

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

December 19, 2018

5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patty Cox, Chair
Tim Dudley, Vice Chair
Kevin Greenfield
Kevin Bird
Rachel Joy
Phil Hogan

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Bruce Bird, County Engineer
Joe Moretti
Stuart Jacobs

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

Pat Dawson

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cox at the Macon County Office Building.

MINUTES

Mr. Hogan made a motion to approve the 11/14/18 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Bird, and the motion carried 6-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Bird made a motion to accept the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Hogan and the motion carried 6-0.

Public Comments – None

Old Business - None

New Business:

Macon County Board Resolution Approving Amendment #1 to the Radford Run Letter of Credit

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that the Letter of Credit was to cover any issues during the actual reconstruction of all the roads for the windfarm. They are now complete with their roads, so they want to reduce the amount in the Letter of Credit from \$6 million down to \$120,000. This is a change in the terms of the contract, so that is why it needs to be a resolution for the board to vote on.

Chair Cox asked Mr. Bird if he felt the \$120,000 would cover it. Mr. Bird explained that the only thing they might possibly have left is if they forgot something which they didn't. He said they've already signed off on the roads. They have a 3 year guarantee on the roads that they did. This does not cover that guarantee. It is separate. Mr. Greenfield asked for clarification on the guarantee being separate. Mr. Bird said if the roads start falling apart, by road use agreement, they have to come in and fix them no matter what. Mr. Kevin Bird asked again if the \$120,000 was enough. Mr. Bruce Bird confirmed saying that for what they did, there were no issues. Everything is fine. He said in a typical road construction project, there are no guarantees. You have to accept it and once you do that, that's it. The three year warranty with these is unusual for what we typically have. He said he is fine with it.

Mr. Hogan made a motion to forward to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Kevin Bird and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds for the Joint City–County Microsurfacing Project

Mr. Bruce Bird explained the project had been approved this past summer, but the language was not included for the appropriation of the funds to pay for it. The City was the lead agency and didn't bill us until a couple of weeks ago. This resolution is just to appropriate the funds so we can pay for it.

Mr. Kevin Bird made a motion to forward to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Hogan and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the Purchase of Right-of-Way Parcel #001 from William Penhallegon, Barbara McKay, and G. Patton Penhallegon

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that this is on a township bridge in Illini Township. They are the only landowners, so this is all the right of way for that project. The township reimburses half the cost of the right of way purchase.

Mr. Hogan made a motion to forward to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Joy and the motion carried 6-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Approving the Purchase of Right of Way Parcel #003 from the Township of Oakley

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that this is the first parcel of right of way to purchase and it is a purchase of an easement in the cemetery that Oakley owns where Rheas Bridge crosses the lake. There are two roads that will go into the cemetery. This is just an easement to allow us to put the final grading in to match up with their existing grade so when the project is done, people can get in and out of the cemetery. This is 100% reimbursement from the state.

Mr. Greenfield asked how close the road would be to the cemetery. Mr. Bird explained that there is a big ditch in the front of it and we will not be anywhere close. It is all easement. We are not buying any right of way and we're not getting anywhere close to graves. It's about 100' from the closest grave and that is just to notch in where the driveway goes. Ms. Cox asked if they would still be able to get in and out. Mr. Bird confirmed most definitely.

Mr. Dudley made a motion to forward to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Mr. Hogan and the motion carried 6-0.

County Engineer's Report:

Mr. Bird reported the other two bridges have been opened up and are ready to go for winter. The Kruse Road one will require coming back in the spring and putting the surface on the bridge deck. That will take a couple of days where the project will have to be reclosed. That will be timed so as not to mess with school buses too much.

The Highway Department guys got to go to Christian County and help with some of the clean up work after the tornado. The help was greatly, greatly appreciated. If they get declared a disaster site, costs will be recovered.

The crews are busy cutting brush and are ready if it snows.

There have been a couple of retirements. One Engineering Technician and one Maintainer retired. Mr. Bird said he was asking for committee input on this. The Engineering Tech position has to be advertised. There is one Maintainer that is working part time that is working out well. Mr. Bird said he would like to offer him full time. Both positions will be replacing retiring employees, so in both cases, the new employee will be making less than the one they are replacing. From a cost standpoint, it will be a budget savings.

