachum made a motion to approve the minutes from June 27, 2012, seconded by Gary Minich. Motion Carried 6-0

### Approval of the Bills:

Kevin Meachum made a motion to accept the bills as presented, seconded by Susanna Zimmerman. Motion Carried 6-0

### No Public Comments:

### No Old Business:

### New Business:

#### ***Resolution appropriating funds for Right of Way appraisal and acquisition on the Wyckles Road (CH 41) White Topping Project:***

Bruce explained that there was somewhere between 35 and 40 parcels over the two sections for this project. These funds are intended to hire a firm to do this work for us. We are using Federal Funds, so if there is a value over \$10,000 we have to get it appraised by a Federally approved appraiser, which this firm is and has one on staff. They will handle everything for us, both the ones above and below \$10,000. Kevin Meachum asked how much farm land do you expect to take over the 40 parcels. Bruce replied we are only buying an additional 10-15 feet off the sides. That is just to cut the ditches and to make them flatter and safer. It is probably going to be about 10-15 acres, but they will be long skinny

parcels. This project runs from Rt. 36 all the way up to 121. Motion made by Kevin Meachum to approve this resolution, seconded by Gary Minich. Motion Carried 6-0

***Resolution appropriating funds for additional engineering expenses on the Country Club Road (CH 26) Reconstruction Project:***

Bruce explained that this is the current project we are doing on Country Club Rd. We are getting the final plans put together. There were a couple of items on there we had to update and bring up to new specs, which this is intended to cover those costs. Don Westerman asked if it would be less cumbersome to have a more accurate estimate to start with. Bruce replied usually you can go out there and take a look at the job and get a good idea based upon what a previous project cost to do the engineering and get a good estimate. Invariably, what pops up is all the utilities, especially those that are buried. My whole time being an Engineer there has never been an urban project where all the utilities were where they were supposed to be. We hire them to do the engineering and that included contacting the utilities and getting an accurate location on where they are and to come up with a design within the parameters the Feds have. You always have some conflicts and it almost always happens with stuff that is underground. Don Westerman asked if it would be a benefit to add those perspective costs in to begin with. Bruce replied we have done that to a certain extent in the past. I was strongly encouraged to try to be a lot more accurate and negotiate out prior costs. If there are additional expenses or needs from the Department the Finance Committee has always been consistent about saying if you need extra funds come back and ask us for it. This mirrors that procedure. Kevin Meachum agreed with Bruce. There are so many unknowns anymore in the ground. If we put money in it then the Contractor looks at it like it is a piggy bank to load up and make money on us, at the Tax Payer's expense. Bruce stated this is the final wrap up on this project. We are doing the onsite engineering so there should not be any additional expenses on this particular project. Kevin Meachum made the motion to approve the resolution as presented by the County Engineer, seconded by Susanna Zimmerman. Motion Carried 6-0

***Resolution appropriating funds for additional engineering expenses on the Firehouse Road Bridge Rehabilitation Project:***

Bruce stated for this bridge project we had the IDOT bridge office do a review. They came back with several suggestions that they wanted to change and improve on the proposed design. This is to cover the upgrades to the plans. Motion made by Susanna Zimmerman to approve the resolution appropriating funds, seconded by Kevin Meachum. Motion carried 6-0

***Resolution to dispose of equipment:***

Bruce stated that we have a 1996 AGCO Allis Tractor we are looking to dispose of. This is the only AGCO we have in our mowing fleet and the parts are getting hard to come by. It will be offered to all Townships and Municipalities first. Jay Dunn stated where it says "as he sees fit" I would like in the future for that to be proper language. Don Westerman suggested "in accordance with Board policy." Bruce replied I do not think the policy for disposing of equipment is written down anywhere, but we could write it down in here and set it. Jay Dunn replied we could write a policy and have it say "as per Highway Department Policy." Bruce agreed. Motion made by Jay Dunn to approve the resolution appropriating funds, seconded by Kevin Meachum. Motion carried 6-0

**County Engineer's Report:**

Bruce stated regarding the fore mentioned Firehouse Road Bridge. The low bid Contractor was Sangamo Construction out of Springfield. They are looking at getting started in the middle of August. They think this bridge will take about 3 weeks to complete.

I talked to Cory today about the bridge on Washington St. he has not received any kind of comments back from the Bridge Office. If we do not hear anything by Friday we will advertise it.

The Baltimore bridges are open.

They have started on the Country Club Road project. They are getting ready to start forming curb at the south end. They have to get that open by August 20, 2012 so that parents and kids can get into Muffley school.

Friday they will be paving on County Highway 30. They have got all the dirt trimmed down to grade. I don't encourage anybody to drive through there it is still a construction zone but it looks completely different than what was out there before. It will be about 10 days worth of paving to get the base up then they will do all the other stuff on the side before they do the final surface course on the top.

Our guys started oil & chip work on Monday. We will get most of the basic chip seal work done off the bat. Then we will drop back to that section of School Road to do the blade mixing.

The bridge north of Argenta will start the middle to end of August.

There are a couple of Township bridges that we will be letting this fall too.

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Don Westerman asked could you explain to us why Commissioner Paul Heft is concerned about the Counties portion of the bridge money if they get the referendum passed. Is that a concern? Bruce replied I think what he is concerned about is the ability for the State to come through with the State and Federal Funds that we rely on. David Williams agreed. For the rest of the Committee the Road Commissioner in Austin Township, Paul Heft had a meeting regarding how Austin Township is the wettest Township in Macon County and they have the most bridges. Bruce stated between their bridges and our bridges they have 5 bridges closed and another 5 that have weight limits on them. David Williams stated that was my opinion that he was concerned that the way the State has withheld funds. Don Westerman asked should he be? Is there something I am missing? Bruce replied if you go by past history we have never had a problem of them passing through the stuff that we need. About 5 or 6 years ago the state of Michigan ceased giving any of that 10% of Federal Funds to the Counties and Municipalities and kept it for their own off system roads. It caused a lot of problems against the local governments up there. There is a precedent of other States doing that. The State of Illinois has never done that. The folks at IDOT can say they will never do that, but if somebody administratively from the Governor's Office says you have to; then they will. Don Westerman stated so as far as we are concerned if we get the funds we have to use it on that project. Bruce replied I always plan with the Road Commissioner if they have the money to match that. It does not do either one of us any good if they don't. From my standpoint as long as there is a need out there and we have the money programmed and IDOT says the money will be there that is when we move forward with any project. When we choose a project it should not be a problem as long as he has the match money. He defiantly has needs out there and his bridges are at the top of list.

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**Closed Session:**

Motion made by Jay Dunn to go into Closed Session, seconded by Kevin Meachum. Motion carried 6-0

Kevin Meachum made motion to come out of Closed Session, seconded by Gary Minich. Motion carried 6-0

Kevin Meachum stated I would like to make a recommendation to hire the two candidates that the Macon County Board has selected with the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer. David Williams asked if we have a consensus. The Transportation Committee agreed.

**Adjourn:**

Jay Dunn made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Susanna Zimmerman. Motion Carried 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

***The next Transportation Meeting held at the Macon County Office Building will be Wednesday, August 22, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.***

Minutes submitted by:

Kathy Gerhold & Amanda Askew

Macon County Highway Department