

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

**Macon County Office Building  
Room 514  
141 S. Main Street, Decatur, IL 62523**

**November 20, 2019  
5:30 P.M.**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Patty Cox, Chair  
Pat Dawson  
Kevin Greenfield  
Phil Hogan  
Tim Dudley, Vice Chair (arrived @ 5:36 p.m.)  
Kevin Bird  
Rachel Joy

### **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.

**Note: The September meeting was cancelled.  
The October meeting had no quorum – discussion only was held.**

### **MINUTES**

Motion was made by Chairman Greenfield to approve the August minutes and October (non-meeting discussion) notes, seconded by Mr. Hogan and the motion carried 6-0.

### **CLAIMS**

Motion was made by Mr. K. Bird to approve the claims for August, September & October, seconded by Mr. Hogan, and the motion carried 6-0.

### **Public Comments** – Mr. Rich Leihser, Evergreen FS Inc., Macon II:

Mr. Leihser commented that bids had been done the other day and said he wasn't sure if they would be looking at them today or not, but he said he was awarded the oil sometime at the last meeting, but that has been rescinded. He said he wanted to convey that after talking with the shop guys at the highway department and said he believes that some of the bidders were bidding lower quality oil and that is his concern because he had promised the guys at the Macon County Highway shop that he would try his best to make sure the oil quality would not be lowered and that he would still save them money. He said he believes he has saved them money on the bids, but he has concerns about the quality of oil and that now it would be lowered by his competitor and he wanted to address that. He said he had proven at the last meeting that their best oil was being bid against their best oil and in the end, it ended up being a fleet oil that the competitor bid and that is why he said he is saying that in all reality, they should get the bid because they bid a lower priced product and that is fine. If you do that, that's kosher to do. He said he just wanted to make sure that the board knew that the quality of the oil is being lowered by doing that. He said he did not want that on his head because he had promised the guys that he

would try to avoid that. He said that is why he is here tonight; that he wanted to make sure that the quality of the oil would be lowered on that one product. He said his bid is for the same product they wanted. He said he had called and requested information about what really needed to be bid and was told that he knew what they need. He said that his response had been, “yes, I do”. So that is what he bid. It is his highest quality product and that is what he had assumed the competitor would bid also, but they did not. They bid a fleet oil. That is what he wanted to convey. Also, he said he had made a little sheet with just a recommendation of his. He said he explained the 15w-40 deal, the 0w-20, 5w-30.. Morgan, the competitor won that and the anti-freeze. He said that should go to them. Transmission / Hydraulic fluid was not on the bid itself, but he said he had bid it and they could give that to him and it wouldn't break his heart any. Mr. Leihser said he came in with the cheapest bid on the Diesel Exhaust Fluid and he would really like to have that if its possible and the board could see that that could be done. The gas & diesel are semi-loads. He said his only concern with that is that he believes that a company out Indiana was the low bidder and he said he doesn't know who it is. They may be a big company, but in his eyes, and even the competitor has been hollering about who is local and who is not. He said he believes he has proved that he is local. He said he was next in line for that bid if the company from Indiana was not awarded the fuel and diesel. The only qualms he said he has with them is that they are from Indiana and if there are any problems at all, they are not local. He said he did not know how they could come over and cure them or check and monitor the fuel. He said he lives right down the road and is conveying that he is more than capable of doing that and thinks he can do a better job of that compared to a company out of Indiana.

( Mr. Dudley arrived)

Mr. Leihser said that he had just wanted to convey that he did not want to lower the quality because he knew the guys in the shop were really concerned about that. He said he is just doing his best to make sure that doesn't occur. He offered to answer questions. There were no questions. Chair Cox thanked Mr. Leihser for coming and sharing the information.

