

# TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

5:30 P.M.

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Patty Cox  
Kevin Greenfield  
Kevin Meachum (came at 5:31)  
Kevin Bird  
Phil Hogan  
Pat Dawson (came at 5:36)

## COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Bruce Bird, County Engineer  
  
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office  
  
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

## MEMBERS ABSENT

John Jackson

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patty Cox at the Macon County Office Building. Ms. Cox addressed the members saying that when members speak, to make sure they speak one at a time because doing the minutes from the recording gets very tough to get correct when they can't determine who is speaking. She asked members to respect fellow committee members. She asked members that get complaints from the department or who want to call a closed session to please make the chairman aware of them prior to the meeting. There are things that need to be in the minutes and if Mr. Baggett is not in attendance to quote the Statute section, the Chairman can be prepared.

## MINUTES

Mr. Hogan made a motion to approve the 1/27/16 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Greenfield, motion carried 4-0.

## CLAIMS

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to accept the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Hogan. There was discussion about claims from the Collector. Mr. Bruce Bird will check with the Auditor's Office and email information to committee members. The motion was not voted on.

## Public Comments - None

## Old Business -

Mr. Bruce Bird reported that the union contract had been settled and would be presented at the next board meeting.

## New Business:

### *Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds for the Salary of the County Engineer*

Mr. Bird explained that this is the annual resolution that covers his salary. This was held off due to the open negotiations. This is the resolution that allows the State to swap the Federal funds out for MFT funds to pay his salary. There was a question at the last Finance Committee meeting about reimbursement from the State for the State's Attorney and some other salaries, but they are caught up on that now. Mr. Baggett said there were questions about payment of the County Engineer's salary, but until this resolution is passed by the full board, they did not have an obligation to do anything with respect to the County Engineer's salary. It is an open question as to whether that money will be quick in coming, but they look to be on track right now with their payments. Chairman Greenfield said a letter had been received from the Department of Revenue saying that the money should be on time from now

on. Mr. Bird said that other counties that had had the issues with the State's Attorney's, and other reimbursable salaries, they never included their County Engineer's salary in the request. This runs through IDOT, not the Department of Revenue Comptroller's Office. The money is there and available, but has not been appropriated.

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee for consideration with the recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Kevin Bird and the motion carried 6-0.

### **County Engineer's Report:**

Mr. Bruce Bird reported that the only significant snow storm of the year had occurred over this past weekend throughout 3 of the 4 days of the extended holiday weekend. He said there were a lot of accidents on Sunday, Valentines Day night. One closed I72 for about an hour. There weren't injuries that he was aware of, but lots of accidents. He said they had taken care of the County roads and had not had any major accidents other than slide offs.

The guys are doing tree / branch trimming right now which is typical for this time of year. When the pavement dries out, they will go back to crack sealing.

Most of the construction projects are lined up for this year. They are still working on getting the right-of-way on Wyckles. The next big thing is to get all the parcels from Gulicks. That is coming up next month. After that there are only 4 parcels left to worry about.

The underground fuel system at the Highway Department, which has a monitoring system that monitors the level of fuel and for leaks, and is required by the Fire Marshall is not working right now. Something has to be done with the system. The company that does the tanks was asked for a ballpark quote. The entire monitoring system, including the hardware and software that sit inside the office have to be replaced. If the wiring that runs from the office to the tanks does not have to be replaced, it will run \$16,492 for the upgrade. It has to be upgraded or the next time the Fire Marshall stops by for their annual inspection, they will shut the system down. He said he also looked at an option to retire the system. So then everyone would have to go to a gas card system. If that option is chosen, all the tanks would have to be removed so nothing would have to be tracked. Some of that work could be done by the Highway Department crew. The contractor's price including concrete pavement was \$62,000. After slicing it down and removing the cost for the work that could be done by the Highway crew, it goes down to about \$19,000. He said he could see advantages to retiring the system because of the licensing requirements that the office girls, road supervisor and county engineer have to go through. It is nice to have the fuel system on site, but there are also advantages to not having it there too. He said he was not asking for a decision, but some guidance as to what the committee wanted. Chair Cox said since this is not in the budget, she wondered where he would take it from. Mr. Bird said there is a line for construction projects with about \$50,000 in it that it could come out of. He said the cheapest cost would be to get a new monitoring system, but there is the unknown of future regulations and / or costs. Ms. Cox asked about the frequency that the licensing had to be done. Mr. Bird said it is annual. Kathy and Amanda have the AB Operator. A lot, like Hucks, will have one AB Operator that covers about 20 stations. He said he has plans to send Stu to the training. Ms. Cox asked about the insurance differences. Mr. Bird will check into it. Mr. Meachum asked about the age & life expectancy of the existing tanks. Mr. Bird said they are about 20 years old. Chairman Greenfield asked about the costs of fuel for both options. Mr. Bird said they save 19 cents a gallon at the pump, the State Motor Fuel Tax. He explained that they would save that 19 cents whichever way they went. The fuel price is immaterial, the only difference is whether you put the money in to maintain the system and keep it going or into retiring the system and just not use it any longer. Right now, the cheapest alternative is to maintain it. Mr. Meachum said that, if the system is retired, he would want to have an above ground emergency fuel

system just in case the equipment sitting in the yard needed the fuel right then. He said it could be a 250 or 500 gallon above ground tank. He said he wanted to have fuel in case of an emergency. Chair Cox asked Mr. Bird to do more research and bring more information back to the next meeting.

**Miscellaneous Business:** none

**Closed Session:** none

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Hogan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Greenfield, the motion carried 6-0 & meeting was adjourned @ 5:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office