



MACON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

2405 N. Woodford St. Decatur, IL 62526

217-424-1404 FAX 217-424-2516

MINUTES

March 27, 2013

The Macon County Transportation Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. located at the Macon County Office Building, 141 S. Main St., Decatur, IL.

Transportation Committee Members Present:

David Williams

Keith Ashby

Gary Minich

Kevin Meachum

Kevin Bird

Jerry Potts

Suzanna Zimmerman

Highway Department Support Staff Present:

Bruce Bird, County Engineer

Mark Funk, Road Supervisor

Kathy Gerhold, Office Manager

Others Present:

Mike Baggett, Asst. States Attorney

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair David Williams at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

David Williams

Kevin Bird

Jerry Potts

Kevin Meachum

Gary Minich

Suzanna Zimmerman

Approval of the Minutes:

Jerry Potts made a motion to approve the minutes from February 27, 2013, seconded by Gary Minich. Motion Carried 6-0

Approval of the Bills:

Kevin Meachum made a motion to accept the bills as presented, seconded by Suzanna Zimmerman. Motion Carried 6-0

No Public Comments

No Old Business

-Keith Ashby is now present-

New Business:

Resolution appropriating funds for engineering expenses on a Bridge Condition Study for a bridge on Boody Road in Pleasant View Township.

Motion made by Kevin Meachum, seconded by Suzanna Zimmerman. Motion Carried 7-0.

County Engineer's Report:

Bruce informed the Committee that we finished up yesterday afternoon cleaning up after the storm.

The Highway Department Facebook Page, on Sunday alone went from 350 to almost a 1,000 likes with over 32,000 hits. I was quite astonished that the comments on there were extremely positive. There was not a single negative comment anywhere. The Facebook page allowed us to get out information to the public about road conditions and roads being closed. Some roads were closed due to cars being in the way. We spent a lot of time pulling cars out of the way so we could actually get the roads plowed. We weren't the only entity dealing with that, at the Road Commissioners Seminar held at the Decatur Conference Center some of the Townships expressed that they had the same issues with the cars. Virtually every County that dealt with the amount of snow that we dealt with had the exact same problems.

On average across the County we had 15 inches of snow within a 24 hour period. It was really heavy wet snow. I looked at the records that were available on-line around here and the last time we had a 15 inch storm in the immediate area, in a 24 hour period was over in Springfield in 1900. The type of storm we had was exceptionally rare.

This is just me being an Engineer; but I sat down and figured out how many tons of snow we removed. In my calculations I figured the 234 miles of road we have, that are on average 26 feet wide and the snow was 15 inches deep, which was heavy wet snow therefore it had to be pretty close to the weight of water. I calculated everything out and it came out to 165,000 tons of snow that was removed. As an example a Nimitz Aircraft Carrier for the US Navy has a displacement of 97,000 tons. So we did almost two Aircraft Carriers worth of snow removal in basically two days. So I think our guys did a pretty good job. (Note: My calculation was off – if was actually closer to 380,000 Tons. That would be equivalent to 4 Nimitz Aircraft Carriers.)

David Williams wanted to make sure that Bruce extends our thanks to the staff at the Highway Department for their work.

Bruce encouraged the Committee to get on the Highway Facebook page and read some of the comments. It was unbelievable how positive it was.

Bruce informed the Committee that the Contractor has started back up on Country Club Road. Of course they haven't been doing anything the last couple of days because they need the snow to melt out of the way.

We also have two bridge projects set and ready to go with Right-of-Way. We just signed off the Right-of-Way on the north end project for the Wyckles Road Whitetopping.

Miscellaneous Business:

David Williams had two questions from a constituent of his. One question was when will the work start back up on Washington Street Bridge? The second question was what are they going to do with Lake Fork Road Bridge? Bruce informed the Committee that we have made contact with Schmidt, the Contractor on the Washington Street Bridge and they informed us that they still have some of their employees down in Florida. But as soon as they are able to start working that is the first place they are going to go. The sheet piling is driven, they have to pour concrete caps on the top of it, and then they

Transportation Committee Minutes
March 27, 2013

have to put the beams back on. The beams are already sitting out there in their backfill stuff. So once they start it shouldn't take too long to get that thing knocked out.

As for the bridge up on Lake Fork Road is a County line bridge, so by statute both us and DeWitt County have to share the cost of that instead of the Township. We sent a copy of the proposed bill to DeWitt County. We had the Julie set up for Tuesday but obviously it is kind of hard to get the marks and flags out there when there's 15 inches of snow on the ground. We are going to do that work in house, it shouldn't take too long. David Williams asked what the work entailed. Bruce explained that we will be doing the approaches and the back walls. So basically we have to dig down behind the back wall and seal it up and then backfill it. It should be a day on each side when we get started on it. Weather permitting we should be starting on it in the next couple of weeks and it should take two days and we'll be done. But by all rights we should probably wait to make sure that DeWitt County is going to pay their share. We sent them a bill, the split is based upon the assessed evaluations, so it works out to be 80% Macon County 20% DeWitt County. So in reality they are only on the hook for \$2,500.

David Williams asked if Bruce would make a call to the Contractor to see if we could get the date as to when they would anticipate they would start on the Washington Street Bridge project. Bruce replied that he would and then he would notify him of his findings.

Kevin Bird wanted to just say that the Crew out at the Highway Department did an awesome job. I was out working around them a lot and they did a really good job. David Williams again stated to make sure Bruce extended our gratitude to the folks out there from the Transportation Committee. (Applause)

No Closed Session

Adjourn:

Kevin Bird made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Suzanna Zimmerman. Motion Carried 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

The next Transportation Meeting held at the Macon County Office Building will be Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

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