



MACON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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MINUTES

May 23, 2012

The Macon County Transportation Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, May 23, 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

Mark Wicklund

Patty Cox

Bryan Smith

Jay Dunn

Susanna Zimmerman

Transportation Committee Members Absent:

Gary Minich

Highway Department Support Staff Present:

Bruce Bird, County Engineer

Mark Funk, Road Supervisor

Kathy Gerhold, Office Manager

Others Present:

Allison Copenbarger, Herald & Review

Laura Dick, Show Bus

Call to Order:

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

Roll Call:

Bryan Smith

Mark Wicklund

Kevin Meachum

Don Westerman

Patty Cox

Jay Dunn

David Williams

Susanna Zimmerman

Approval of the Minutes:

Kevin Meachum made a motion to approve the minutes from April 25, 2012, seconded by Patty Cox. Motion Carried 8-0

Approval of the Bills:

Kevin Meachum made a motion to approve the bills as presented, seconded by David Williams.

Don Westerman commented that he saw we sent a lot of work out to other shops and asked if it was because we can't work on anything anymore, or do we have more work that we can do. I see a lot of Lugari and Prairie International. Bruce stated that part of it was that. If we don't have the equipment we need to work on it we send it out, all the tire work is sent out because we don't have the stuff to do tires. Don Westerman asked if we had enough Shop help to do the job if they had the equipment and knowledge to do it. Mark Funk explained that a lot of that is the alignments on trucks. We don't have any way to do alignments. Also with Lugari it's inspections.

Motion Carried 8-0

No Public Comments

Old Business:

Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with McLean, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, and DeWitt Counties with Show Bus to provide rural Transit in Macon County:

Bruce informed the Committee that the only addition to the Agreement is the last page Amendment that shows the signature line on the bottom for Macon County, everything before that they had their original Agreement and as they added Counties they added it as an Amendment to each one of the Agreements. Basically this is the next step and then it goes to the Full Board. If it's passed then we submit everything to IDOT and we'll take it from there. Laura Dick from Show Bus is here if you have any questions of her, they are going to be the provider. David Williams made a motion to approve the Agreement, seconded by Kevin Meachum. Laura Dick just added that every other County Board passed the Amendment unanimously for the approval of Macon County. Bryan Smith stated it's been a long time coming, long time over due, we're looking forward to getting started. Motion Carried 8-0

New Business:

Resolution appropriating funds for a 50/50 Cost Share Drainage Improvement with Blue Mound Township:

Motion made by Jay Dunn, seconded by Patty Cox. Motion Carried 8-0

Resolution appropriating funds for Section 05-00204-00-BR, the Baltimore Avenue CH 7 Bridge over Big Creek:

Bruce explained that this is an addition to the amount that was originally resolved back in 2005. This is our match for the project. The total cost between the two for our match is \$250,000.00. It's one of the bridges that are on going down on Baltimore Avenue. Motion made by Jay Dunn, seconded by Susanna Zimmerman. Motion Carried 8-0

County Engineer's Report:

The two bridges on Baltimore Ave. are progressing quite nicely. They are still ahead of schedule, but we just like to caution everybody the original schedule calls for them to be done by the end of August. But they both are ahead of schedule as long as the weather stays good we should stay ahead of schedule and get those things done and completed. I know that there are a lot of people that are anxious for that and we appreciate those that are being very patient. We are on a very good track of getting those accomplished and completed.

This Friday (May 25, 2012) we are opening bids for CH 26 Country Club Road project. This is the one by Muffley School, the Zoo, and the Children's Museum. We have basically everything lined up on that and we have quite a few bidders that have pulled plans on that so we should get a good price for that project.

The Maintenance Worker's big project they have been concentrating on the last couple of weeks is putting shoulders down on CH 32 out west of Macon. They are pretty much wrapping up and completing that. They have done a little bit of mowing up to this point, but they are going to switch over and start hitting the mowing really hard now.

We had our guardrail spray contractor come in and they have already sprayed the guardrail around the County once. So if anyone is driving around you can probably see some of the stuff around the guardrail dying.

