



# MACON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

2405 N. Woodford St. Decatur, IL 62526

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## MINUTES

January 22, 2014

The Macon County Transportation Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 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 Bird

Jerry Potts

Susanna Zimmerman

Kevin Meachum

Gary Minich

### Transportation Committee Members Absent:

Keith Ashby

### Highway Department Support Staff Present:

Bruce Bird, County Engineer

Amanda Askew, Office Assistant

Mark Funk, Road Supervisor

### Others Present:

Mike Baggett, Asst. States Attorney

### Call to Order:

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

### Roll Call:

David Williams

Kevin Meachum

Gary Minich

Jerry Potts

Kevin Bird

Susanna Zimmerman

### Approval of the Minutes:

Gary Minich made a motion to approve the minutes from October 23, 2013, seconded by Jerry Potts. Motion Carried 5-0

### Approval of the Bills:

Jerry Potts made a motion to accept the bills as presented, seconded by Jerry Potts. Motion Carried 6-0

### No Public Comments

### No Old Business

### New Business:

*Resolution appropriating funds for engineering costs for Section 12-00249-00-BR, a bridge on CH 57 (85<sup>th</sup> Street) 1 mile east of Long Creek.*

Motion made by Jerry Potts, seconded by Susanna Zimmerman. Motion carried 6-0

*Resolution appropriating funds for engineering costs for Section 14-00264-00-DR, a bridge on CH 36 (Baker Rd.) 3 miles southwest of Macon.*

Motion made by Kevin Bird, seconded by Jerry Potts. Kevin Meachum asked who ESI is. Bruce replied they have a branch office based in Charleston. The structural engineer who is going to be doing

the work lives here in Decatur on the west side. This is the first time I have put stuff up for them.  
Motion carried 6-0

***Resolution appropriating funds for engineering costs for Section 14-14126-00-SM, a bridge repair on Nevada Road in Pleasant View Township.***

Motion made by Jerry Potts, seconded by Kevin Bird. Kevin Meachum asked who WHKS is. Bruce replied that is who Cory Chamberlain works for, this is his company. This is a repair job, we are going to jack up the existing bridge repair it and put the deck back down. They have done a very good job and have had very reasonable fees. Motion carried 6-0

***Resolution appropriating funds for a 50/50 Cost Share Drainage Improvement in Blue Mound Township.***

Motion made by Gary Minich, seconded by Kevin Meachum. Bruce stated the 50/50 portion is we are purchasing the materials for the Township they are going to install them. Motion carried 6-0.

***Resolution appropriating funds for the replacement of the Highway Network Server.***

Motion made by Kevin Bird, seconded by Kevin Meachum. Bruce stated we have to replace it; the operating system on it will cease to be supported by Microsoft after April. David Williams asked how old it is. Bruce replied about 6 years old. It is time to have it replaced. One of the advantages is, currently our backup is the hard drive backup that is located out in the sign shop. With this upgrade we will still have the hard drive on site but we will also have a backup in the cloud completely offsite.  
Motion Carried 6-0

***Resolution to dispose of equipment.***

Motion made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Susanna Zimmerman. David Williams stated looks like we have a dump truck that we are getting rid of. Bruce stated this is the one that was replaced with the new truck. Motion carried 6-0

**County Engineer's Report:**

Bruce stated immediately in the back of your packet you will see a three page agreement for the sharing of certain costs of an environmental study to modify the alignment portions of the Southeast Beltway in Macon county between the Village of Mt. Zion, Steve Lewis, County of Macon, and Hanson Professional Services. This was the agreement that was talked about in the Herald & Review. It was reviewed and approved by the Village on Monday. We cannot vote on this but I wanted to make everybody aware of it since it is a financial obligation it will have to go to the Finance Committee anyway. Our share of it is \$40,000; all the entities involved will be sharing \$40,000 including engineers Hanson. The village of MT. Zion will be the lead on the project. It will not be us so they will just bill us as appropriate. Kevin Meachum stated I would to have a show of hands in support of this so when it goes to Finance Bruce can say the Transportation Committee is in favor of it. The support is unanimous.

Last Tuesday the state director of the Federal Highway Administration had a chance to review the Beltway. This is the last step, and then the Director has to sign off on it. I have been told is has been signed off on, but we have yet to receive a hard copy in the office. Once we have received that hard copy, at least far as that portion of the Beltway study we are done. One thing we do have to is, if you remember back to that 10 acre parcel that is down along County Highway 30 to swap to the Conservation District for the ground that they have that we need eventually for right-of-way. We do have to take care of that swap. That will be a separate document that we will do. It does not impact the

study itself it's just that we have to follow through and do that. You will be seeing those documents here shortly. Once we get that letter as far as the beltway study it is now complete. David Williams asked if the last chapter of the book will be revisited if the alignment changes. Bruce replied what happens if the alignment changes are that they are going to environmentally clear us a second alignment. As part of the agreement was that would be the primary alignment that we would follow. Of course we cannot really do anything down there until funding becomes available. If funding does not become available for another 20 years it is going to be another board and another village boards and maybe entirely another developer. In essence there is going to be two environmentally cleared quarters down there to choose from. The intent as agreed upon was that they would follow the southern alignment; if future board would happen to change their mind they can do something differently at least they will have a choice. One of the silver linings that I see in this whole thing is that they actually will have a choice down the road.

Bruce stated we had two bids today for signs and culverts. The culvert bid was at \$30,241 and the sign bid came in at \$6,249.25. We will have resolutions at next month's committee meeting. The culverts ran about \$4,000 underneath what our estimate was. These are material bids so the Townships and small municipalities can bid on that too.

As far as what we have been doing the last two months is pushing a lot of snow around and pulling people out of trucks in drifts in the middle of the night, giving County Board members five hours tours of the country side. We are still holding up at least as far as materials. David Williams asked if Bruce knows where we are at as far as expending our line items as far as our overtime, materials, and our fuel. Bruce replied the last payroll that I signed off on was for two weeks; normally it is about \$35 to \$36 thousand dollars total, this one was around \$50,000. The difference is all overtime of course. We are doing fine, starting the fiscal year December 1st helps us tremendously with that. We are ahead of where we were last year, but like I said before we had only had 1 inch of snow this time last year. Due to those light storms we have had a heck of a pile of salt that had built up. We are still doing very well there. We have used a lot of it though. David Williams asked about fuel costs. Bruce replied the fuel is not bad; it is within range as well. The last couple of years, compared to what we had budgeted and what we actually spent we have stayed under on that. If you look on the Facebook page we have had a lot of positive comments, we are always glad to see those. Kevin Meachum stated I would like to thank the Highway Department for doing a good job, when my wife says Wyckles Rd looks good you guys must be doing a good job. When it is blowing it is different in town compared to in the country nobody can see and these guys know what they are doing and when to do it and how to get it done. Thank you.

### **Miscellaneous Business**

Jerry Potts stated I forgot to go check out the new truck. How is it doing? Bruce replied very well. David Williams stated along those lines we are in the midst of when the weather gets better organizing the committee to meet out at the Highway Department. That way we can take a look at some of the equipment that we have purchased over the past few years. It has been a while since we have met out there and it will be nice to look at the facility. I spoke with Bruce about this and we decided it would be better to wait until warmer weather, possibly April or May. Bruce stated we will get something put together.

### **No Closed Session**

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**Adjourn:**

Kevin Meachum made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jerry Potts. Motion Carried 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

*The next Transportation Meeting will be Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.*

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