



# MACON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

2405 N. Woodford St. Decatur, IL 62526

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## MINUTES

October 22, 2014

The Macon County Transportation Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. located at the Macon County Office Building, 141 S. Main St., Decatur, IL.

### **Transportation Committee Members Present:**

Kevin Meachum

Gary Minich

Kevin Bird

Matt Brown

### **Transportation Committee Members Absent:**

Keith Ashby

Susanna Zimmerman

### **Highway Department Support Staff Present:**

Bruce Bird, County Engineer

Amanda Askew, Office Assistant

### **Others Present:**

Jay Dunn, County Board Chairman

Mike Baggett, Assistant State's Attorney

Ryan Voyles, Herald & Review

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kevin Meachum at 5:30 p.m.

### **Roll Call:**

Kevin Meachum

Matt Brown

Gary Minich

Kevin Bird

### **Approval of the Minutes:**

Kevin Bird made a motion to approve the minutes from September 24, 2014, seconded by Gary Minich. Motion Carried 4-0

### **Approval of the Bills:**

Matt Brown made a motion to accept the bills as presented, seconded by Kevin Bird.

Motion Carried 4-0

*Jerry Potts is now present. (5:31 pm)*

### **No Public Comments**

### **No Old Business**

### **New Business:**

***Resolution appropriating funds for additional construction expenses on Section 14-00265-00-GR, the 2014 Guardrail Repair Project:***

Bruce stated the reason for the addition is that we let the project and in the process of doing the repairs we found another one of those attenuators that had failed. We just added it to the project since they were there. That is what the cost is \$1,850.00. Motion made by Jerry Potts, seconded by Matt Brown. Motion Carried 5-0

***Resolution appropriating funds for additional construction expenses on Section 14-0266-00-PV, the CH 25 Argenta Road Resurfacing Project:***

Bruce stated the asphalt cost went a little over on this project. Motion made by Kevin Bird seconded by Gary Minich. Motion Carried 5-0

***Resolution appropriating funds for additional engineering expenses on Section 13-00200-01-PV, the CH 30 & CH 41 Connector Project:***

Bruce stated we had started WHKS on doing the engineering work and as part of the coordination with IDOT putting their intersection together there. Also to get some of the drainage properly out of there. There was some additional engineering work that had to be done and this is to cover it. Motion made by Jerry Potts, seconded by Matt Brown. Motion carried 5-0.

***Resolution approving the County Engineers salary for 2015.***

Kevin Meachum stated this annual thing that we have to send to the State of Illinois. He has a 6 year contract but we have to approve it yearly to show the state. Bruce stated the resolution allows my salary to be paid for out of MFT and Federal Highway Funds. Motion made by Jerry Potts, seconded by Kevin Bird. Motion carried 5-0

**County Engineer's Report:**

***Maintenance Crews:*** Our guys have been keeping up with the final round of mowing and doing crossroad and entrance culverts.

***CH 41 (Wyckles Rd):*** Is now open.

***CH 30 (Elwin Rd.):*** Is completed and striped.

***Cold In Place Recycling Project (CH 38 from Maroa east over to CH 25):*** The Microsurfacing was finished yesterday. The only thing left is the striping. Right now it is going to be next Wednesday and that will be completely done.

***CH 21 (Kenney Blacktop):*** Is moving along really well. If the weather stays the way they say it is going to there is an outside change we could have this open by winter. They are tying the steel into the deck right now. Probably Monday or Tuesday next week they will pour it. There is not that much approach work and they have most of the shoulders and what not roughed in. It shouldn't take much to get that put together.

***South and East Beltway Project:*** Last week the Governor stopped by and gave us 10 million dollars. I would like a little guidance from the committee in awarding the engineering on that. The State Statute allows us to go ahead and award work based upon a satisfactory relationship for services with one or more firms. One of the issues we came up with is that the work that has been done for the entire Beltway included the Phase I work. There are little specific things, like on a bridge project. Which both of them involve bridges and you have to have soil borings and there are other specific things. There is still a little bit of (Part B) of Phase I that would have to come out of the next engineering contract. That is what this money is going to cover. It is engineering, right-of-way, plats, and purchase of the right-of-way and utility location. We could go through a request for proposals for this work. Anybody else that would come in would have to redo that Phase I work except for the ones that have already got the work done. In the interest of trying to expedite this work and get started, we have the ability to go ahead and award the contract without doing a request for proposals. I wanted some feedback from the committee on how they felt about that. Kevin Meachum asked who is your pick? Bruce replied Hanson has done the work as the primary and Chastain as a sub. They have both been involved with this project and they