Bruce explained about the three page insert in their packets. Basically it's a summary I wanted to get out to everybody about basically the impact of flat revenues and actually reducing revenues from IDOT and the impact it is not only on us but also on any public entity trying to get the roads and bridges maintained and built across the State. Regarding the sheet that is titled IDOT Proposed FY13-18 Highway Program—Released April 30, 2012, what's interesting is the growth in miles of bad State roads. Now when they take a look at it from the rating stand point they also include our roads in that. So this is all roads, it doesn't matter it's not just State roads its County and Township roads too. At the end of the program the FY 18 is projected that 62% will be good or better, so that basically means if you read the text in there one out of every three miles of road is going to be bad and it's never been that high. So this is just kind of a good bit of information especially for public policy folks to take a look at and kind of keep in mind as we move forward. We kind of joked earlier before we got started about using a lot of duct tape and bailing wire trying to fix things but we are looking at a lot of different alternates and trying to keep things up to snuff, but it's no fun when the costs are going up so much and the revenues are flat. Jay Dunn inquired about one of the bullet points on the first page stating that the backlog of bad bridges on the State system is projected to grow by nearly 29%, from 607 in FY 12 to 781 at the end of the FY 18 Program. Are any of those bridges located in Macon County? Bruce replied yes. Jay asked if we had any County bridges that need tended to that we can't afford to tend to? Bruce replied yes. Jay asked how often we inspect the bridges. Bruce explained the standard inspection range is two years, but when they fall below a certain rating they get inspected every year. If they fall below another rating they get inspected every six months. Basically when they start getting a weight limit they get inspected every six months. Jay asked if we had the authority to close it down. Bruce explained that when it gets to the point where it gets to be closed down we send a note over to the Bridge Office in Springfield and request them to come out and do an inspection. They send out their Structural Engineer and they're the ones who make the recommendation whether or not it needs to be closed. And they're the ones that actually determine what weight limits need to be put on the bridges too. So we are their eyes in the field, when we start seeing an issue we contact them. When it comes to the decision, they make them. Jay stated that he was just concerned that we protect our citizens. Bruce assured the Committee that they are protected, our Inspection Team is one of the best in the State.

Miscellaneous Business:

David Williams asked about the questions that were raised regarding Washington Street in Maroa. Do we have a plan to address that or what's the status on that? Bruce updated the Committee as to what was going on; we had some alligator cracking and some other cracking on Washington St. the section east of Old 51 which is Wall St. up in Maroa. With the mild winter we had the guys doing crack sealing. They sealed the section up there and we had some issues here recently. We talked with the Public Works guy up there and in locations where the semi trucks either are putting on their brakes or turning on the crack sealing materials they were actually peeling the stuff up and turning it. It was an aesthetic and ride quality issue. We had a similar issue occur on a stretch of CH 32 down west of Macon last year and our solution at that point down there was to chip seal over the top of it to hold everything back in there. Mark and I have had some previous conversations and that's probably one of those things that we are going to have to do up there in Maroa. The City up there had a meeting Monday night and had some questions that came up about what we were going to do up there and they contacted Dave and Dave sent me an email. Quite frankly Dave, that's the first time I personally, heard

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of it, no one from the City had contacted me about it prior to sending me that email. We were looking at it and what we are going to do up there is probably what we were planning on doing anyway, which was having our guys chip seal. It's a cheap solution for the problem, the ultimate solution to the problem is expensive, and it's always expensive. David Williams asked if that would be done this season. Bruce replied oh yeah it shouldn't be a problem.

Closed Session:

David Williams made a motion to go into Closed Session, seconded by Patty Cox. Motion Carried 8-0

Kevin Meachum made a motion to come out of Closed Session, seconded by Susanna Zimmerman.
Motion Carried 8-0

David Williams made a motion to accept the recommendation from the County Engineer to promote Mark Page to the Shop Supervisor, seconded by Mark Wicklund. Motion Carried 8-0

Adjourn:

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

The next Transportation Meeting held at the Macon County Office Building will be Wednesday, June 27, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

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