

# MACON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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## MINUTES

April 27, 2022

The Macon County Highway Department Transportation meeting was held on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 5:30 pm at the Macon County Highway Department, 2405 N. Woodford St., Decatur, IL 62526.

### **Members Present:**

Ryan Kreke (Chair), Jim Gresham, Marcy Rood, and Pat Dawson

### **Members Absent:**

Phil Hogan, Karl Coleman, and Jake Horve

### **Support Staff Present:**

Joe Moretti (Asst. County Engineer), Stuart Jacobs (Road Supervisor), and Kathy Gerhold (Office Manager)

### **Others Present:**

Kevin Greenfield, County Board Chairman

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ryan Kreke at the Macon County Highway Department.

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

The minutes from the March 23, 2022 meeting were presented for approval. Kevin Greenfield made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Jim Gresham.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote 4-0

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

Motion was made by Ryan Kreke to approve the bills, seconded by Jim Gresham.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote 4-0

### **No Citizen Remarks – Public Comment**

### **No Old Business**

*Pat Dawson Arrived*

### **New Business:**

#### ***Macon County Board Resolution approving construction expenses for the 2022 CH 61 Storm Sewer Project:***

Joe explained this is a project along Franklin Street, we are putting in storm sewer. What's there now is a series of metal culverts. Almost every culvert out there the bottom is rusted out of. Some are just culverts across the driveway, some are long stretches of basically small storm sewer because someone filled in the ditch. What we are doing is putting a storm sewer system the whole length. Jim Gresham asked the whole length of what? Joe replied it is from Hillshire Road the last road on the west side, all the way down to W Grove Road on one side

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of the road. Part of it the ditch is filled in, part of it is not. Once it is all done it is going to be one continuous run of storm sewer and all the ditches will be filled in with a shallow ditch and inlets.

Ryan Kreke made a motion to approve, seconded by Kevin Greenfield.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance 5-0

***Macon County Board Resolution approving construction expenses for the Drummer Road Bridge Replacement Project:***

Joe stated we are going to put a box culvert in place of an existing bridge that is currently closed on Drummer Road. Kevin Greenfield asked where do you get the box at? Joe replied I believe County Materials is making the boxes. Kevin stated I thought they quit making them for a while. Joe replied I know there was another one and they got bought out, I thought it was by County. There is another one, I can't think of the name of it, it's a little further away. The one we are doing now in Austin Township it came from them.

Ryan Kreke made a motion to approve, seconded by Jim Gresham.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance 5-0

***Macon County Board Resolution approving construction expenses for the 2022 RURAL Grant Application:***

Joe explained this an appropriation for the Grant writing for the Federal Rural Grant Application. We are asking for eight million dollars and it is for the construction of Reas Bridge. The appropriation is for \$14,850.00 to pay the grant writer. Ryan Kreke asked if approved and we get that grant is that eight million in addition to the twenty that we already had. Joe replied yes. Ryan stated so that will get us to where we hopefully need to be. Jim Gresham stated at a glance of this agreement on the application it looks like they are basically doing nothing. Is the information just given to them and they put it together? How do these things work? Joe replied they will take what we have already applied for and then they will fix it with all the new rules that were put in place. Jim replied so the technicalities of the... Joe replied yes to bring it up to date to make it correct for the new rules that were changed within the last month. Marcy Rood asked do they get a debrief when they don't get an award. Joe replied they do. Jim asked what does that mean. Marcy replied debrief, when you don't get a grant to tell you what to change. Ryan replied the grant writer tells us why we didn't get it. Joe replied they tells us how wonderful our application was, except.

Ryan Kreke made a motion to approve, seconded by Kevin Greenfield.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance 5-0

***Macon County Board Resolution approving the purchase of a used 2018 Hamm Model HD+80IVVHF Roller:***

Joe informed the Committee we found a slightly used roller with an attractive price to replace our old CAT Steel Drum. Stuart explained Roland Machinery has it over in Springfield, it is one of their rental fleets and has always been serviced by them. Marcy asked how many miles does it have on it. Stuart replied it has 820 hours, which is low. It will last us for a long time. The roller we are getting rid of is a 1990. Joe stated Hamm is a very good roller. Stuart agreed, and it has all the new technology and vibration. Marcy asked where are those manufactured. Joe replied I think they are a German roller. Stuart replied they have a headquarters in Atlanta, GA. Roland Machinery is the dealer for them in this area.

