

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

August 23, 2017

5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Dudley, Vice Chair
Kevin Bird
Kevin Greenfield
Jerry Potts
Phil Hogan

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Bruce Bird, County Engineer
Stuart Jacobs, Highway Department
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jay Dunn
Kevin Meachum

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Tim Dudley at the Macon County Office Building.

MINUTES

Mr. Potts made a motion to approve the June 21, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Greenfield, motion carried 5-0.

CLAIMS

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

Public Comments - None

Old Business - None

New Business:

Macon County Board Resolution appropriating funds for additional right of way expenses for Section 12-00249-00-BR, a bridge on CH 57 85th Street.

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that this is the bridge by Mr. Hogan's house.

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

Macon County Board Resolution appropriating Motor Fuel Tax funds for Section 17-00288-00-SM, the CH 1 Brush College Road Pavement Rehabilitation Project.

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that this is the area between Raes Bridge Road and the RR tracks to the south, especially the southbound lanes where there is a lot of faulting in the pavement. This is a specialty contractor coming in. This is not really slab jacking. They inject stuff into the soil underneath and it ends up lifting everything up so we don't have to patch everything. Everything is just brought back up to its original alignment. It is about half the cost of patching. We're going to try it to see if it will work in this section. He said he thought it would be something that will not only fix the patching, but will eliminate an ongoing problem with the soft sub base there.

Mr. Potts made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Hogan, and the motion carried 5-0.

Macon County Board Resolution approving an agreement with the Illinois Commerce Commission covering grade crossing improvements on Franklin Street and Baltimore Avenue.

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that this agreement is at no expense to the county. It is a use of grade crossing protection funds and railroad money. It is a good deal for us.

Mr. Bird made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Hogan, and the motion carried 5-0.

Macon County Board Resolution approving the purchase of a Pickup Truck.

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that this is the oldest, red engineer's truck.

Mr. Bird made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Potts, and the motion carried 5-0.

FY18 Budget Presentation

Mr. Bird explained that the highway used to be split into 2 sub-categories; 081 & 082. With the new software going in at the Auditor's Office and with the DPBC taking over ownership of the building, it will be a good time to combine those. The split funds came from when the County Engineer's office was down in the County Building and the maintenance guys were in the old brick building that is now used for storage. Now that everything is in one building, it makes sense to combine everything.

The lines look a little different, but the overall numbers show that the contingent went down, but the revenue also went down. Miscellaneous receipts on the revenue reflects what came in as the upfront payment from the wind farm.

County Highway highlights get right into salaries. The labor maintenance patrols are the maintainers in the back. They are less by almost \$17,000 than what they were the previous year. That balances out the raises in the other areas.

Some of the building maintenance operation lines were pulled out because they won't be needed anymore because of the Building Commission.

Revenue minus expense looks good compared to what they have in the past several years.

The biggest thing in Matching Funds is revenue anticipated for the Connector Project whenever that is started. The expenses are set up on the other side to cover that as well. The regular items are matched also.

There are a couple of items in MFT that got bounced around and moved up. On the revenue side, there is just a little here and there. Same thing on the expense side. The highlight there is at the bottom, the project expense which was bumped up from \$500 to \$750, 000 based upon the receipts coming in. That is for another road project that is set up for next year. The SB97 is the Township's MFT pass through. County Bridge budget is pretty much the same except the expense. It is actually about \$50,000 less than last year because of the way funds flow in and out of it. State Township Bridge budget is set up for possibly one project next year. The way that works is that we don't get money from the State until the project is let. They then send a check and everything is paid from that. That is a money in / money out. Progress City lines are always kept in case there is work Richland wants done, but next year is an off

year and they probably won't be used. Chair Dudley asked about upgrades this year. Mr. Bird said that half a million dollars had been spent out there this year including the remainder of the money that was left over from the original construction, Richland put some money in and the Farm Progress people put some of their own money into it for the third straight year in a row.

