

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

September 27, 2017

5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kevin Meachum
Tim Dudley
Kevin Bird
Kevin Greenfield
Jerry Potts
Jay Dunn

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Phil Hogan

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

MINUTES

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve the August 23, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Bird, motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Potts made a motion to accept the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Bird, and the motion carried 6-0.

Public Comments - None

Old Business - None

New Business:

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds for a Lobbying Services Agreement with Curry & Associates

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that this is a one year agreement for \$36,000 total starting December 1, 2017.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Dudley, and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating County Bridge Funds for a 50/50 Drainage Project with Friends Creek

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that this is occasionally done where the Township can request if the cost exceeds .02% of the assessed value of the township, then we will go 50/50 on the cost of a drainage project. The Road Commissioner had a pretty severe problem with a box culvert at an intersection that he wants to go in and repair and replace, so that is what the project is.

Mr. Dunn 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 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds for Asphalt Resurfacing Work on CH57 85th Street near Dalton City

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that this was mentioned a couple of months ago when they had tried to go in and do a cost share project with the state at that intersection because the north leg of that 4 way stop by Dalton City is a County Highway. The state forgot to include us, so we went straight to the contractor. It is the same price as if we had gone in with the state. This is to cover that work.

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

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds for Section 17-00287-00-DR, a Drainage Project on CH61 Franklin Street

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that this is a pipe culvert where there were some undercutting issues in the spring for a pretty deep culvert about 16 foot in the ground. It was put out for bid. Otto Baum got the work. This is to appropriate the money so they can be paid.

Mr. Potts made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Dunn, and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds to Purchase Right of Way from the First National Bank of Decatur Trust Number 4295 on the CH 60 Sefton Road Bridge Replacement Project

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that they have already started the project. This landowner had initially decided that they did not want to participate. It is a very small sliver at the west end of the project. We were able to go ahead and slide around it. We weren't going to be able to cut the ditch completely to match up. The landowner thought better of it after the project was started and buying this piece of right of way is going to allow us to actually build it and grade it in so it will work better & drain better when done.

Chairman Meachum asked if there would be any additional cost since this purchase in putting right of way markers or anything. Mr. Bird said no, just the purchase of the right of way. There is not going to be any additional work to fit that in.

Mr. Greenfield asked if the price was \$500. Mr. Bird confirmed.

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

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Project Labor Agreement for the Brush College Road Connector Project

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that this is part of the work with the Connector Project and Beltway Project.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Dudley, and the motion carried 6-0.

County Engineer's Report:

Mr. Bruce Bird reported that they have agreed to settle with the landowner that was holding out on the Connector Road Project, so they will be able to get that started as soon as they get the ground purchased and everything recorded.

Mr. Bird said he had received a letter from the Prairie Flower Montessori School. They are located on the south side of the lake on Turpin Road in one of the bends in the road. They have a request for an honorary street sign for Dr. Maria Montessori. They have a lane that goes back and they want to make that an honorary street. In the past, we've done a couple of signs like this, but they were on existing streets. This would be putting an honorary sign on something that is not an existing street and does not meet any standards. It is a private lane. Chair Meachum asked about the expense. Mr. Bird said a single sign, both sides, cost of materials is probably less than \$20. Adding a post would put it at about \$50 total. Chair Meachum said that, by law, it can't be green, so it would have to be blue or a different color than our regular street signs. Mr. Bird agreed that it cannot be green. It would have to be blue for a private lane or brown for honorary. Chair Meachum said he was ok with it, but wanted to know how Mr. Bird felt about it. Mr. Bird said it didn't matter to him. They could go out and put a sign up, but they don't get a lot of these, and he'd like to keep it that way, but when they do come up, he said he would bring them to the committee. Mr. Greenfield said he was surprised that that was the question because he had gotten a couple of phone calls in regard to a concern about the traffic. If someone comes flying around that curve and you're coming from the west and trying to get across the traffic, you're going to get hit. He said he had been asked about flashing lights. He said he had gone out and looked at it and agreed that it is a dangerous situation. Mr. Bird said they had put up school zone signs and that they've had battery and solar powered flashing lights up before. That is a request that has come up before. Chairman Meachum said in the past, a regular flashing light had been attached to the sign. That has had some success. Some of the signs have flashing lights that go around the sign. Mr. Bird said those are solar and the cost is about \$1,500 each. He said there have been flags and lights up there before and they could do it again. Mr. Greenfield said he thought that might make a difference. He said he had also thought about asking the Sheriff to place a patrol car there in the morning. Mr. Bird said that would have more impact than anything they could put on a sign. Mr. Bird agreed that they would put some stuff out there.

