



MACON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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MINUTES

January 28, 2015

The Macon County Transportation Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. located at the Macon County Office Building, 141 S. Main St., Decatur, IL.

Transportation Committee Members Present:

Patty Cox	Kevin Meachum	Kevin Greenfield
Phil Hogan	John Jackson	Kevin Bird
Pat Dawson		

No Transportation Committee Members Absent

Highway Department Support Staff Present:

Bruce Bird, County Engineer
Mark Funk, Road Supervisor
Amanda Askew, Office Assistant

Others Present:

Mike Baggett, Assistant State's Attorney

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Patty Cox at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Patty Cox	John Jackson	Kevin Greenfield
Phil Hogan		

Approval of the Minutes:

Phil Hogan made a motion to approve the minutes from December 17, 2014, seconded by Kevin Greenfield. Motion Carried 4-0

Approval of the Bills:

Kevin Greenfield made a motion to accept the bills as presented, seconded by Phil Hogan. Motion Carried 4-0

Kevin Bird is now present. 5:31pm

No Public Comments

Pat Dawson and Kevin Meachum are now present. 5:32pm

No Old Business

Mike Baggett is now present. 5:34 pm

New Business:

Resolution appropriating funds for construction costs for Section 14-00247-01-BR, a bridge on CH 54 (Wise Rd.) 2 miles north of Warrensburg:

Bruce stated we had the letting on this earlier today. Schmidt was the low bidder. We cannot award it for 7 days. Phil Hogan asked if they were the only ones that bid? Bruce replied no we had three bidders; them, County Contractors, and Stark Excavating. We have not had a shortage of bidders on bridges in the last three or four years. We have got some pretty good prices as well. This one was a little over the engineers estimate but not that much. Kevin Greenfield asked when will that construction

start? Bruce replied this is our bridge that has the swallows underneath it. We have to remove the bridge deck by March 15, 2015. Otherwise they cannot touch it until October 1, 2015. The bridge is currently closed so they will yank the deck off and order the materials. It is a small bridge that is going to be changed into a box culvert.

Motion made by Kevin Greenfield, seconded by Phil Hogan. Motion Carried 7-0

Resolution appropriating funds for the Annual County Culvert Bid:

Bruce stated this was opened up today as well and Metal Culverts was the only bidder. Prices are good and are in line with what we have been paying. Kevin Greenfield asked if they are usually the only bidder. Bruce replied no, it used to be CPI Clark County Supply in Marshall. We thought they were going to stop by and bid and they never brought one in. Patty Cox asked if any of the Townships get their culverts through the County. Bruce replied whatever we bid these out for they piggyback off our prices. Some of them have actually taken these prices to their favorite supplier and get them to match it. Motion made by Kevin Greenfield, seconded by Phil Hogan. Motion Carried 7-0

Resolution appropriating funds for the Annual County Sign Bid:

Bruce stated this is very similar to the culvert bid except this is for signs. We had four bidders. We got a really good price on the signs.

Motion made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Phil Hogan. Motion carried 7-0

Resolution appropriating funds for the engineering costs for Section 14-00271-00-BI, the Various Timber Bridge Sub-Structure Evaluation Project:

Bruce stated I have talked with some of you. Over the past several years we have been looking ways to stretch the life of some of our existing bridges. We have identified several bridges that have good concrete decks on top of very poor timber sub-structures. With a type bridge construction design that was used a lot in the 60's and the problem is when the timber fails it fails pretty quickly and dramatically. We have a lot of bridge decks out there that have about 25-30 years of life still left in them but what is holding them up is rotten. We have identified 6 total right now. With this is project we will go out and identify them and the engineering firm will evaluate the existing timber structures and give us a recommendation on what to do. Like a repair job on the existing structure which is significantly less than replacing the entire bridge or if the bridge just need to be totally replaced.

