

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

June 26, 2019

5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patty Cox, Chair
Tim Dudley, Vice Chair
Rachel Joy
Kevin Greenfield
Phil Hogan
Pat Dawson
Kevin Bird

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Bruce Bird, County Engineer
Stu Jacobs, Highway Dept

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

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

MINUTES

Mr. Hogan made a motion to approve the 5/22/19 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Greenfield and the motion carried 7-0.

CLAIMS

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

Public Comments – None

Old Business - none

New Business:

Macon County Board Resolution Approving an Engineering Agreement with Kaskaskia Engineering Group on the TR 269 Jackson Road Bridge Replacement Project in Pleasant View Township

Mr. B. Bird explained that this is for the engineering expenses to get the thing designed. It is paid 80% with Township Bridge funds and 20% match which is split between the County and the Township. The total cost to the county is 10% of \$187,940. Chairman Greenfield asked where the engineering firm was from. Mr. Bird explained that they are out of Metro East, the Illinois side of St. Louis. Mr. Greenfield asked if there was nobody local that could do this. Mr. Bird said this is more than a typical township bridge. It is a pretty good sized bridge. That has more to do with it than anything else.

Chair Cox 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 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving an Engineering Agreement with AECOM on the CH 38 Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project north of Argenta

Mr. B. Bird explained that AECOM has an office in Decatur on Ash Street across from WalMart.

Mr. Hogan made a motion to forward the resolution on to the finance committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Chairman Greenfield. Ms. Dawson asked what AECOM stands for. Mr. Bird

said he wasn't sure, but this is a worldwide, 90,000 people engineering firm with about 15 people locally. The motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Funds to Replace Desktop Computers in the Highway office

Mr. B. Bird explained that this is half of what needs to be replaced. The operating system on the desktops will no longer be supported by Microsoft after January, 2020. Every computer in the office except one has the old operating system, so half are being purchased out of this fiscal year and half will be bought next fiscal year in order to get them replaced.

Mr. Hogan made a motion to forward the resolution on to the finance committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. K. Bird. Ms. Dawson asked if bids were sought. Mr. Bird explained that this is the company that provides the service for the department. They get a significant savings on the software that goes on it. We could bid it out, but if it was bid out, the other companies would come in higher just because of the price they can get for the software. It is a significant discount over what anybody else can get on it. Ms. Dawson asked how this was known. Mr. Bird said they are the company that provides the maintenance work on the computers. They maintain the network and do all the checkups for spam and all the updates that are necessary. He said they've looked at even going online with CDS or some of the others that are online and this company ends up being significantly cheaper every single time. The motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Quote from Sangamo Construction on the CH 24 Reas Bridge Road Emergency Bridge Repair Project

Mr. B. Bird explained that two years ago they had to put some wood blocking under the east abutment on the east bridge and now they are doing the exact same thing under the west abutment on the east bridge. The repair job will keep the bridge in service easily for at least 3 to 4 years. Hopefully, until they can be replaced.

Mr. K. Bird made a motion to forward the resolution on to the finance committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Hogan. Chair Cox asked if getting the Rheas Bridge Road was still on target. Mr. Bird said as long as they can get the funding lined out. He said they'd talk about that a little later. The motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating funds and Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with Forsyth for the CH 20 and Phillips Circle Drainage Improvement Project

Mr. B. Bird explained that this is the section of road just south of our CH20 in Forsyth where it floods on a semi-regular basis. The Village is putting a large storm sewer right down the middle of the road in order to solve the problem. They have to go under our CH to access the water flow from the north side of the road where it comes from to flood the area. We are covering the cost of going under our road. Since they will have this opened up, they are also replacing our existing pipe culvert there that goes under the road there too. So, we are getting it upgraded at the same time while they are in there. Chair Cox asked about the cost. Mr. Bird said it is \$64,554 for our share.

Mr. Hogan made a motion to forward the resolution on to the finance committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Joy and the motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Funds for the Purchase of Parcel 004 on the CH 24 Reas Bridge Road Bridge Replacement Project

Mr. B. Bird explained that this and the next resolution are the last two parcels that have to be purchased. This is for the bridge across the lake. Once these are paid out, we've got all the right of way needed. All that is needed is the remaining funding for construction and then it can be started.

