



MACON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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MINUTES

April 25, 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	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:

Theresa Churchill, Herald & Review
Allison Copenbarger, Herald & Review

Call to Order:

This meeting was called to order by Chair Bryan Smith at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

David Williams	Mark Wicklund	Gary Minich
Jay Dunn	Don Westerman	Bryan Smith
Kevin Meachum		

Approval of the Minutes:

Kevin Meachum made a motion to approve the minutes from March 28, 2012, seconded by David Williams. Motion Carried 7-0

Patty Cox and Suzanna Zimmerman were present at 5:31 pm.

Approval of the Bills:

Kevin Meachum made a motion to approve the bills as presented, seconded by Mark Wicklund. Motion Carried 9-0

Public Comments

Theresa Churchill with the Herald & Review introduced a new reporter, Allison Copenbarger, which will be covering the County Board items.

No Old Business:

New Business:

Resolution appropriating funds for Section 11-0000-00-GM the 2011 MFT General Maintenance Project:

Motion made by David Williams, seconded by Patty Cox. Motion Carried 9-0

Resolution appropriating funds for Section 11-00239-00-DR, the 2011 General Drainage Improvement Project:

Motion made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Mark Wicklund. Motion Carried 9-0

County Engineer's Report:

Bruce Bird informed the Committee that all the contract projects are underway.

County Highway 30 west of Elwin is closed. They have milled most of the road surface off and will start with the earthwork.

Bridges on County Highway 7:

North Bridge – the deck is done. The parapets were supposed to be poured today. They have been doing a lot of earthwork out there. They are not even halfway done on the north end with the dirt work.

South Bridge - Schmidt will be setting the last span on Friday and that will enable them to pour the deck next week. There isn't that much earthwork to be done on this job. The progress on the South Bridge is just a few weeks behind the North Bridge.

Bryan Smith asked about the Contractors being ahead of schedule because of the mild winter. Bruce explained the Contractor's schedule show the bridges are to be completed in August. They are about a month ahead of schedule right now, but weather permitting of course we could lose that easily if we have a week of rain and cool temperatures. So we are still telling people August is the completion date. But if we get past these next few weeks and they get the earthwork done they will pretty much be home free.

Tomorrow is Bring Your Kid to Work Day

David Williams asked if anything was going on with the West Washington Street Bridge to the west of Maroa. Bruce replied I just received a report from the Consultant; they have given their recommendation on how to repair it. They are waiting on approval from the Bridge Office in Springfield. They bounced around a couple of ideas to try to get it done. It is at the mercy of the Bridge Office right now. Hopefully within a couple of weeks we will get some kind of an answer from them. David Williams stated I thought we already had our approvals on that. We were looking at a way they repair them in Europe? Bruce replied it is a question of whether the Bridge Office would allow just the sheet piling by itself with a concrete cap or sheet piling with extra H piles driven behind it. They were very leery about having just one method of support as opposed to two. It was something that they were digging their heels in about. It looks like we are going to compromise to get it moved forward. There was one Gentleman in the Bridge Office that was adamantly refusing to consider it. David Williams asked at one time didn't we have approval from the State to do this method. Bruce replied yes, and then they came back and changed their mind. David Williams agreed and then I thought they went back to

the original focus and said we could do it. Bruce stated they want to do it as a test example, but their version of a test example would probably push back any kind of construction this year and therefore wouldn't happen till next year. We made a conscious decision to go ahead and move forward. It is because of the way the Bridge Office wants to set things up and the way the contract would be. It has been a bone of contention between me and the Consultant against this one Gentleman in the Bridge Office; he does not want to be very cooperative. David Williams stated it was previously reported to the Committee that that bridge was going to be open for the fall harvest season. Bruce replied I said we would try. It is all dependent upon approvals from the State. We will do our best to try to get it completed and open, but until they give us permission to go ahead and proceed with it we cannot do anything. David Williams stated it seems to me like this Committee has been given multiple stories here. I thought we at one point had permission to do it and then the State took it back and then it was reported that they were moving through with the original thought train and that the bridge would be open by harvest. Initially, I believe it was reported to this Committee that it would be open by the spring planting season. Bruce replied I do not think I ever said that. David Williams asked what we need to do to get it to move forward. What kind of approval are we waiting on? Are we waiting on something from the State? Bruce replied we have decided to put in the sheet piling and the H piles, both in order to get the thing moving forward. If we wanted to just do the sheet piling by themselves, which that is the part they said first, yeah you can try it out, then they took it back and said you can try that but one guy said no I am not going to sign off on it. In order to placate this one Gentleman we said okay fine we will put the H piling in too so we can proceed and actually get something done this year. David Williams asked so then it is not certain that will be open by harvest season. Bruce stated we will do our best to get it open by harvest season, I cannot guarantee anything. *David Williams asked Amanda to please make sure that this conversation is included verbatim in the minutes.*

Don Westerman asked since we got new radios last year are the old ones usable for any other purpose or were they recycled. What happened to all the equipment? Mark Funk stated you cannot use them. Don asked because they were recycled or thrown away. Mark replied I believe Monte cut them up and had them recycled. Bruce replied you cannot reuse them because they are not narrow-band compliant. Don stated that happens in January, but I just wondered if they had been recycled because we have the recycling system or if you had any other use for them. No big deal curiosity only.

No Miscellaneous Business

No Closed Session:

Adjourn:

Patty Cox made a motion to adjourn, seconded by David Williams. Motion Carried 9-0

Meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

The next Transportation Meeting held at the Macon County Office Building will be Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

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