Mr. Dudley asked about the status of the Farm Bureau and Matt Jungman meetings. Mr. Bird said they had met with Mr. Jungman right before this meeting. It was a very positive and productive meeting. They've got some questions and issues that need to be run past FHWA. He said they are going to do that. Then, another meeting would be scheduled. A Farm Bureau meeting has not yet occurred. They are all busy harvesting right now. Mr. Dudley asked to be kept posted because he would really like to see those meetings held ASAP.

Mr. Bird referred to a memo he had sent out to all board members about the state reducing the County Consolidated payment. All the counties are getting a 50% cut because of the funds cost of transit and paying for the Series D bonds being taken out of the general fund at the state level and put on the transportation side. He asked if anybody had any questions about it. He said that we are taking a \$50 million cut while IDOT has a \$250 million cut. The scary thing is that in looking at it in the future. It was \$303 million this year. We are being told it might approach \$500 million next year. The County Consolidate was a discretionary fund, so it is not codified to the Statutes. They can take it if they want to. In the past, that payment annually was anywhere from \$275,000 to \$350,000. That is a lot of money. They are only taking half this time, but it won't take much of a stretch that if the costs are going up on the other side every year, it will probably be more that they take next year.

Ms. Cox asked if each individual town got cut 50%. Mr. Bird explained it is 50% out of the County Consolidated. The only municipality that was specifically singled out was Chicago. That was a certain amount. The City of Decatur is not getting cut at all. If you want that to change, you're going to have to let people know. One comment the secretary made in individual meetings with all the legislators, was to ask if they knew it was in that budget and all of them so far, have said no. They were surprised that it happened.

Mr. Bird commented on projects –

- Bridge & County Highway 60 Sefton Road – the deck is poured & approach slabs are being poured tomorrow. They are on track to be done before 12/1/17. It is going great.
- The box culvert on Nevada Road should be finished with setting all the segments today. It was a township project. It will be open in 3 ½ to 4 weeks.
- The bridge on Drummer Road in Austin Township – the deck is set. They are doing the approach work on the road and hope that by the middle of next week, that one will be open
- Work on the Wyckles white topping was started and will extend into next year
- The road projects in the Windfarm area - Dunn is in the 2nd day of paving on Washington Street. What is done so far rides fabulous. It looks and rides great. They will be micro surfacing to finish the seal on Kenney Blacktop. By the end of next week, both of those roads should be done except for maybe striping. All that work is cost to the windfarm and no cost to us. Those roads are going to look and ride very, very nice.
- There is still some follow up work on the Farm Progress site

Mr. Bird said they are busier right now than they have been in 7 years. It is nice,

The guys have been –

- A crew on Baltimore today
- Box culvert work
- A little concrete work here and there
- Some concrete work for the Sheriff's office
- Some ditch work soon – specifically, in Long Creek Township

Chair Meachum said he was getting questions on Wyckles Road and asked what was on the website. Mr. Bird said they've put on their Facebook page that exploratory trenching is being done for the field work. They will get started on ditch work soon. They will probably do a mile at a time. They'll close that mile while they are in there working because they'll have trucks and equipment on the road. The residents that are in that mile will be able to get in and out. So will emergency vehicles if needed, but we do not want people just driving through. Mr. Meachum said he was getting questions in his neighborhood from people that use that route to get to Warrensburg. Mr. Bird said that as soon as they see the road barricaded, they should seek alternate routes. Mr. Meachum asked to have something put on the county website on top of what is being put on Facebook.

Miscellaneous Business: None

Closed Session: None

Adjourn:

Mr. Dudley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Potts, the motion carried 6-0 & meeting was adjourned @ 5:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office