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 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Funds for the Purchase of Parcel 007 on the CH 24 Reas Bridge Road Bridge Replacement Project

Mr. K. Bird made a motion to forward the resolution on to the finance committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Hogan and the motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Funds to Relocate Pipeline Facilities on the CH 57 85th Street Bridge Replacement Project

Mr. B. Bird explained that this is not complete so it will be held for now. It involves Panhandle Eastern Pipeline facilities on the 85th Street Bridge replacement project. There are a couple of them out there that will require us to extend some protection on their existing line because we are putting a wider embankment on the bridge out there. They have 4 pipelines across perpendicular under the road through that project. There is one that actually has to be lowered and that cost will have to be covered to get the water to drain properly through there. He said they had been working with the folks at Panhandle for the past 3 months to try to get an agreement from them. They finally got the agreement back to Mr. Bird last Friday. Their proposal for the work is \$949,282. He said he had immediately called them back and has been calling them back on a daily basis all week. Their contract labor price is the biggest part at \$714,851. He said he had told them that the Board would need to see an itemized list to see exactly what it is that they want to do. There are other questions about whether we should cover the costs on the existing right of way for which they had a permit under our road. Mr. Bird said he felt that Panhandle should cover that portion. If it's for a portion outside of that new right of way, ok. He said he just told them they'd have to do a better job of telling the story. The other part is that they wanted the money up front in 20 days which is pretty much impossible to do. He said they are still working with them trying to get it narrowed out. Mr. Bird also got a copy of the agreement they sent which has some questionable areas of requirements in it. That has been sent to Mr. Baggett for review. Once his concerns and our questions are out of the way, we will have something to bring back to the committee that is more definitive. He said they would be able to move forward with the project since they are perpendicular across there, the contractor can avoid those locations and work up other areas. There is plenty of work in other areas to keep them busy until this can be resolved. He said they would be trying to get resolution prior to the next committee meeting.

Mr. Dudley asked if they didn't know the pipes were there. Mr. Bird explained that they knew they were there when they came up with the design, but after the final design is approved by IDOT is when the approach is made to the utility companies. Preliminary drawings were sent to all the utilities, especially Ameren & Panhandle Eastern, back in December. Mr. Dudley asked if Panhandle had gotten the drawings and didn't have a problem with it. Mr. Bird said their only response was that they could work something up and get back to us. They got back to us last Friday. Mr. Dudley said their response came with a \$900,000 bill attached to it. Chairman Greenfield said the \$3 million bridge just became a \$4 million bridge. Mr. Bird said that if it was one pipeline close to the bridge, it would be cheaper to add another span of the bridge than to pay for this, which is ridiculous. That is why he asked for more proof of what it is. They said they have to follow federal guidelines and regulations, but haven't said what those are. Mr. Dudley asked if it would be prudent for us to have those approvals prior to starting the bridge. He asked if this procedure is normal. Mr. Bird said that until the final design is approved,

you cannot approach the utilities telling them they need to move things because the folks at IDOT that approve the plans might say it needs to be 10' wider which then would make you off by 10'. You don't want to pay twice to move things. Whenever we were able to contact the utilities and say we have a set plan and ask them to take a look to see how they affect their facilities, we actually still went back and modified some of the ditch elevations, especially on the west side to try to avoid some additional work that would be above and beyond this. So, when they came back to us and we took another look, we actually modified and changed some of the stuff and everything is still draining right but we modified our stuff because it was going to be cheaper in the long run. But, when they came back with this, it was just like no way. We need more info. Mr. Dudley asked if anything could be done to that bridge, at this point, that could avoid rerouting that pipeline., Mr. Bird said no. It has gotten down to the point where the bare minimum – he said he is looking at things like if it would be cheaper to put a culvert over the top of it where the pipeline is so you wouldn't have to . . . He said he didn't know if that would even meet federal standards. If we can do something that meets their standards at less than \$949,000, he would be all for it. Ms. Dawson asked what ballpark he thought it should be in. Mr. Bird said in talking with the folks at IDOT and other counties that have dealt with similar issues in the past, they were saying it would probably fall between \$300,000 to \$400,000. That is what had been planned on and now another \$600,000 is needed which we don't have. Mr. Bird explained that his question is, if they come back and say the federal regulations say this, this & this has to be done and their hands are tied, and then Mr. Baggett reads the federal regulations and sees the same thing, its kind of hard to argue with that. Ms. Dawson asked if he'd had contact with other counties with something similar and if they'd run across similar guidelines. Mr. Bird said he had spoken with other county engineers who said they had to do additional protection where you widen the embankment, but they said in similar situations it was about \$300,000 to \$400,000. If it is a situation where they are improving their facilities above and beyond what they need to be at our expense, we have a problem. That is what we are trying to find out. Ms. Dawson asked who they were relying on to provide that information. Mr. Bird said they have a contractor that bid on this. That contractor had to run hours, items and materials and have to know what that is. Chairman Greenfield asked what fund the \$350,000 was going to be taken out of. Mr. Bird said he had set it up in the County Bridge line. Chairman Greenfield asked if there was more money in that line. Mr. Bird said there is \$350,000 there, but not \$949,000. If it ends up being that amount, we could take some out of MFT, that one time boost thing, but he said he wanted to wait to see what they come back with. Chairman Greenfield asked about contact with them. Mr. Bird repeated that he had contacted them every day this week. He said he contacted their head of operations with 2 emails and daily phone messages, but he hasn't gotten back with him yet. The next guy down that Joe Moretti has been working with will be called tomorrow. Mr. Greenfield asked where the corporate office is. Mr. Bird said it is in Indianapolis. They agreed they could drive over there if necessary.

