

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
MACON COUNTY BOARD**



**SPECIAL CALL MEETING
MARCH 14, 2023**

**Kevin Greenfield
Chairman**

**Josh Tanner
Clerk**

The chairman called the Special Board Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Josh Tanner, Macon County Clerk presented the request for a Special Macon County Board Meeting which is to be held for the purpose of approving and appropriating a funding agreement for CH 24 Reas Bridge Road, and for any other business which may properly come before the board.

The Roll Call showed all members present with the exception of Mr. Coleman, Mrs. Lerner, Mr. Oliver and Mrs. Scott.

Mr. Coleman was now present at the meeting.

Mr. Entler led the members in Prayer.

All led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENT:

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said the reason for the special meeting is to make sure they have the proper funding in place for Reas Bridge so it can go to letting at the end of April. He handed out a funding request. He thought they might like to see where that money is coming from and where the biggest part of the money is coming from, and how much skin in the game the county has. Mr. Greenfield said when they first started the project back in 2017 the engineer's estimate on it was about \$17 million or \$18 million. He said they scratched and saved and begged local, state and federal politicians for money, and they came up with it. He said every time they come up with it then the bar seems to raise a little higher. They finally reached enough where they could go to letting for it a couple of years ago and they thought they had more than enough. He said they had almost \$20 million. The engineer's estimate was around \$19 million and the bids came in at \$26.5 million. Mr. Greenfield said he didn't need to tell any of them how important this bridge is to Macon County. It is the worst bridge in Macon County. Hopefully, the bids will come in under the engineer's estimate this time. The engineer's estimate is around \$29 million. He said if things stay the way they have been, the \$26.5 million that it bid for last time, \$26 million or \$27 million that is what they are hoping for. Mr. Greenfield said if it comes in over \$29 million they would be meeting with IDOT to get their recommendation, and more than likely they are not going to be building it. He said that is unless the federal or state politicians realize how critical it is and important it is to, not only Macon County, but other outlying counties and the economic interest for Decatur and Macon County as well. April letting day is going to be a big day for Macon County. They are hoping for the best. He wanted the board members to see how it is funded. He said \$21.8 million is through state and federal funds. Macon County will have \$1.0 million of local money from bridge funds. They will also have the ARPA funds. They do also have two grants that are still pending. One is for \$7.5 million and the other is \$3 million. Mr. Greenfield said when this bridge is scheduled to be built they won't write a check for \$29 million right then. They spread it out. So, the ARPA money will be some of the last money they spend, and providing if between now and then

they get one of these grants, they are not going to have to spend the ARPA money. He said if by chance they do spend the ARPA money, and then get a grant they can refund the ARPA account. He said there are some good things there, but unfortunately \$29 million for a bridge is not good news, however that is where they are at.

1. Mr. Greenfield presented Resolution H-2324-3-23 which is approving and appropriating a funding agreement for the CH 24 Reas Bridge Road.

MOTION

Mr. Greenfield moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to approve Resolution H-2324-3-23.

QUESTION:

Mr. Yoder: Mr. Yoder said he realizes how important this bridge is. He crosses the bridge often. The only thing he would like to bring to the board is that he is troubled by the verbiage in both clauses where it says the board will appropriate an amount of money and then says, “or as much as may be needed...” He is troubled with that verbiage “or as much as may be needed”. He asked if he could make an amendment to strike that.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said he did not believe they could, but the county can always deny the bids. IDOT requires a lot of that to be in there and the reason being because a lot of times under those circumstances IDOT will give them the money. He believes that is one of the reasons why it is in there. He said they have the right to reject the bids.

Mr. Yoder: Mr. Yoder said he did not want to give the appearance of writing a blank check.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said he could assure Mr. Yoder that is not the case. He said they have gone over every line of this bid packet which is about an inch thick. There is only about a half a dozen bridge contractors in the state that that will even build a bridge like this. He said hopefully they can pull it off. He appreciated Mr. Yoder’s comments, but they do always have the option of rejecting the bids.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said if they pass this resolution, before it is a done deal it will come back to the board. She asked if that was correct.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said it will come back to the board if it goes over the engineer’s estimate. If it goes over the money the county has, then it will come back to the board. He said IDOT may say this is out of line and they know the county does not have the money and they are not going to give the county the money, therefore they are going to reject the bid and they are back to the drawing board.

Mrs. Little: Mrs. Little said she just wanted to be clear in her head that this is not a blank check and they will have another say if it’s over.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said if it goes over the county will have another say. He said quite frankly they are going to have to beg, borrow and steal depending on what it is and what funds they can take it out of. He said they really don't have many funds left. Mr. Greenfield said if the bids are way over at the April letting they are going to be back to begging and pleading with politicians. He thanked their two State Senators, Mr. Durbin, Ms. Duckworth, and their State Representatives. He said they all know the importance of this bridge and have all been tremendously helpful. Mr. Greenfield said he couldn't remember ever where the city and county working together, both had number one projects that were the same, in this case Reas Bridge. That tells them the importance of this.

Ms. Goodman: Ms. Goodman asked if the amounts in the e-mail that Mr. Greenfield was sent are specifically earmarked for this project, or is this just the money that the county has for all projects.

Mr. Greenfield: Mr. Greenfield said this money is earmarked for that specific project. He said it was funny about a year ago he received a call at work and it was Senator Durbin. Senator Durbin told him on that call that he had \$3.5 million dollars for the county, and that is how this has gone, with the money being earmarked for Reas Bridge.

MOTION CARRIED. (BY VOICE VOTE)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Abeer Motan: Ms. Motan spoke about issues she felt should be addressed in the community.

There were no officeholder, department head or employee comments presented at the meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mrs. Kraft moved, seconded by Mrs. Little to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.