**Old Business** - none

### **New Business**

#### ***Macon County Board Resolution Approving the FY 2020 Fuel Bid***

Mr. B. Bird explained that Petroleum Traders is the company out of Fort Wayne, IN that Mr. Leihser spoke about. Mr. Bird said he had heard from the Morgan representative that was at the bid opening, that they are a jobber resaler. So, they are based out of Fort Wayne, IN, but they actually get their fuel from a depot in Quincy and they have a trucking company that comes over. Mr. Bird said he does not know if they have a local rep that comes and does the checking Mr. Leihser spoke about. Mr. Bird said he assumes it is all online, but he doesn't know. The rep from Morgan said that the Petroleum Traders bid against them in Springfield for items over there and they do get some of those items. That rep said she did not know what kind of service they provide in Springfield. Chairman Greenfield asked if there is anything in the contract that says that if they default one time then we can pick someone else. Mr. B. Bird explained that if they don't provide the service, we could go ahead and pick whoever we want. What you're looking for is that anything that is bid out always specifies that it can be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. The word responsible opens things up to a lot of interpretations. It is nice to have someone nearby so that if there are issues with the tanks . . . Mr. Greenfield asked if we check our own tanks. Mr. B. Bird said yes, they check, but our system will tell how many gallons are in there. Morgan comes and checks on it now, especially if there is a storm coming

in or something, they'll swing by and make sure we have enough and if not, they check with us and get the tanker ordered in. Mr. Hogan asked how many bidders there were. Mr. B. Bird said 3; Morgan, Evergreen & Petroleum Traders. Mr. Hogan asked if this is for 2020. Mr. B. Bird said FY20 and it is done yearly because that is what the committee had said they wanted. Chair Cox said she would rather give it to FS than to someone out of state. There's not even a half percent difference here. Mr. Hogan said that here we go again. FS, at the last meeting in August, came to the meeting. Mr. Hogan said he did not know who had invited Mr. Leihser, but Morgan Distributing should have also been invited. That wasn't handled right. We ended up bidding it out and we get someone from out of state. It is what it is. It had to be bid and it was. Chairman Greenfield asked if Mr. Baggett had been informed. Chair Cox said yes. Ms. Dawson asked if the bid process had been apples and oranges and why we got one for premium diesel and for 87 octane. Mr. K. Bird explained that the 87 octane is the gas and premium diesel is diesel fuel. It's two different fuel products; one is diesel and one is gasoline. There are three bids on each product. Chairman Greenfield said that she is right on the oil though. Some bids one oil and another bids another oil. Mr. K. Bird said that should depend on how the specs were written. He asked if Mr. B. Bird had written them. Mr. B. Bird explained that they had not wanted to get into the nitty gritty of specs because then you get into how one oil is inferior to the other that was bid. He said that if the folks from Morgan were there, they'd tell you the exact opposite. 15w-40 is a specification. You have different types of oils within that. Obviously, the main thing we wanted were ones that would maintain the warranties on the vehicles. After that, every oil company can tell you that theirs is much better than everyone else's. That is their job. Chairman Greenfield asked if the oil is changed pretty regularly in the vehicles. Mr. B. Bird confirmed saying they follow the recommendations for each vehicle.

Chair Cox asked about how the committee felt about the bids. Chairman Greenfield said he had called Mr. Baggett when he saw it because he couldn't believe it. His words were that is what happens when you bid it. Mr. B. Bird explained that the word responsible is the only thing that you can possibly hang your hat on. Mr. Greenfield said that is why he wondered if there was something in the contract that said if they miss a delivery or something . . . Mr. B. Bird commented that obviously, if there is a storm coming in and we need fuel and they can't provide it, they'll get dropped. We have to have that because that is the definition of being irresponsible. If they can't provide the service we expect, then . . . We have to have that prior to snowstorms and stuff. We will definitely stay on top of that. Mr. K. Bird commented that he is opposed to an out of state company simply because they're not here. WE always harp about buying local in everything we do. What's the difference? Chairman Greenfield said he would strongly suggest talking with the State's Attorney. Everyone agreed. Chair Cox suggested holding it for another month. Mr. Dudley agreed, but said they need to make sure. Chair Cox asked Mr. B. Bird to check around and see if there's anyone that does business with the out of state company and how their service is. Mr. B. Bird said he would try to find out more information.

Motion was made to table by Mr. Dudley, seconded by Mr. K. Bird, and the motion carried 7-0.

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving the FY 2020 Lube Bid***

Mr. B. Bird explained that Morgan was lower on everything with the exception of the DEF fluid and the transmission hydraulic oil missed the bid tab. FS put it on there. Morgan did not. It is a fluid that is needed.