Mr. Greenfield asked about salaries and if the clerical are under union contract. Mr. Bird confirmed. Mr. Greenfield asked about the Road Supervisor and Assistant Engineer. Mr. Bird said they are not under contract. Mr. Greenfield commented that the numbers reflect a pretty big raise. Mr. Bird explained that it mirrors percentage wise what the union contract reflects. Mr. Greenfield said that the problem with percentage raises is that the more you make, the more you get. Mr. Bird said he understood that. Mr. Greenfield asked about the percentages that were used. Mr. Bird did not have the figures with him. He explained that the union contracts are not a percentage, but is just a dollar amount. He asked if there was a particular percentage or dollar amount Mr. Greenfield was looking for. Mr. Greenfield said he didn't even know who the Assistant County Engineer is and didn't care who it is, but in this time of budget problems, even though the highway budget comes from different funds, it still looks the same. That is a big raise. Mr. Bird asked if there was a number Mr. Greenfield wanted to slot in. Mr. Greenfield explained that when you get to that point, percentage raises are not fair to the guys that are making \$10 an hour versus the guy making \$30 an hour. He said he has always argued that he does not like percentage raises. There are several people in the county that are not going to get any raises at all. The Road Supervisor is currently making \$56,316 and the Assistant Engineer is at \$83,720. That seems like a lot of money. Mr. Potts asked Mr. Bird what the surrounding areas pays. Mr. Bird said that if you talk about an assistant with comparable experience, they're all higher, but you're talking McLean, Champaign, Sangamon Counties. Mr. Potts said we've always been suppressed in wages. Mr. Bird said that relatively speaking, compared to all of those counties, we are always the lowest. Whenever they go into contract negotiations, they call here first for comparables. Mr. Greenfield said the two clerical workers for \$1,040 and he thought that figure should be fair for them too. Mr. Bird clarified, asking if he wanted the Assistant County Engineer and the Road Supervisor at \$1,040 also. Mr. Greenfield said that would be his recommendation, but he would not speak for the rest of the committee members. However, that would be his recommendation to Finance. Chair Dudley said he had just completed the calculations. The Road Supervisor raise is 5% and the Assistant County Engineer raise is 4%. Mr. Greenfield said he was saying that the clerical workers got \$1,040 and if that is fair for them, it should be fair for the other two. Keep in mind that the other two make a considerable amount of money and he thought the Road Supervisor probably has a pickup truck to drive back and forth to work and the Assistant Engineer does most of the year. Mr. Bird confirmed that this correct. He said that \$1,040 would be a 1.2% raise for the Assistant County Engineer and 1.8% for the Road Supervisor.

Mr. Potts made a motion to amend the budget lines 5160 & 5666 to a raise of \$1,040, seconded by Mr. Greenfield and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to send the amended budget on to the Finance Committee Budget Hearing, seconded by Mr. Hogan and the motion carried 5-0.

County Engineer's Report:

Mr. Bruce Bird reported that the final inspection of the bridge on CH38 was done. The state cleared everything out of there. The grass has not grown yet. A letter was received from the contractor guaranteeing that if it does not grow, they will come back and reseed.

The paving on Baltimore that has caused some people some consternation the last couple of days has been finished. They will be putting the shoulder stone down by the end of the week.

There were two projects on the August 4 IDOT letting. The Wyckles white topping came in slightly less than the engineer's estimate. That was good. The bike path project in the same area came in at 20% over the engineer's estimate. It will be pulled and some modifications on the plan will be done and then it will be relet. Bottom line is that it will not be started until next year and hopefully we can get a better price next time around.

The guys have been doing some mowing and culver work.

The advance signs are up for the Farm Progress Show. All of the cones and barricades that are typically put out are ready to go.

All the dirt is in place and the embankment is done and in place on the bridge on Sefton Road. All the piling is done. It looks great. Today, they were going to pour the abutment caps on both sides. The beams have already been fabricated and are ready to go. The contractor is very hopeful that they are going to have it done and open by December 1st. Right now, they are ahead of schedule.

Some of the road improvement work at the windfarm will be done this year. They've just now gotten into that. There will be some meetings soon. Mr. Bird said they are working with them and their contractor. It looks like Dunn Company will be doing the work for them, so they kept that work local. That was nice.

One way or the other, by Friday, we should find out when we will be able to do that Brush College Connector Road. It will be let this year, but by the time everything goes in, the Contractor will get started this year, but they're not going to get everything done this year.

Miscellaneous Business: None

Closed Session: None

Adjourn:

Mr. Potts made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bird, the motion carried 6-0 & meeting was adjourned @ 5:40 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office