

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

March 27, 2019

5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patty Cox, Chair
Tim Dudley, Vice Chair
Kevin Greenfield
Kevin Bird
Phil Hogan

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Bruce Bird, County Engineer
Stuart Jacobs

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

Pat Dawson
Rachel Joy

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

MINUTES

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to approve the 2/27/19 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Hogan, and the motion carried 5-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. K. 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 – None

Old Business - None

New Business:

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Jurisdictional Transfer on Argenta Road with the Village of Argenta

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that this is a really small portion right down town between the 4 way stop and the RR tracks, that little concrete piece that we put in a couple of years ago. This just formally transfers it to us. It is our responsibility now, which we have an intergovernmental agreement with them to do that anyway.

Mr. Hogan made a motion to forward the resolution on to the finance committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. K. Bird and the motion carried 5 - 0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the 2019 Annual County MFT Culvert Bid

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to forward the resolution on to the finance committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Dudley and the motion carried 5 - 0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the 2019 Annual County Non-MFT Culvert Bid

Mr. K. Bird made a motion to forward 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 2019 Annual County Sign Bid

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to forward the resolution on to the finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. K. Bird and the motion carried 5 - 0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the 2019 Annual County Sign Blank Bid

Mr. K. Bird made a motion to forward the resolution on to the finance committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Dudley and the motion carried 5 - 0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the Purchase of Temporary Easement #1 and 2 from Scott A. Becker and Christine M. Becker on the CH 24 Reas Bridge Road Project

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to forward the resolution on to the finance committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. K. Bird and the motion carried 5 - 0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the Purchase of Right of Way Parcel 009 from the Decatur Park District on the Reas Bridge Road Project

Mr. Dudley made a motion to forward the resolution on to the finance committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Hogan. Chair Cox asked about the piece of land. Mr. Bruce Bird explained that it is a portion that currently has a boat ramp on it. It is on the east side of the lake by the bridge. Chairman Greenfield told Mr. Bird that they are currently working with the Park District to try to do an intergovernmental agreement, so from here on out if he has anything to check before paying. He said they're doing the same thing with the City and that he was trying to get them involved too but right now they're going to get something together for the Park District. Mr. Bird agreed saying that all of these things are reimbursed 100% by the state. The motion carried 5 - 0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Decatur on the 2019 Annual Striping Contract

Mr. K. Bird made a motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Hogan and the motion carried 5 - 0.

Request to Solicit Interest for Engineering Services – Pleasant View Township

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that a couple of months ago the process for using state / federal funds for engineering said that he now has to come to the committee to ask for Letters of Interest for Engineering Services. This would be on a bridge in Pleasant View Township on Jackson Road. This is not too far from Moweaqua. This is just a request to be allowed to go ahead and seek letters of interest from engineering firms

Mr. K. Bird made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hogan to allow the request and the motion carried 5-0.

County Engineer's Report:

Going back to the Reas Bridge Road project, Mr. Bruce Bird said he had found out on Monday of this week that all of the parcels have been secured. The processing will cycle through. The next part of the Beltway is replacing the bridges across the lake. It is kind of a big deal that the right of ways have been taken care of. Once everything is paved, utilities can be started while we are still waiting for the funds for the project itself. The only thing that is going to be missing going forward is getting the money put

together to actually get the thing built. The plans are ready to go for the final review by IDOT. He said they are just waiting on the funds. An application for \$7.5 million for the federal INFRA grant fund was made. The deadline was about 1 ½ months ago and it was in plenty of time. They are supposed to announce that out by July so we might know by July if we can get started on that, but at least the right of way is taken care of and is not holding us back. We are looking really good on that project.

The Connector Road Project contractor has started back in earnest in the last 3 days. They poured concrete out there, are working on tearing the median out on Rt 48 because they will have to put a new left turn lane in at the new intersection. They are really moving right along and making great progress. They're cleaning up some of the stuff as they move along, getting the stuff out of the field areas onto the side and putting everything up onto the pavements so when it comes time to get everything out of there, it won't take long for them to get out of there. They're making really good progress on that.

On the Bridge on 85th Street, it is set up and ready to go for the April 26 letting. As soon as IDOT awards that after that letting, about June 1st, it will get started. The tree removal is done out there. They are working with the utilities. It doesn't appear that there are too many utilities in the way; a few gas lines and maybe a little bit of water main work there with Long Creek water, but it does not look like it is going to be much work. That project is looking pretty good too.