Motion made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Phil Hogan. Motion carried 7-0

Resolution approving an agreement with the Decatur Park District covering bridge inspections:

Bruce stated we have two that we do inspections for. We have done this for all the Townships, the Village of Mt. Zion, and the Village of Forsyth for the past 6 months or so. Because of changes in the federal bridge inspection requirements we needed to formalize the agreement. There is an inspection fee of \$500 per bridge inspection that we will charge as part of this agreement. Phil Hogan asked how often do they inspect them. Bruce replied a minimum of every two years. When the bridges start to deteriorate we start inspecting them more frequently. Kevin Meachum stated we are not taking any work away from any engineering firm. We were inspecting them for nothing but there is liability attached to that. Bruce has set up a pay structure for the County Highway Department to inspect these bridges at a comparable rate to what a consultant would do. It is a nice benefit for other Government agencies to use Bruce to do it. Bruce stated a lot of it had to do with changes in the Federal Bridge Inspection Program. The state has strongly encouraged that we formalize an agreement. Kevin Greenfield asked if you go out and inspect the bridges then why do we pay WHKS to do the same thing. Bruce replied what we are doing is called the in-service inspection. Anybody can take the in-service

inspection training class. It is the same training class that is used nation-wide. What we are looking for or what our inspectors look for is issues and problems. If they find an issue or a problem we have to notify the bridge office in Springfield and they bring out a structural engineer. What you are talking about is like hiring these engineering firms to do work for us is because they are doing an evaluation. They will do the basic inspection but they will also give us a recommendation based upon their expertise as a structural engineer. We do not have any structural engineers on staff. If you are going to recommend any structural work from the State of Illinois you have to have a structural engineer. Kevin Greenfield asked so when you go out and inspect a bridge what are you really doing. Bruce replied we are looking for issues like crushing abutments, split pilings, leakage in the joints, if there is any kind of deterioration on the steel. We can do inspections and make note of the issues and rate it. We cannot come up with a recommendation of how and what to do with that because we do not have a structural on staff. Kevin Greenfield stated but you are capable of rating the bridge for a ton limit. Bruce replied yes, but when we do that we have to notify the bridge office in Springfield and they send out their structural team to look at it. They then will tell us what limit to put out. Any weight limit that is out there is not imposed by us; it is imposed by the bridge office in Springfield. Patty Cox asked who is certified to inspect this? Bruce replied myself, Joe, Allison, Bruce Taylor, and Grant. All of us have taken the class. Allison is the lead inspector and I can tell you the folks at District 7, IDOT, and Effingham they rave about her inspections. She is very thorough. John Jackson asked what the benefit to the County is. Bruce replied the state mandates that we do it. The entity has an option. They can have us do it or they can hire a firm to do it for them. In reality when it comes to the inspections, because we do so many of them we are probably better at it than even a structural company.

Motion made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by John Jackson. Motion carried 7-0

Resolution approving the 2014 ADA Transition Plan:

Bruce stated this is required by the state and the feds to have some kind of a plan in place. Existing sidewalks that do not have a ramp to get down on the street; about 20 years ago the American Disabilities Act came out and said you have to start putting in those ramps. They have added things in the interim like those little knobby things at the crosswalks. They are not mandating that they be done at a certain time. But now they want us to come up with a plan on how to approach it. That is what this is. We have started part of this. We have identified where the sidewalks are on our right of way. The plan says that before we go in and change anything we need to coordinate with those smaller communities that we pass through. We are only going to this when funds become available. That is the most important part of the whole plan. It is modeled after a plan that the City of Urbana had.

Motion made by Kevin Greenfield, seconded by Kevin Bird. Motion carried 7-0

County Engineer's Report:

Bruce stated we have not had to plow too much snow yet this winter. Our guys have been able to get out and do some crack sealing and some pothole filling. We have done some tree trimming here and there. We have got a lot of extra work that we normally keep off to the side if it doesn't snow much caught up. Since we are not plowing snow we are looking very good on our overtime budget.

Miscellaneous Business:

Phil Hogan asked what is the schedule for the Sefton Rd. Bridge and County Highway 57. Bruce stated we are going to start the right-of-way negotiations with the three property owners in about a week and a half. The plans are approved, if we can get the right of way taken care of by the first of April it will be on the June letting. That means about the middle of July to start. Phil asked how long you think it will be closed. Bruce replied into 2016. We are raising the structure up.

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January 28, 2015

Closed Session:

5 ILCS 120/2(c) (5)

Purpose: To discuss the possible purchase of real property for the use of the county.

Motion made by Kevin Meachum to go into closed session, seconded by Kevin Bird.

Motion carried 7-0

Adjourn:

Phil Hogan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Jackson. Motion Carried 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

The next Transportation Meeting will be Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Kathy Gerhold & Amanda Askew

Macon County Highway Department