Ms. Cox asked about Rheas Bridge Road and getting the funding. Mr. Bird explained that they are still waiting to see if they get anything off the State Capital Bill, but no notice or guarantee has been given. HE said they are also still waiting on the last grant application that was sent to the federal government. That should be announced by July 15. Hopefully, within the next three weeks, something should be known one way or another. If, for some reason, none of those pan out, there is an existing grant program called Major Bridge that we've already gotten one \$4 million grant from and we can reapply and get another one. If we were able to do that, we could do that and through a combination of a couple of other sources, we could pool enough money to actually get the thing started, structural wise. So even if those don't out, if we were successful enough to reapply and get \$4 million, we could be back to having it scheduled for early next year. We just don't know for certain yet. We just have to wait and see. So, in a couple of weeks, one way or another, on the State Capital Bill and the current federal grant that we applied for, we should know by the middle of July what, if anything, we will get from either one of those. Based on what we get there, we can go forward with other options to get it taken care of.

County Engineer's Report:

Mr. Bird reported that they have used Morgan Distributor for a long, long time for fuel and lube out at the shop. Several years ago, possibly 10 years ago, FS approached and gave a proposal to do this. He said they had switched for about 6 months and Morgan Distributing came back and talked to everyone on the committee. FS has again approached and given a proposal. It is fuel. It is lube. Their oil prices on some of the things we use is significantly cheaper. The fuel price is what it is. Mr. Bird said he would do whatever the committee wants him to do. It can stay the same or we can change. Another thing that comes under consideration is something that was presented at a meeting Mr. Bird said he had attended on Tuesday. It is a committee of local government entities that are trying to come up with ways to combine efforts in order to save money. Bill Clevenger hosted it at the park district. Mr. Lord with the Building Commission, Todd Covalt from the School District, Gregg Zienterra with the City of Decatur, Conservation District, Park District were all there. One of the things that was on the list of possible things is finding a way to pool our purchasing of fuel. So, instead of switching or doing anything, it might be a good idea to wait and see what comes out of that. Mr. Kevin Bird commented that FS is a bigger taxpayer in the County and they've got more plants in this county than Morgan does. He said he uses FS and has had Morgan and FS has lots better service and he feels they should be given consideration. He said we're all about buying local. Mr. B. Bird said he'd do whatever the committee tells him to do. They have given a proposal that says we will save money. Chair Cox asked what kind of savings it was. Mr. Jacobs said they were cheaper on the oils. Mr. Bird said their system of DEF for the newer trucks, they just have a tank and as part of their delivery truck, they just come and fill the tank. Right now, there is a tote that gets changed out. Mr. Dudley asked what the positives were to stay with Morgan. Mr. Hogan said that if a phone call was made to Morgan, they would match whatever they have to. Chairman Greenfield asked if this is not bid yearly. Mr. Bird said no. That used to be done, but with fuel prices being so volatile bid prices are so high they have to cover themselves. It's better to get it right off the market price. Both Mr. Bird and Mr. Jacobs said that as much or as little as desired can be done with this. It is hard to bid fuel because you never know what it will be next month and if they have to bid, they'll bid high in order to cover whatever they end up having to pay for it. It could be bid at "so much over market price". At the meeting Mr. Bird attended, it was discussed that nobody else bids fuel. The School District said that when they need fuel, they call the distributors and ask the price for the day and buy from the cheapest that day.

Chair Cox asked for committee input. Mr. K. Bird said he was for switching. Morgan has had it for long enough. Mr. Jacobs said they've not had issues with them – when they call, they bring it. Mr. Dudley said he'd like to see if Morgan will match the price, etc. before just kicking them to the curb. Mr. Hogan agreed they should communicate with them first. Mr. B. Bird said he would call Morgan and explain that they are looking at changes and ask for a proposal.

Mr. Bird said they are probably about 2 weeks from opening the Connector Road. They've just got clean up work, signs, striping, traffic signals.

Wyckles is nearly done. They had some clean up from last year.

Utilities are being moved on 85th Street. Within the next week or two all the longitudinal utilities will be taken care of and then we'll see what happens with Panhandle.

The striping contractor is doing the annual striping on the roads.

Another bridge, ¼ mile from east county line close to Cisco where School Road is south of the interchange, was on the June letting for IDOT. It will be started soon and will probably be closed the 1st or 2nd week of August.

Another bridge north of Warrensburg can be let anytime. It's actually a little box culvert. We have the right of way and funding on that and it should be good to go.

Our guys are still mowing between raindrops. They are still patching, some chip seal work starts the 15th.

Walk into the office from 9 a.m. to 2 or 3 p.m. and it is very quiet because everyone is out on the roads working. Summer hours are being worked and they are from 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Miscellaneous Business:

Chair Cox said there is going to be a new procedure for claims approvals. Someone from each committee will go in to the County Board office on a weekly basis and approve the claims.

Closed Session: None needed

Adjourn:

Mr. K. Bird made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dudley, meeting was adjourned @ 6:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office