Final work on Wyckles Road to dress that up is being done. There are erosion spots the contractor is going to have to take care of.

All of the other projects that are lined up for this year – we pretty much have all the right of way on those. There is one up by Warrensburg that Mr. Bird said he would get started on shortly. It is a drainage project that runs from right by the school property to west of Crown Cork and Seal. It will probably be done later this fall after the crops are out of the field.

The guys have been doing some culvert work, sweeping bridges, and whatever is left of the patching.

The year finished with some salt left.

Chair Cox asked about the status on hiring saying that they had talked about him hiring two employees. Mr. Bruce Bird explained that he had made one hire. He starts Monday is very much looking forward to getting to start work with the department. Mr. Bird said he had gotten a letter earlier this week. Some of the projects have to be approved by IDOT. IDOT cut back on their environmental reviews for projects. Everything we do with them has to go through an environmental review. The reason they had to cut back is because they used a lot of overtime and a lot of salt this winter. To stay within their budget, by the end of June, they had to start making cuts across the board. That is one of the things. The downside of that for us is that we can get our design work done & get everything set for the environmental review. Typically it takes them anywhere from 3 to 6 months to get through the environmental review. They told us to expect longer. There may be a couple of projects later this year that we were looking to do that we may not get to because we will not get the reviews back from IDOT in a timely fashion because they had to cut that back. Given that, the better time to hire is now or after November 30th. For the 2nd hire, Mr. Bird said he would have no problem waiting until after November 30th. He said he thought they could keep everything covered given the fact that it looks like there will probably be a couple of projects pushed back due to no fault of our own.

Miscellaneous Business:

Chair Cox asked about Curry and Associates and the fact that we spend \$36,000 for them to lobby for us. She said she does not have any problem with that, but the contract states that they not only do transportation, but they are also supposed to represent other departments in this county. Ms. Cox said

she doesn't have problems with the windmill money, but the problem she has is that it looks like it comes out of the highway budget. She said she would rather have that money transferred over into the general fund and then we pay it out. She said that might be something to be considered at budget time. She said that any money taken out of the windmill project would be better off moved into the general fund or whatever department it needs to go to rather than to make it look like Highway is paying out the money to supplement the lobbying. Chairman Greenfield said that 99.9% of the work done is for highway. Chair Cox agreed but pointed out that the contract says that they are supposed to do others too and as far as she knows, the other departments, such as Environmental Management, Emergency Management, Probations, etc... are not being represented. Mr. Greenfield said he didn't know if any of the other departments had asked for help, but he does know that without her, we would not have gotten the \$10 million. Mr. Kevin Bird asked what else she had gotten for us in the past year. Mr. Bruce Bird explained that it is a joint contract with us and the city. The City got their big chunk. When the Senators were at Hickory Point, Ms. Curry handed them a copy of the list of projects and it had projects for both the county and the city on it. Mr. Dudley said that Curry had been instrumental with Ann Schneider in the \$75 million we got. He asked if the \$75 million is what we got for Brush College. Mr. Greenfield said it was \$46 million. Mr. Dudley said so far, but that's \$46 million. Mr. Greenfield said he agreed that he hates to pay a lobbyist, but he has learned that you won't get any money without one. Mr. Greenfield said Curry was instrumental in the Quick Take last time and she had it set up if we were going to need it this time, but we were fortunate to have the people on 85th Street sign. Mr. Bruce Bird offered to ask around to see what other counties do and how they handle that, if they have contracts like this and how they have them set up. Chair Cox agreed that that would be a good idea. Mr. K. Bird commented about the comment that Chair Cox had made and added that if someone else was to use the service, he did not know if, legally, highway could pay for it. Mr. Bruce Bird suggested they have Mr. Baggett take a look at the definition of the County Highway Funds because it will say something in the Statute, but there will probably be something that he will have to look up to see if there is an Appellate Court ruling saying you can pay for this & you can't pay for that. Chairman Greenfield commented about all the other offices having their own lobbyist. Chair Cox asked Mr. Bruce Bird if their association has a lobbyist. Mr. Bird said yes. Chair Cox asked Mr. Bruce Bird to see what he could find out.

Closed Session: None needed

Adjourn:

Mr. Bird made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hogan, the motion carried 5-0 & meeting was adjourned @ 5:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office