

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patty Cox
Kevin Greenfield
Kevin Meachum (arrived @ 5:35p.m.)
Kevin Bird
Phil Hogan
John Jackson

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Bruce Bird, County Engineer
Joe Moretti
Stuart Jacobs

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

Pat Dawson

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patty Cox at the Macon County Highway Department.

MINUTES

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to approve the May 25, 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Hogan, motion carried 5-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Jackson made a motion to accept the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Greenfield, and the motion carried 5-0.

Public Comments - None

Old Business - None

New Business:

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Purchase of Right of Way from the Gulick Family Trust (12) for the CH41 Wyckles Road White Topping Project

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that these are the last two and after this there's one parcel left to go.

Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee for consideration with the recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Greenfield and the motion carried 5-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Purchase of Right of Way from the Gulick Family Trust (13) for the CH41 Wyckles Road White Topping Project

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. Hogan and the motion carried 5-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Purchase of Temporary Traffic Signals from Bodine Electric for the CH57 85th Street Bridge Replacement Project

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that the bridge has to go down to one lane down the middle and a temporary set of traffic signals will be needed. They may be up for 9 to 12 months until pre-construction of the bridge is started. After the signals are back up, the weight limit will go back up, but will still be weight limited. It is currently a 5 ton and it will go up to 15, 20 & 25 so three trucks can go across it. Basically, an empty semi will be able to drive across it. If anything happens on the state side such as they hold back funding, it will get pushed back. At least the road will be open and that is the main thing. This is what we have to do to keep the road open.

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. Bird and the motion carried 5-0.

Macon County Board Resolution to Reappoint the County Engineer

Macon County Board Resolution Requesting Consent of the Department of Transportation to Reappoint the Incumbent as County Engineer

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that this happens every six years. An employment agreement goes with the resolution to reappoint Mr. Bird as County Engineer. It is the same agreement as last time with a couple of modifications of dates. Last time, the contract was reset from October to January. Everything else is the same. The second resolution is required by the state.

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to approve forwarding the resolutions on to the Finance Committee for consideration with the recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Bird and the motion carried 5-0.

(Mr. Meachum arrived)

County Engineer's Report:

Mr. Bruce Bird reported that the drainage project is pretty much done except for asphalt patching and some cleanup work in various locations.

The Boody Road Bridge is in the last lap. The paving is set up for this Friday. Guard rail people will come in next week. As long as the weather cooperates, it will be reopened by the middle of next week. Pretty much all of the pay items are going to be on the last pay estimate and will get in on time and we'll get paid. Mr. Greenfield asked about the seeding. Mr. Bird said he has the seed already. It should be no problem.

Microsurfacing will be started July 21st. There is no limitation with that from the state.

The state is going to shut everything off July 1st. No payments on anything. Anything that is incurred through June 30th, they'll pay out through August 1st, but anything done after July 1st, they are not going to pay. Mr. Meachum said he had conflicting information and thought that there would be something to keep business going. Mr. Bird said that if they don't pass anything at the state, the secretary has said they are going to shut everything down. Mr. Meachum said they are running scared just like everybody else. Mr. Bird said he was told that they may not even be able to go to work after July 1st. IF they get to the point and IF they stop making any kind of payments after July 1st because they don't have the appropriation to do so, then any projects we have that would be paid for or reimbursed by the state would have to stop. There are only 3 projects currently going that would be impacted by this. The CH30 & CH41 curve has a small reimbursement, but there is enough local money that we can go on with that. Even if it strung out till November, we could get 95% done so the road could be opened up. We just wouldn't get everything finalized on that. The other two are the design projects for the Beltway with Hanson & Chastain. These are the Reas Bridge Road bridges and the Connector Road. That work

will have to stop July 1st. Mr. Greenfield said that would not affect the grant. Mr. Bird agreed and said the actual design work would have to stop. That is 100% reimbursement, so as soon as we get the bill, we send it in. They've been paying every 2 weeks. Mr. Greenfield asked what the date is on the grant. Mr. Bird said sometime around September 1st because they have to announce it 60 days prior to the election. We have been contacted by USDOT about information on the grant. That is a very good sign. Mr. Greenfield said the Mayor, City Manager and several of them went to Washington D.C. today and tomorrow. Mr. Bird said they were told that something official would be sent out today, but he had nothing yet.

The guys are done mowing tomorrow. Mr. Jacobs said they would start seal coating. Mr. Bird continued saying that anything that is being done with our own dollars is progressing along nicely. The money that is available for projects we are in really good shape on – probably best we've been in 5 years. We'll keep moving on the local stuff. Whatever happens with the state will not really hurt any construction projects.

