



MACON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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MINUTES

November 20, 2013

The Macon County Transportation Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. located at the Macon County Office Building, 141 S. Main St., Decatur, IL.

Transportation Committee Members Present:

Kevin Bird

Jerry Potts

Keith Ashby

Kevin Meachum

Gary Minich

Transportation Committee Members Absent:

David Williams

Susanna Zimmerman

Highway Department Support Staff Present:

Bruce Bird, County Engineer

Amanda Askew, Office Assistant

Mark Funk, Road Supervisor

Others Present:

Jay Dunn, County Board Chairman

Call to Order:

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

Roll Call:

Keith Ashby

Kevin Meachum

Gary Minich

Jerry Potts

Kevin Bird

Approval of the Minutes:

Gary Minich made a motion to approve the minutes from October 23, 2013, seconded by Jerry Potts. Motion Carried 5-0

Approval of the Bills:

Jerry Potts made a motion to accept the bills as presented, seconded by Kevin Bird. Motion Carried 5-0

No Public Comments

No Old Business

New Business:

Resolution appropriating funds for construction costs for Section 10-00236-00-PV, the CH 41 Wyckles Road North Reconstruction Project.

Motion made by Gary Minich, seconded by Kevin Bird. Bruce Bird stated the engineers estimate was \$527,000 and the low bid was \$444,000. I thought putting it out for bid this time of year we would get good prices; I did not expect them to be that good. Motion carried 5-0

Resolution appropriating funds for the 2014 Annual MFT Maintenance Program.

Motion made by Jerry Potts, seconded by Keith Ashby. Motion carried 5-0

Resolution approving a Road Use Agreement with Enbridge Pipelines (Illinois) L.L.C.

Motion made by Kevin Bird, seconded by Jerry Potts. Motion carried 5-0

Resolution appropriating funds for the payment of Salary for the County Engineer.

Motion made by Kevin Bird, seconded by Jerry Potts. Motion carried 5-0.

Truck Permit Fee discussion.

Bruce Bird stated I went out and looked on the internet and got a couple of good examples. Kane County, Sangamon County, and I went ahead and pulled up IDOT's schedule. First we talked about following IDOT's schedule, but they have spreadsheet based on weight and miles traveled and what not. This works well for them especially if they have somebody that is hauling from Wisconsin down to Kentucky they would get a pretty decent size permit. For us for the one that we would be looking at we would be getting a permit for about \$3-\$4. After taking a closer look of what IDOT had on their schedule I am not really too enamored with following their schedule. Sangamon County is not too bad, theirs is the same type of thing, and it has a category of fees and total number of axles. It ends up being kind of a weight based thing and a flat amount. It says add \$30.00 per 10,000 pounds over 120,000. That would not be too bad to use. I really like Kane County; this is a collar County of Chicago. Their schedule has a standard one-way trip, non- standard one-way trip, and a standard return trip move and a non- standard return trip move, just a flat amount per each. It makes it easy for people to understand. Keith Ashby asked what the difference is between standard and non-standard. Bruce replied standard is anything 80,000 and under and non-standard is anything over that. There is also a thing in there permit that if a bridge has to be evaluated for a load to go over it the permittee has to pay for that evaluation. The nice thing about that is once there is an evaluation done on the structure; you have it in the file. If you already have in the file you do not have to have it paid for a second time. I would like to follow and come up with a pattern like Kane County has, with a couple of modifications. One is we have a lot of local haulers that get an annual permit and Kane County does not specifically follow that. They do not have to have an annual permit because they have an entire permit office. We don't have a permit office we just have me and the girls up front. To simplify things I think if we had an annual permit that we could have on there that would work out well and come up with a fee based upon that. The other thing that I have noticed and this is dealing with the folks at IDOT and their permitting system and foibles of their permitting system they have somehow in their system built in where these long haul loads end up passing through Macon County and using our County Highways. In discussions with IDOT shouldn't it be a priority that those type of loads stay on the state system instead of having them meander around on the local system. One example is from Christian County they had an issue where instead of taking that nice loop road County Highway on the west side of town it was routing them through town on residential streets that go out 29 towards Springfield. I would like to come up with a schedule for standard, non-standard, and annual. For these pass through permits, whatever our fees are that we come up with, I would like to double the fee. If they are going to come in here and use our roads in that fashion you are going to pay twice the fee because you really shouldn't be using our roads. Our County Highways are for origin and destination loads, not for pass through loads. Keith Ashby asked what our current fee is. Bruce replied we do not have any fees right now. Keith asked how you double something that does not exist. Bruce replied I am talking about double whatever the fee structure we come up with here for the locals. To give you an example Kane County a standard one way trip is \$50.00 a standard round trip is \$85.00. Non-standard is \$100.00 one way and non-standard round trip is \$135.00. So that