Motion was made to approve by Mr. Hogan. Mr. B. Bird questioned if he was wanting to approve all of the items they won and FS on the items they did not. Mr. Hogan said he was

approving Morgan across the board. Mr. Dudley asked for clarification. Mr. B. Bird said that going item by item, 1,2,3 & 4 Morgan is lowest on. FS was lowest on #5 & #6. You could go either way. Ms. Dawson asked how it was done before. Mr. B. Bird said it could be compared to the rock and oil bids. Everything is awarded line item by line item. So, different types of rock could be bid out and we might get two bidders that haul it. Everything was bid separately. There was not a second to Mr. Hogan's motion. The motion failed.

Mr. K. Bird made a motion that a new resolution be written that they be accepted as they were bid giving 1-4 to Morgan and 5-6 to Evergreen, seconded by Ms. Dawson and the motion carried 7-0.

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving the Purchase of a 2020 Plow and Dump Truck from Decatur Mack***

Mr. B. Bird explained that this was bid out this past summer with the understanding that the same price would be used and carry over into the next fiscal year. Decatur Mack has said they would honor that price. We are saving the markup on the next model year by getting the price we already bid out.

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

***Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds for the CH 7 Baltimore Path Project***

Mr. B. Bird explained that all of the agreements have been set up with IDOT. Everything is budgeted. We just need the resolution for the match money.

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

**County Engineer's Report:**

Mr. Bruce Bird reported that here it is November 20<sup>th</sup> and we've already had 2 ½ weeks of winter and it is not officially winter for another month. He said they've been out twice already. The first was Halloween and the 2<sup>nd</sup> was Veteran's Day. He said they would have to look out for Thanksgiving and Christmas and other holidays. Luckily, there was salt left over from last year. Salt for this year has not yet arrived. When winter shows up a month early and IDOT awards their salt bids a month late, it has a tendency to create a problem. He said so far, there hasn't been a problem.

When it got done snowing, they had to wait for it to melt so they could get out and finish the mowing. The guys are going from snowing to mowing and hopefully not back to snowing.

Work continues on the bridge on 85<sup>th</sup> Street. The contractor was out there today putting in storm sewers and some other culverts as well as riff raff around the channel. Then they will pretty much shut down for the winter. It's just too wet to do any kind of dirt work. They will tear down the house this winter. They'll start up as soon as they can in the spring. They made a lot of headway before the weather turned on them. Once they get started back up, it won't take long to put that together.

All the other projects are pretty much finished up for the year.

The guys are doing some brush cutting and taking care of stuff like that in the winter between snows.

Chairman Greenfield asked when the increase in the MFT funds. Mr. B. Bird said they've already seen that. He said they've already had three allotments so far. They've been pretty much right on the money at about 68% what the projection was. That is for the ongoing – the part they call the pay as you go part – the regular allotment. We've been told the bonded amount we are supposed to get will be seen sometime between January and June. There is also a part in the budgeting process where something happened between IDOT and the Legislature and they didn't put the local programs in there. This is like the needy township, high gross cities and importantly for us, the County Consolidated. That did not make it into the budget, so the money is there, but they do not have the legal authority to spend it. They said don't worry, they'll fix it in the Fall veto session. They didn't. They were too busy with other things. Now, they're saying maybe in January. So, there is a payment we usually get this time of the year of about \$300,000 that goes into the MFT that we won't get until possibly January of next year. It's not that they don't have it, they just can't legally give it to us.

Chairman Greenfield asked about the Capital Bill having the COLA in it every year and when that comes in. Mr. B. Bird explained that that kicks in July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to match their fiscal year. It's only on the 68% that we're getting. The original 19 cents, there share we got – it does not apply to that. There are actually two funds now; the MFT and the new stuff is called the Transportation Renewal Fund, the TRF. We get two checks each month.

IDOT had to modify their program. At the Tuesday DUATS program, we found out that it is a really nice combination list. They added. In 3 of the 4 years of the program, they doubled the projects they had planned each and every year. It's a lot of work. Within 5 years, every road that everyone complains about will be done. It's nice to see them add that.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Dudley, seconded by Ms. Joy, the motion carried 7-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office