Ms. Cox asked what had been done in the past. Mr. Bird said that for the Engineering Tech position, there is one part time Engineering Tech, Joe Moretti, & one full time, Allison. Typically, there has been 3 full time Engineering Tech positions. There has been one part timer that has come back over the summer which has helped out. To cover construction projects next year, there is a real need and it would be nice to have them on board over the winter, especially to help out with the bridge inspections and to get accustomed to the County before being started on projects. The Maintainers have been chosen from snowbirds. It works out well because it gives a chance to see their quality of work and if they can get along with everybody. There is one of those working right now that we would like to offer the position to. Mr. Greenfield asked about the probationary period. Mr. Bird said it is 6 months after they start in both positions. Committee members agreed that if it is in the budget and Mr. Bird felt he would work out, he should go ahead and hire. Ms. Cox asked what the starting salary would be. Mr. Bird explained that the Maintainer would be at \$12.25 an hour and after probation, they bump to \$12.75 by contract. The Engineering Tech that is retiring was making \$52,000 a year. In looking at comparable hires in the counties around us in the last couple of years and this would probably be someone right out of school, it would probably be between \$42,000 and \$45,000 a year.

Mr. Bird agreed that they would go ahead and hire the Maintainer and would advertise for the Engineering Tech and he would let the committee know when they find someone.

The owner of the house on 85th Street – for the stoplight bridge – that has to be torn down – the appraisal has been received. When you go through the federal process, you come up with the appraisal amount, but you also have to consider if you make somebody move which is called the cushion amount above the appraisal amount. When you tell someone they have to move into another house, the cushion area is where you get the appraised amount, plus if they are going to move into a comparable home which might be more. Basically, you have an appraised value, and then a top value with the cushion on top. In talking with the homeowner, he indicated that some of them are a notch above the cushion. In talking with the appraisers, since federal funds are involved, you can pay the extra, but it is then called an administrative settlement where you are saying you agree to X amount of dollars which they get, but it is not the value plus a cushion because with the value plus a cushion, they can go out and shop for a house and depending on the house, you may or may not spend all of it. He said the cost of moving also has to be covered. Moving costs are compared to something within the school district area. Mr. Dudley said that generally, cushions are about 25% and he is above that. Mr. Bird confirmed saying the owner is just wanting to know if its possible. Mr. Greenfield said he would hate to set a precedence. Mr. Bird said it is like anything else. If you follow the rules and regulations, especially when using federal funds, there's not usually a whole lot that can go wrong, but when you start doing stuff on your own, you start to get into trouble. He said he had said he would ask, so that is what he is doing. Mr. Dudley said he felt they should stick with the program and not open a can of worms.

More discussion about another house at the bottom and how that would be done. Mr. Bird says it fits and they will actually fix the drainage issues they currently have.

Mr. Bird reported about the potential with the capital bill and additional ongoing funding that is coming up. The County Engineers Association asked six County Engineers to put together something that would show what they would do if they actually got the funding being talked about. He discussed

projects that would be done within a 10 year period and it is a lot of miles, a lot of work. Capital Projects, which would include the Beltway Project section. It would provide enough match money, that as long as we get the federal dollars, the whole thing could be knocked out. The soon to be ex-mayor of Chicago came out in favor of what is being talked about and cents wise, the numbers come out to align right up with this. It definitely looks like something is going to happen. We hope so. It will enable us to put some really nice projects out there. There might even be hope for the state so they can get their stuff fixed too.

Mr. Greenfield asked about how Otto Baum was coming along on their project. Mr. Bird said they are shut down for the winter. All the concrete paving is in that they could possibly put in without doing the connections. Brush College has to be cut and traffic rerouted and Mr. Bird said they didn't want that for over the winter. Mr. Greenfield asked why that hadn't been finished this year. Mr. Bird explained that they had had a delay from AT&T that lasted about 8 or 9 weeks. As soon as it gets warm enough in the spring, they will set it up. It won't take much to get the connections in once that is done. There's that and the signal work with the turn lanes on 48 and then that project is done.

Miscellaneous Business: None

Closed Session: None needed

Adjourn:

Mr. Kevin Bird made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hogan, the motion carried 6-0 & meeting was adjourned @ 5:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office