Mr. Bird referred to a discussion at the last meeting about disposal items. The process of getting rid of dump trucks, back hoes, etc... - anything that is used by road commissioners has always been offered up to the townships first and then the public because the guidance from the committee was that they wanted to see that investment of local tax dollars stay with the local taxing bodies as long as possible. That was a committee decision back then and it has been in place for about 10 years. There is currently a piece of equipment that needs to be disposed of. It is an old tow truck we got to pull trucks out of ditches when they got stuck, etc.. The highway department guys had a proposal about 10 years ago to rehab it. They painted it and redid the motor. It became a piece that was put in parades. It was functional, but was really nice. It is a 1963 International and it's ability has been maxed out. We would like to sell it, but we're not going to get anything for it via the normal disposal methods. He said there is a tow truck museum in Chattanooga, TN that has identified two individuals that collect these and both of them are very interested. We might get \$1,500 to \$2,000 locally, but the guy at the museum thinks we might be able to get \$25,000 to \$30,000. This is not a normal thing, but we could get a lot more money by going this route. Mr. Meachum said he thought there should be a closed bid put out. Mr. Bird said it would be kind of neat to see the guys' work live on through someone's collection. Everyone agreed it should go to the highest bidder.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Greenfield asked how many people drive vehicles home. Mr. Bird said Joe, Stu, Allison & himself. Mr. Meachum said he thought that only critical personnel that need to be called out 24/7 such as Mr. Bird and Mr. Jacobs should take them home and the rest of them need to be parked at the Highway Department. The time should be evaluated, but it's time to eliminate this perk because we are going to be looking at other departments and their vehicles too. Unless there are overwhelming facts that show this is a money saver, we need to proceed with this. Mr. Greenfield said he could see where Joe & Allison, during construction season when they leave home and go to the job sight, might need vehicles, but in the winter it should not be necessary. We are looking at other departments too because right now we are looking at about \$1.5 million deficit this year in the General Fund. He said we will get a balanced budget one way or the other and it is going to be painful. He said he did not want to set a precedence where since Highway is funded a different way so they get this, but . . . we're all going to feel the pain. Mr. Bird said the biggest savings when it comes to those people and their vehicles is not to the Highway Department. It comes to the Sheriff's Department. He said if you're wanting to quantify it, you'll have to talk to the Sheriff. Mr. Meachum said he thought that was in the works. Mr. Jackson said it needs to be managed for the exception when you make that rule. One time a month versus every day may be all that's needed. If it takes 20 more minutes, then it takes 20 more minutes. Mr. Bird said it is not his 20 minutes, it is the Sheriff's. Mr. Greenfield asked Mr. Bird to break out the overtime worked by Joe and Allison up through November and then from November to March. If there's not a lot

in that time, then maybe they wouldn't have to drive them home. A benefit of driving them home during construction season can be seen, but maybe after that they wouldn't need to. Mr. Meachum agreed and said he thought we really need to start thinking about this because the budget hole is going to be a big problem. He said it is an image problem. Mr. Greenfield said that he, Patty and Jay had met with Carol recently and if some things can't go through the building commission as is hoped, instead of a \$1.5 deficit, we'll be looking at a \$2.5 million deficit. That would be about a 10% across the board cut for every department. That will be devastating, but the bottom line is that we have got to balance the budget. The rainy day fund is gone. The Judgement Fund has been tapped pretty hard waiting for the tax money to come in so it can be repaid. The economy just didn't come back like everybody promised. Mr. Bird said he understands the situation, but as members of the board know, the Highway Department does not get any general fund money. What is done or not done at the Highway Department really is not going to impact whether the budget is balanced or not. He said they have always lived within what they have. This is the 3rd downturn he's been through, he understands the image thing, but for everything done at highway, the cost of materials and stuff has gone up. What we were able to do 10 years ago, now we just can't today. We have to do other things. We have adapted and adopted other practices. It's like duct tape and baling wire after a while. We have to wring as much life as we possibly can out of everything. We've been doing that for 7 or 8 years now. The folks in the general fund departments are going to learn they have to do the same thing. Mr. Meachum repeated that it is an image thing when we're trying to bring all the others in line. Mr. Greenfield said when the taxpayers see money being spent, they don't know this is not general fund money being spent. All they know is that it is tax money.

Chair Cox asked for clarification of the vehicle issue. Mr. Greenfield said that Mr. Bird would evaluate it. Mr. Bird said that during construction season it makes sense to do it. Mr. Meachum added that in the winter from the first of November to March . . . Bruce will have a vehicle. Stu is on 24/7 and will need one. Mr. Greenfield asked if a truck was kept at the Mt. Zion Township. Mr. Bird said two are kept out there. A couple of techs live out there and pick them up there when they come in. Mr. Meachum said they need to come back too. Mr. Bird said they are there during construction season. Mr. Meachum agreed saying that they need to come back in the winter.

Closed Session: None needed

Adjourn:

Mr. Hogan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Jackson, the motion carried 6-0 & meeting was adjourned @ 5:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office