

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

February 21, 2018

5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kevin Meachum
Phil Hogan
Kevin Greenfield
Kevin Bird
Jerry Potts

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jay Dunn
Tim Dudley

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

MINUTES

Mr. Bird made a motion to approve the 12/20/17 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Hogan, motion carried 5-0.

CLAIMS

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

Public Comments –

Margaret Evans, 5584 Traugher Road, Decatur, IL 62521

Ms. Evans explained that she was appearing on behalf of the Community Environmental Council and the Friends of the Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park because of a proposal for landscaping on the Lincoln Memorial Parkway.

In 1939, Macon County acquired a little over 80 acres from the landowners for a roadway to create a nice right of way 200' wide which would go from the existing roadway of 36 past the park to Mt. Auburn Road. At this point, this area is not a scenic highway as intended. It is mostly old trees and turf which needs to be mowed. The goal of this project is to provide an attractive parkway leading to the Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park with plantings of native species about every ½ mile. Both the Lincoln boyhood home in Indiana and the Lincoln Birthplace in Kentucky have scenic routes leading to their sites. This might be an asset to the county to have for the Lincoln Trail Homestead. In 2009, the City of Decatur developed a master plan for the improvement of the park. However 2009 was not a very good year financially and the money went elsewhere. The good plan that was drawn up by the City and Architects was never implemented.

Partnering with the Lincoln Trail Homestead Friends are a number of other groups; Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Macon County Conservation District, Millikin University, Macon County Historical Society, Decatur Chamber of Commerce, Decatur Audubon Society, Agricultural Watershed Institute, Looking for Lincoln Coalition, The Abraham Lincoln Association, The Heart of the Sangamon River Partnership, Macon County Soil & Water Conservation District, and many interested individuals.

The Friends have done quite a lot with the park in the last two years since they have become Friends of the Park. They have repaired the steps that lead down to the river, planted a memorial garden around the

rock, created a trail through the timber for a woodland trail, and removed a lot of honeysuckle. They are still in process of trying to remove the honeysuckle that can take over a lot of native areas. It is an active group that is coming right along.

A description of the plantings was provided to committee members. Ms. Evans explained that the idea is that they would be in 17 islands between 36 and Mt. Auburn Road with 3 to 5 trees each, in different sizes. The trees come in different sizes and are grouped according to size with the A trees being 50' to over 100' tall and including the Bur Oaks, Chestnuts, Shagbarks, Red Maples, Persimmons & Buckeyes. The 30' to 45' tall trees are in Group B and include the Sassafras, River Birch, Hornbeam, Serviceberry, and Wild Black Cherry. The shorter trees are Group C and include Redbuds, Dog Wood, Wahoo, Crab apple, Viburnum, Wild Plum and other pretty trees. There would be a combination of heights of trees in each island.

There is one other improvement being suggested along the roadway. There is a new boat launch that the Friends have gotten put in with the help of IDNR. The area along the road for parking to the access area is pretty small. So, it would be good if it could be enlarged so that a canoe trailer could fit in with a few more cars. Vulcan Materials has agreed to donate gravel for this.

Ms. Evans said she is asking if the County might be willing to cover the cost of the planting. The Friends intend to buy the trees. A program has already been started to raise some money for trees. For \$18.30, a tree for the highway can be bought. It has kind of caught on and there are enough people that are Friends of this that there should be no problem reaching the goal of a little over \$1,000 to get 75 trees.

The plan includes concern for overhead wires, crossroads, adjacent private property, etc... All of this has been taken into consideration and that is why the spacing is as it is. The trees under consideration would come from Forest Keeling Nurseries in Missouri. They are very well known and respected. They deliver. The trees are well established and this nursery has a way of getting very good root growth.

She summarized saying that she was wondering if the County might consider the plan for beautifying the Lincoln Memorial Parkway.

Chair Meachum asked Bruce Bird to make a few comments since he has been working with Ms. Evans and trying to come up with a plan that meets all the safety requirements for our roadways.

Mr. Bird said that Ms. Evans had contacted him about 3 weeks ago. He said his first question was if they had checked where the utilities are located and she had verified that they had. He then asked if any of the plantings would be at the intersections where they would cause sight distance problems and she again was able to confirm that they were not doing that either. Mr. Bird said there is plenty of room out there in the right of way. This is one of the few locations where the County could do this pretty easily. As far as getting the plantings into the ground, it should be no problem. As far as watering, the department is not really set up to do that. He said that if Ms. Evans could have someone keep an eye on them after they are planted and water them until they are established, the highway department could go out and mark them so they don't get into them when mowing. He asked what the size the plantings would be. Ms. Evans said they come in pots that are 8" – 10" in diameter and 7 ½ " in depth. She said that they are also considering getting some of the white spiral plastic protectors and they will need to be mulched. Both the mulch and the protectors will help make them visible.

Chair Meachum said he felt that Mr. Bird could work with Ms. Evans and the Friends. He asked the committee members if there was any opposition. He said he feels that any time they can help volunteers beautify an area for the county, we ought to jump on it. Mr. Greenfield clarified that the department is

just going to go out and spade them in and then the Friends would be responsible to watering and care of them. Chair Meachum confirmed and said it would be low cost. Mr. Greenfield asked if it could be coordinated where it could all be done at one time and then they'd be done. Mr. Meachum said Mr. Bird would take care of that as he would not burn up a bunch of man hours out there planting trees. He said Mr. Bird is quite capable of making sure that happens and this committee knows the Highway Department does a good job and run efficiently. The Committee members agreed to allow the Highway Department to proceed with the project. Both Mr. Bird and Ms. Evans agreed the best time to plant would be in the Fall which would fit in well with the department's work schedule and allow the Friends to raise the money to pay for the trees.

