

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

February 22, 2017

5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kevin Meachum, Chair
Tim Dudley
Jay Dunn
Kevin Greenfield
Jerry Potts
Kevin Bird
Phil Hogan

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

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

Stuart Jacobs
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kevin Meachum at the Macon County Office Building.

MINUTES

Mr. Potts made a motion to approve the January 25, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Greenfield, motion carried 7-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Kevin Bird made a motion to accept the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Hogan, and the motion carried 7-0.

Public Comments - None

Old Business - None

New Business:

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Design Engineering for a Bridge Replacement on TR226 Kruse Road in Mount Zion Township

Mr. Bird explained that this is the free span bridge on Kruse Road that had the hole that had developed in the deck. He explained that they had been looking at doing something with that bridge. He talked with the road commissioner and he wants to move forward with getting it replaced. It was initially looked at as a possibility of repairing or putting a new deck on, but the substructure is not sufficient. Even if a new deck was put on, it would still have a weight restriction on it. If you're going to spend that amount of money, you might as well go ahead and replace it. This is the engineering to get started to eventually replace that structure.

Mr. Dunn asked why the structure underneath is not able to withhold the load. He asked if we are trying to raise it or was it not constructed right in the first place or what. Mr. Bird explained that over the years they've had different standards that bridges were designed according to. As loads of vehicles have gone up, they've had to increase the strength. Basically, the pilings in the ground on this are actually wood instead of steel or concrete. That is the biggest factor. We just can't rely on those to hold everything up once it is done.

Mr. Meachum added that in layman's terms, "it is functionally obsolete". He went on to explain that a life expectancy of a bridge is around 50 years. He asked Mr. Bird if that was correct. Mr. Bird said it depends on how it is made and how it is taken care of. This one is about 42 or 43 years old.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee for consideration with the recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Greenfield, motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the Purchase of Right of Way Parcel 001 from George and Eleanor Reid for the CH7 Baltimore Avenue Bike Path Project

Mr. Bird explained that this is the first of the last two parcels needed for the bike path project. The next resolution is the 2nd one. We have all the parcels acquired and are just waiting on the plans to get approved by IDOT. The initial hope was to get on the April letting, but it looks like it will probably be on the June letting.

Mr. Meachum made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee for consideration with the recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Potts, motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the Purchase of Right of Way Parcel 005 from the Virginia Cannon Trust for the CH7 Baltimore Avenue Bike Path Project

Mr. Bird explained that this is the same as the previous resolution, just different landowners.

Mr. Meachum 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, motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Requesting Quick Take Authority for the Acquisition of Highway Right of Way for the Brush College Road and Illinois 48 Connector Project

Mr. Bird explained that this is the resolution that is tied with the Public Hearing that was just held. It is a request to the General Assembly to give us quick take authority.

Mr. Meachum 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, motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Annual County Pipe Bid

Mr. Bird explained that this and the next two resolutions are for annual bids that we put out. The most important thing is that when we get the bids in, all the townships, municipalities, counties, and villages can piggy back off of our bid. The low bidder was Coady Supply Co out of Springfield. It is a little different this year because IDOT changed the specifications. This is IDOT specified pipe that MFT money can be used for. This is aluminized steel. You have to meet a standard that the pipes will last 75 years. There will be a second bid for standard galvanized pipe, but MFT money cannot be used to buy galvanized pipe any more. Those bids will be opened in a couple of weeks, so next month will be another resolution for straight galvanized pipe. We use the aluminized pipe for crossroad application so we won't have to dig up roads as often and we can use the MFT money to buy it, but we would use galvanized pipes for field entrances, etc.

Mr. Meachum made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee for consideration with the recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Dunn, the motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Annual County Sign Bid

Mr. Meachum made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee for consideration with the recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Dudley.

Mr. Bird explained that the low bidder was Stello Products from Indiana. It's for the standard signs. We have a sign machine for the stop, yield, and other standard signs like that. It is actually cheaper for us to have someone make them in large quantity.

Chair Meachum questioned Mr. Bird about the company being from Indiana. Mr. Bird confirmed. Mr. Meachum asked if there was no other bidder from Illinois. Mr. Bird said there were 2 bidders from Illinois, but they were not the low bidders.

Mr. Potts asked if the old signs are recycled. Mr. Bird said when they get run over and beat up, they are recycled. Mr. Potts clarified saying he meant resurfacing. Mr. Bird explained that they are not normally resurfaced because the sheeting has a 10 year warranty and reflectivity standards have to be met. You can't take the sheeting and put it on top of old sheeting. It invalidates the warranty. If we were to reuse the sign, it would have to be blasted completely clean and then resurfaced. It is far cheaper to buy new blanks and recycle the old.

Mr. Greenfield asked the difference between the Stello Products bid and the Illinois bids. Mr. Bird said this amount was \$5,372. It was probably no more than a couple hundred bucks difference. He did not bring the other bids to the meeting. Mr. Greenfield said he would prefer going with someone from Illinois. Chair Meachum said he agreed and said he would like to table this and ask Mr. Bird to bring the bids in just for the mere fact that . . . Mr. Greenfield questioned whether they could opt for the more local bidders or if they had to take the reasonable low bid. Mr. Baggett said it has to be the lowest responsible bidder and he said he was not sure if there was anything in the statute that says you can prefer in-state to out of state companies unless you have reason, historical or some sort of reliable information that the alternative bidder is not a responsible bidder. Unless there is some sort of information that you are going to get a bad deal from the low bidder, you have to go with the low bidder. If you know from past experience that a company is not one you want to work with for some legitimate reason, you can also deem that to not be the lowest responsible bid. In general, you have to go with the lowest, responsible bid. If Bruce has no information that this low bidder is irresponsible as compared to the other slightly higher bidders, he has an obligation under the statute to go with the lower bid.