both have access to the information. Kevin Meachum asked in your professional opinion is that they have had excellent working relationship with Macon County Highway Department? Bruce replied I have not had any problems with either one of them and in all the process of going through the environmental work and the study it has been fantastic. Kevin Meachum stated as a board member and a committee member here I feel that your professional opinion holds 90% of the perception of who we hire. I think that with you recommendation this committee will probably follow your recommendation. Gary Minich asked did you say that anyone new coming in would not be able to use the prior engineering. Bruce replied they could use it but when they go to put together a proposal for us they would have to include the cost of actually getting that information, putting in their machines. Basically the electronic information getting to their machines. Kevin Meachum stated it is all time consuming. Bruce stated there is a cost involved with that. You are not supposed to award based strictly on cost, but that is a cost upfront savings and it would also be a time savings. Jerry Potts asked if both of those companies were local. Bruce replied Hanson is in Springfield and Chastain is in Decatur. Jerry responded should we go local. Kevin Meachum stated they joined ventures. Hanson specialized in certain aspects and Chastain's are the ones on the ground doing the field work. Bruce stated they have done all the on the ground field work and Hanson did pretty much all the environmental work. That is how they partnered. I would anticipate that they would partner going forward as well. Kevin Bird asked if they were the primary consultant. Bruce replied yes. Kevin Bird asked can Chastain's use their information with no extra time or cost to us then. Bruce replied yes they both have access to the same information. Kevin Meachum stated of course Chastain's would be our lead firm on this then or would Hanson be? Bruce replied I need to sit down with both of those companies and discuss that with them. They may have an idea or thought in place about how they want to do that. We have always used Chastain's they are a local institution, I like the work they do, but they are also not a very large firm. Hanson has a lot of specialists to do things that Chastain just does not do. Hanson is a top 100 firm in the nation. Their headquarters are in Springfield but they have about 45 offices scattered around the county. Hanson had two people at the ceremony in Elwin with the Governor. Kevin Meachum stated Hanson does work with everybody in central Illinois. Especially environmental and specialty projects. This is a very special project. This is a big undertaking for all of central Illinois. It will put us on the map and I think it very important that we take Bruce's recommendation on what we do here. It is very important. We are only going to get one chance at making this right. I please urge you guys to let Bruce run it the way he sees fit. Please. Gary Minich stated it sounds to me like you need to talk to these guys and come back. Kevin Meachum asked what is your time table on this, Bruce? Bruce replied with the questions about Phase I – B we need to have some clarification from the Feds and IDOT on exactly what they are going to expect. That is one of the other advantages. If I can grab a couple of representatives from both of those firms and set up a meeting with IDOT and the Feds. I would ask them what they want as a submittal for the Phase II engineering and the final for Phase I. Then they can be told we want this, this, and this. Given that information they will be able to put together a detailed and accurate cost accounting. If we did in RFP we cannot really do that until afterwards. You would have people putting in estimated costs because they would not know for sure what they are going to want out of it. Kevin Meachum asked if we would have to pay for engineering services for the engineering firm to go to Effingham for this meeting. Bruce replied no that would be part of them putting their package together. I think it would get us into the next phase quicker and I am pretty certain it would be at cheaper cost. Kevin Meachum stated so next meeting will it be okay to have something for us. Bruce stated we will try it be dependent on when the State and the Feds can get everyone together. Talking with other people with similar situations they said it took them a while to get the first pot of money where they could actually make a really significant dent in final design engineering. On their particular projects when that

happened it really acted like a snowball effect and started drawing attention to other segments and other parts that needed done.

Salt is coming in, the shed is full and it is getting stacked up outside. If there is anyone who knows folks that ordered salt from us it would be very beneficial if they would come get it right now so it wouldn't be sitting outside. The price was \$96.79/ ton.

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Jerry Potts stated I talked to some of your guys for the snow birds \$12.25 is that contractual. The City pays \$18.xx and the State pays \$25.xx. Bruce stated that is the starting hourly wage. We have always looked at that as if they are a snowbird we will treat that as if they are a new hire. Jerry asked do we need to raise our hourly pay rate? Bruce replied the contract is up next year and that would be something to be discussed at that time.

**No Closed Session**

**Adjourn:**

Jerry Potts made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kevin Bird. Motion Carried 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

***The next Transportation Meeting will be Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.***

Minutes submitted by:

Kathy Gerhold & Amanda Askew

Macon County Highway Department