would be a onetime issuance. The annual in Sangamon County is \$100.00. Another thing I would like to add to what we have got going is that if somebody makes a trip without getting a permit that the penalty is a doubled fee as well. I think all of us realize that there are going to be a lot of people who do not even bother to get the permit. If there is an issue or something happens and we find out they did not get a permit we will give them their permit as well a bill for double the fee. Gary Minich asked about the out-of-state trucks, will this be handled through IDOT because they have to get their permits already, correct? Bruce stated what they are doing is; IDOT's system allows them to pick a route that includes not only state route but also local routes. Up until the beginning of this year, IDOT was not even notifying us that they were handing our permits. For example, when we started getting the copies of these permits, all of the pieces of equipment that have been hauled out of CAT, mainly by Keen Transport, or anybody else we have never got notices of that. Bruce asked Kevin Meachum if the City has ever got notices of that. Kevin Meachum replied no. Bruce stated we get the notices because we are the clearing house for everybody. Bruce asked Amanda how many permits do we typically get from IDOT for CAT. Amanda replied on average around ten a day. Bruce stated and we just pass them off to the City because it is not our road. That is an example right there. The locals were not even being notified about any of that. The issue that we run into is that a lot of the times that most of the companies are not honest with us and do not call in regarding permits. Gary Minich asked how we police this so if an out-of-state trucking company comes through Illinois they have to get an IDOT permit. So, if we tell IDOT that we want certain fees if they pass through Macon County then IDOT will collect them for us. Bruce replied, no. The way it is handled right now is that IDOT has a statement on their permit that says you acknowledge by filling out the permit that they have to contact the local road authority to get permission to go on their road. They are just checking that box and merrily going on their way. What we are doing with the County Engineers Association and the Illinois Municipal League we are working with IDOT to try to get them to put that statement and the contact information on the copy of the permit that they give us. When we get a copy of these permits and compare it to the requests that we have got and if they did not get the permit from us, we will just send them a permit as well as a bill for the fees. Gary Minich asked when we are talking about local trucks, will this be a flat fee per truck. Bruce replied it would be an annual fee and I would have to take a closer look at the way Sangamon County has it set up. I think it is just an annual fee for the company if the trucks are overweight. I would like to put something together that is real simple and easy to follow but at the same time has some kind of built in penalties for one, these companies from out of state that really have no business trying to use our roads to get these high wide loads through the state of Illinois. Gary Minich stated I would hate to see us imposing fees that we do not impose now on these trucking companies. Kevin Meachum stated this is not regular freight this is overweight and oversize loads coming through. The average trucks are not going to be affected. Bruce Bird stated if you have got a truck under the legal load of 80,000 and adheres to the weight limits on the bridges and the roads. You do not need to get a permit. Gary Minich replied okay I thought you were talking about permits for any truck. Jerry Potts asked how many Counties actually have fees set up like this. Bruce replied we did a non-scientific survey on our County Engineers website and only about half of them responded and out of those about half have permit fees and the other half do not. When IDOT started sending the copies of these permits out at the beginning of the year it surprised a lot of us because we had no idea before and now we are getting this conformation of what is going through your County, it shocked some of us. I do not think you can bury your head about this you just have to face it head on and deal with it. The only other issue I can see coming up is if we institute some kind of permit fee we are going to have companies that will want to pay for these online. That is something we will have to work out with Amy. Does everybody feel comfortable with me going forward with that type of plan? The committee agreed.

County Engineer's Report:

Bruce stated all of our construction projects are wrapped up and done. Our guys have finished up the mowing and have just finished doing a crossroad culvert on County Highway 49 just south of County Highway 32 between Dalton City and Macon. We got called out last Monday night to drop some salt on the road because it snowed. We got our new truck in and it looks great, please stop in a take look at it if you would like. Other than that we have got everything prepped and ready for whenever we have to get the plows on and push some stuff around. We are staying busy do culverts and crack sealing in the near future.

Jerry Potts asked if that was the truck that was the controversy. Bruce replied yes. Jay Dunn stated that I would like Jerry and Kevin Meachum to look at that truck. I know there was quite a bit of controversy on it and you both have experience with City trucks. I would appreciate if you would just take a look at it.

Also, on this Enbridge agreement, am I looking at this right. They are giving us \$10,000 up front with no expectations of getting it back then there is language in there to cover any damage that they might create on the County roads. Bruce replied yes, the \$10,000 payment is just for pain and suffering in having to deal with them while they are here. They are going to, as part of the agreement, have a consultant engineering firm go out and evaluate the haul routes they have identified. They will have a map and put out their own signs to let the truckers and everyone that is coming in to use these specific roads. So they will evaluate those roads before hand and after. Any loss of service is above and beyond regular use they will basically come back in and compensate us for that. Same thing with the Township roads, in fact, the Township agreement is separate but what they have done in other Counties is they have identified some of the poor township roads based upon that initial evaluation and actually reconstructed them. Since most of this work is going to be done in Austin Township I would be somewhat shocked is there is not a lot of roads that get rebuilt in Austin Township. It is a standard road use agreement they used on a previous line that went west of Pontiac towards Quincy. I talked with the County Engineers they seemed to think that things went rather well. I did get a press release from the Dekalb County Engineer, Enbridge had worked on a pipeline through there and their contractor had passed an overloaded truck over a township bridge and caused it to collapse. Enbridge and the contractor agreed to cover the cost of reconstructing the bridge. Jay asked if we have a similar thing with EON on the wind turbines. Bruce replied yes, it is similar.

Jerry Potts asked is that truck already out on the road. Bruce replied it is on the shop we had to wait to get the plates and check everything. It is ready to go.

Miscellaneous Business

Bruce stated Amy called me today and in the State Township Bridge line item the cost of the bridge in Long Creek Township was a little higher but if you understand the way the State Township Bridge line item works. We let the project and then based upon what the bid estimate is we bill IDOT for 80% of the cost. That is what funds that whole line item. So the money is in the account but the budget does not match the money that is in the account. We have to have a budget modification resolution and it did not make it for this agenda but I wanted to let you know I will just take it straight to Finance, if that is fine with everybody here. It is about \$30,000 higher. That is what is in the budget but we bill IDOT for the money, it is there.

Transportation Committee Minutes
November 20, 2013

No Closed Session

Adjourn:

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

The next Transportation Meeting will be Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:
Kathy Gerhold & Amanda Askew
Macon County Highway Department