Old Business - None

New Business:

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the 2018 Sign Bid

Mr. Bird explained that the first 4 resolutions for signs & culverts that were opened today. They got really good prices on them. These bids are per unit price for signs, sign blanks, culverts, and is not a statement that says we will buy a certain number of signs, but establishes a unit price.

Chair Meachum asked if there were any big increases. Mr. Bird said not really. He reminded the members of the committee that the reason the MFT & Non-MFT are separate is that a state requirement kicked in last year that if you use MFT to buy culverts, you have to buy either aluminum or aluminized culverts. There are a lot of the culverts where just a regular galvanized pipe is needed. Villages and Townships can all partner with us and buy off of what we got on our bids. Stellar Products got the sign bid. Empty Solutions got the sign blanks bid. Both of the culvert bids were picked up by Metal Culverts.

Mr. Potts 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 5-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the 2018 Sign Blanks Bid

Mr. Potts 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 Approving the 2018 MFT Culvert Bid

Mr. Greenfield 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 2018 Non-MFT Culvert Bid

Mr. Greenfield 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 Appropriating Funds for the CH 30 and CH 41 Realignment Project.

Mr. Bird explained that this is the project that was finished the year before last. The state needs a resolution appropriating those MFT dollars that have already been spent for their records.

Mr. Greenfield 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 a Jurisdictional Transfer Agreement with South Wheatland Township

Mr. Bird explained that the next two resolutions are for jurisdictional transfer agreements with Blue Mound & South Wheatland Townships. They are both for the same project on 30 & 41. This is the cut off piece of 30 that goes west from the intersection. The reason why both townships are involved is because of where the line falls. One township cannot have jurisdiction of a road inside another township. He said he has spoken with the Road Commissioners, has signatures, and now it just needs to go through the Board so the form can be sent off to IDOT and then it's a done deal. There is a little bit of roadwork the commissioners want done. A big portion of the east part of the road is totally reconstructed. There will be some chip sealing and a little drainage work done as part of the agreement and then it will be theirs to take care of.

Mr. Potts 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 5-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Jurisdictional Transfer Agreement with Blue Mound Township

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.

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds for the Kruse Road Bridge Project

Mr. Bird explained that this is the bridge on Kruse Road in Mt. Zion Township. This is the one that IDOT, because of good bid prices, had almost exactly the amount of money left to get that bridge replaced. It had to be set up and done ASAP in order for them to use that money. It will get done this year. This moves that bridge up 2 years.

Mr. Greenfield 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 Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Niantic on the Niantic Road Reconstruction Project

Mr. Bird explained that the village had approached them about Niantic Road where it comes off old 36 and goes into town. It is marked as our county highway, but our jurisdiction ends about 500' north of 36. For the next mile, all the way through Niantic, it is actually a county highway extension over a municipal street. Mainly because of the ADM facility, the Village has been trying to get that road reconstructed. The Intergovernmental Agreement calls for them to cover the Design and Engineering Costs for the entire stretch from 36 all the way up to the RR tracks. They will cover the cost of the reconstruction of the road within their village and we will cover our portion, which is only about 500'. We will do the on site engineering. Our cost for our part of the project is about \$40,000 to \$50,000. That is within the budget for this year. They'd like to get to this sometime in the fall. The Village got a grant and they have funds for about 10% to 15 % of the project. Chair Meachum said it is a win/ win situation.

Mr. Potts 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 5-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the Purchase of Right of Way Parcel from Michael and Vicky Wehr for the CH 57 Dalton City Blacktop Bridge Replacement Project

Mr. Bird explained that the next 3 resolutions are all for the purchase of right of way for the new project for right of way for CH57 to Dalton City Blacktop Bridge replacement. It is the one that is by Mr. Hogan's house.

Mr. Hogan asked how the funding was coming along for that project. Mr. Bird explained that the earliest that can be let is next June, but there are 18 separate parcels and that is why they are being started on now.

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

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the Purchase of Right of Way Parcel from Glenn and Esther Williams for the CH 57 Dalton City Blacktop Bridge Replacement Project

Mr. Potts 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 Approving the Purchase of Right of Way Parcel from Samuel and Jaci Bruce for the CH 57 Dalton City Blacktop Bridge Replacement Project

Mr. Potts 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 5-0.

Mr. Bird reported that he had had a conversation about the project with Mr. Baggett about negotiations with Mr. Hogan and given his relationship on this committee, Mr. Baggett thought it would be a good idea to have an outside 3rd party handle those negotiations.

County Engineer's Report:

The guys have had a really busy winter. Not as much patch material is being put out as IDOT & the City are having to put out. Our roads are in pretty good shape compared to those.

Utility work on the Connector Road Project is moving forward. Pretty much all of the utilities are lined up for that. When the weather breaks, work should get going.

Other projects include the striping contract that they are working with the City on. He said they are doing a good job of partnering up with other folks and getting good prices. He said he is hopeful about the state budget so they can get something done this year.

Chair Meachum said he had spoken with Doug at IDOT about 121 from University to the Bearsdale area is supposed to have an extensive patch job being let this spring.

Miscellaneous Business: None

Closed Session: None

Adjourn:

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

Minutes submitted by: Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office