Chair Meachum asked if they have an office in the State of Illinois as that could make a difference. Mr. Bird said they are just a material supplier, not a contractor.

Mr. Dunn said he would like for Mr. Baggett to contact Mr. Ed Flynn and check into the bidding process because he thought there was some way they had discussed a few years ago about the bidding process. He said he thought there was some leeway possibly where local labor work or vendor bids are involved. He said he would appreciate if Mr. Baggett would check into it. Mr. Baggett agreed and added that there is a provision for the County, but he was unsure if the provision applied to the Highway or not, but you only have to let something for bids when you are dealing with purchases and services over \$30,000. This is a much lower amount than that, so it may be that it does not have to be let for bid, however, there is concern that it has already been let for bid and we have already received bids. The process has already been started and we may be painted into a corner there. He said he would check into it further.

Chair Meachum said he was concerned about taxpayers of Macon County that always ask if we are taking the most responsible bidder from the local area. We worry about people having jobs and it is an

image thing for us. Mr. Bird commented that there is nobody around here that supplies signs. Mr. Meachum said he understood that, but the State of Illinois rather than Indiana is why he asked the question. Mr. Bird said this company got the bid last year. It is bid out because we can get a better price. Chair Meachum said he was not denying that they don't do quality work. He was just asking the question because he said they would eventually get asked.

Chair Meachum asked what the committee members wanted to do. Chairman Dunn said he would prefer to go ahead with it, but have Mr. Baggett check on it so we can have a better understanding the next time on whether we can use local preference and what the limit is where it has to be put out for bids.

Chair Meachum rescinded his motion and asked for a motion to table until the next meeting which was made by Mr. Potts. The motion failed to get a second. Chair Meachum announced that since there was no 2nd, they would go back to the original motion to approve the bid as presented. Motion to do so was made by Mr. Dudley, seconded by Mr. Dunn. There were 6 yes votes with Mr. Meachum voting present.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Annual County Sign Blanks Bid

Mr. Bird explained that these are the aluminum blanks that are used to actually make the signs. There were enough blanks last year so it was not bid out last year. This year it is low. The bid is for \$4,934.30 from Lightle Enterprises and they are from Ohio. They have been used in the past as well.

Chair Meachum asked if there was no company . . . Mr. Bird explained that the bids come in from all over the Midwest, even one from Foley, Alabama which is about 5 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. These large companies specialize in these things and then bid stuff all over the country. The advantage of the specialization is that we can usually get better prices.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee for consideration with the recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Dudley, the motion carried 7-0.

County Engineer's Report:

Mr. Bruce Bird reported that they had plowed snow a week and a half ago. He was asked how the salt supply was. Mr. Bird replied that it is good, but we've used more salt this year than last year because of those first two ice storms we had.

A lot of ditch work is getting done. It is not muddy. Conditions are good and things are getting caught up. A lot of brush is being cut as well.

Projects that are lined up include the Sefton Road Project in April, the Bike Path will probably be let in June, and two bridges that were held over from last year will get started soon. It is going to be a busy summer and everything is pretty well locked into place.

Chairman Dunn said he had spoken with Mr. Bird a little bit about the structure McLeod has with the tarp over it. Unless it is not worth it, he said he would like to see the City, the County, and the Townships to talk to see if the potential is there to save money by buying huge amounts of salt or whatever and then utilizing that structure. Right now it is not being used. Mr. Bird explained that there are several counties that have done that in the past. They basically buy the next year's supply and stash it so that when you have a heavy use year, you don't run out and you don't have to pay through the nose to get salt when you run out in the middle of the year. It also enables the ability to fill it back up when the prices are cheaper. There are two or three other counties around the state that do this and would be

good examples as to how to do it. Chairman Dunn said he would appreciate Mr. Bird checking into it and taking the lead. He wasn't sure if it could be leased or bought, but the bottom line is that they need to know the options of whether they lease, buy or do nothing.

Chair Meachum said that as of right now, we've got a full bin full of salt, but at the same time, we've got to look to next year and the possible inflation rate of the salt when the demand is high so we can weather the storm. He said he thought Mr. Bird has already been looking into it and he would let Mr. Bird give Chairman Dunn a call at a later time to inform him of what he has cooking.

Mr. Greenfield asked Mr. Bird if there are local bridge builders since Schmidt is gone. Mr. Bird said that if Entler would choose to pull out a set of plans and choose to start building bridges again, then yes, but the next closest one would be one in Mattoon that has built a couple of township bridges for us. There are larger bridge contractors in Bloomington, Springfield, Peoria and Morton that have done bridges for us in the past, but their prices tend to be higher. One that has gotten quite a bit of our work recently is County Contractors. Pricewise, they are on par, especially, and it's kind of important on Township bridges, they put them in quickly and at decent prices. That helps the Townships out. They are in Quincy. They come over here and bid stuff and they are pretty sharp. They get after it and get things done quickly. Schmidt is not the only small contractor like that. Perry County Contractors had the exact same thing happen to them and they went belly up. There are a couple of them in southern Illinois. It is just with the flattening out of road funds, those small specialty contractors like that have had a really hard time staying in business.

Miscellaneous Business: None

Closed Session:

None needed

Adjourn:

Mr. Potts made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Greenfield, the motion carried 7-0 & meeting was adjourned @ 5:53 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office