



## MACON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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### MINUTES

July 23, 2014

The Macon County Transportation Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. located at the Macon County Office Building, 141 S. Main St., Decatur, IL.

#### **Transportation Committee Members Present:**

Kevin Bird

Jerry Potts

Matt Brown

Susanna Zimmerman

Gary Minich

Kevin Meachum

#### **Transportation Committee Members Absent:**

Keith Ashby

#### **Highway Department Support Staff Present:**

Joe Moretti, Assistant County Engineer

Mark Funk, Road Supervisor

Amanda Askew, Office Assistant

#### **Others Present:**

Ryan Voyles, Herald & Review

Jay Dunn, County Board Chairman

Kevin Greenfield

Mark Wicklund

#### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kevin Meachum at 5:30 p.m.

#### **Roll Call:**

Susanna Zimmerman

Jerry Potts

Kevin Bird

Matt Brown

Gary Minich

Kevin Meachum

#### **Approval of the Minutes:**

Gary Minich made a motion to approve the minutes from June 25, 2014, seconded by Jerry Potts. Motion Carried 6-0

#### **Approval of the Bills:**

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

#### **No Public Comments**

#### **No Old Business**

#### **New Business:**

*Resolution appropriating Matching Funds for Section 13-06119-00-PV, the Hickory Point Township Spacemark Road Project.*

Motion made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Jerry Potts. Kevin Bird voted present. Motion carried 5-0

***Resolution appropriating Progress City Funds for Section 06-00189-03-LS, the 2009 Progress City Landscaping Project.***

Motion made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Jerry Potts. Motion carried 6-0

***Resolution approving and Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Mount Zion covering Township Bridge Inspection Services.***

Motion made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Susanna Zimmerman. Motion carried 6-0

**County Engineer's Report:**

Joe Moretti stated we have the Wyckles Road project going on right now, the box culvert is in place, today they poured the headwalls, the storm sewer is in place, and they worked on force account today and should have that finished up to relocate the field tile that we found during the exploratory trench. They should be ready next week to start dirt work and head towards the concrete overlay on that road. County Highway 29 a Bridge on Boody Rd., the County Highway 38 Cold-in-Place recycling project and the County Highway 21 Bridge were all on the state letting and they have 45 days to award them. The 45 days will be up next week. We will probably be seeing an award on those soon. Then we will get pre-cons scheduled and get those projects underway.

The Guardrail Project that is ours and some of the Cities, a small overlay on County Highway 25, and a Microsurfacing Project on County Highway 30 and some of the Townships we are in the process of getting some final signatures on those contracts to get over to Effingham, for their final signatures. Hopefully those will start in the next couple of weeks as well. Those are all fast moving projects. Mark Funk stated the Maintenance Crews have been around once mowing, they started seal coating this past Monday. We got all of our patching done, previous to that. So far the oiling is going okay. We had one break down, but we are over that. We were on our second day today. We will be doing more in the next couple of weeks. We have just gone around in the mean time and kept things patched up and hitting some corners and intersections where the grass has grown back up again. We are pretty well caught up on everything until we get the oiling done.

Joe Moretti stated we had something come up with our salt order. A lot of the municipalities and throughout the state that were using the CMS service, a lot of their bids were not bid on. 1/3 of them there were no bids. They will have to go out and either re-bid or find another source for their salt this year. Ours was accepted, so we are good in that regard but the price is going to be higher than normal. They are talking anywhere from \$70 - \$140 per ton. Mark Funk stated last year it was \$56 and the year before that it was \$60. Joe Moretti stated so due to the last winter and shortages we could see an increase in our salt costs this year. Kevin Meachum asked if you find out what the percentage of increase is come back with it next month and let us know. Joe replied they said next week or the middle of next week. Mark Funk replied it will be awarded at the end of this week but notification may not get out until the end of next week. Joe Moretti stated so he will know by next week. Kevin Meachum stated maybe send an email out to us to let us know what the increase is. Then it will not be a surprise when we see that price increase come budget time.

What is the completion date on Wyckles Rd? School starts in August. Joe replied they should have it done by school. It is a short section; the dirt work should go fairly quick. Once they get the dirt work done the pavement will take one day. Then cure time and curb and gutter and asphalt. I can't see it being a problem to have it open by school. Kevin Meachum stated if you have any hiccups make sure to get a hold of Warrensburg. Joe agreed, yes definitely. Joe stated at least there if there is a continued detour. It is really short. I cannot see why it wouldn't be open by the start of school.

**Miscellaneous Business:**

***County Motor Fuel Tax Discussion***

Jay Dunn stated I don't know if the City is calling it a tax, surcharge or what but if you have read the paper in the last few months the City Council has been kicking this around. This would increase the cost of gasoline at the pumps about 4 or 5 cents a gallon to raise money to take care of the roads in the City. They have asked me about the Counties input in this. They want the County to be part of it. Say it is a 5 cents raise the other stations outside the City would just raise their price 5 cents and it would just be profit for them. That is the case in Champaign and Champaign County. That is the way it has gone. I thought I would just bring it to you guys to see if you wanted to do anything with it or not. It would take a State Statute and Legislation before we could even be involved with it. Right now we cannot do it. I asked Bruce Bird to bring us up to date on it. If you have any questions we have some information. I didn't know if you just wanted to tell the City we are not interested or let our Legislative Committee look in to it. Kevin Meachum stated Jay, Macon County has a tax levy for roads on the Property Tax, we already have a levy set and I do not feel that we need to burden the tax payers with another tax when we have a Highway Fee based on property taxes on Macon County taxpayers. I am not interested in looking into any additional tax for the County Highway Department at this time. That is my opinion. Gary Minich stated I understand the City's point of view but for the City to raise funds if it stayed in the City limits then they would not raise any money because a certain amount of business would be shipped outside the City. I understand them wanting the County to pass a parallel tax. It is kind of mute point if we don't have Legislation authorizing us to do it. All user fees need to be dedicated exclusively to whatever it is raising the money for. I don't suppose we would have any problem dedicating the monies to transportation for both roads and perhaps supporting some of the public transit services that we sponsor. I agree with Kevin. I think if County wide the price was the same it wouldn't necessarily drive business out of the County. It is an almost self defeated proposition if there is cheaper gas anywhere people go after it. Susanna Zimmerman asked if the Federal Government is talking about doing this. Kevin Meachum replied yes, if the Fed's pass it; it is going to be a mute point it will come down and we are all going to get a benefit from that tax. I really don't think that we need to be looking into additional funds and Bruce has thrown absolutely no red flags up to us as a committee saying that we are in financial disarray to keep up with the maintenance of our roadways in Macon County. I do not feel like we need to be looking at an additional burden on the taxpayers in this County. Jerry Potts and Matt Brown agreed with Kevin. Kevin Meachum stated you have got your answer Jay.

**No Closed Session**

**Adjourn:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

***The next Transportation Meeting will be Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.***

Minutes submitted by:

Kathy Gerhold & Amanda Askew  
Macon County Highway Department