Ryan Kreke made a motion to approve, seconded by Jim Gresham.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance 5-0

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***Macon County Board Resolution approving the purchase of a 2022 CAT Model 305-07 CR Excavator:***

Joe explained this is a mini excavator and it is going to replace one of our two backhoes. It is a bit cheaper than replacing the backhoe and it is also more useful for several types of projects that we do. It is purchased through the Nation Collective that bids out the equipment Nationally. We basically did put it out to bid because they put it out to bid. We are getting a national bid price for it. Stuart added it is just a CAT. We looked at several others and their service in the area is by far the best. Joe added they have made strides in these mini excavators. They are so powerful for as small as they are. Stuart stated we do all the Decatur Townships work and their ditches are so small a backhoe is hard to get in there and you have to block the whole road. Pat Dawson asked if we knew if any of these things that we are talking about purchasing is there a period of time that we sit down and say I need a backhoe, an excavator, whatever, or do you just do them when something quits? Stuart replied we have an equipment list that Bruce and I will go over. The backhoe that we will get rid of is a 2002. We don't get rid of them very often. Pat asked you manage your budget based on what we need next? Jim asked is there a capital expenditure plan for years out? Stuart replied yes, Bruce will budget around \$300,000 a year for new equipment. This year we were going to get a dump truck, but we cannot get it until next year. That is why we bid these items this year and we will do the dump truck next year. Joe stated we physically cannot get it; they don't have it available. Stuart replied we cannot even order it for another two months. Pat replied that is an ongoing problem. Joe agreed. Kevin asked how many excavators do we have; do we have a Drott? We used to have one years ago. Stuart replied that was before I started. We have a bigger CAT excavator now. Kevin asked is it on tracks. Stuart replied it is on rubber tires, but it is the same size as a track machine. Kevin stated and then you have the rubber-tired backhoe and that is what you are going to get rid of. Stuart replied yes, we have two of them. Marcy asked is this the State money that comes to the County for equipment rental. Joe replied that is MFT right? Kathy replied they will be paid for out of County Highway. Kevin asked who put out the bid. Stuart replied Source Well that is the National Collective Joe was talking about. Joe replied it is kind of similar to buying stuff off the State bid. It is a National Government only bid. Kevin asked and CAT was low bid. Stuart stated Kubota was cheaper, but it was like \$5,000 and if a Kubota breaks down, they don't have a service around here. We can get parts for the CAT right around here. Ryan Kreke made a motion to approve, seconded by Kevin Greenfield. Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance 5-0

***Macon County Board Resolution approving construction expenses on the 2021 Oakley Road CIR Project:***

Joe explained the is to cover overages from the project from Route 105 to Oakley. Kevin Greenfield made a motion to approve, seconded by Jim Gresham. Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance 5-0

***Macon County Board Resolution approving construction expenses for the 2022 Highway Parking Lot Patching Project:***

Joe explained this is for right out front here. We have a lot of areas on our lot that need fixed. We are going to relocate the fuel pumps. We have to create a few spaces where they will put curb and gutter to put in the trees that are required by the City, however many years ago they told us that. Jim asked for what. Joe replied whenever you build a parking lot or anything like that, according to the City's code you have to plant trees and they were promised a few years ago. Stuart said when we built that building at least fifteen years ago. Joe replied we are going to create some spaces so we can fill them with dirt and plant some trees. Jim asked and

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why move the gas pumps. Stuart replied we need to put a light there and we would like to put a canopy. The Sheriff's Department and the other departments get gas here. We are moving it around the corner away from the power transformer. Kevin asked why don't we do this ourselves, the pavement? Joe replied because it is concrete, we are not equipped to do concrete work. There is patching, whole panels that need replaced, it is going to be large pieces. There will be curb and gutter that has to be built. I'm sure our guys could do it, but it is not something they do all the time. What else wouldn't you be doing. Kevin stated I am wondering what we could do it for verses \$150,000. Joe replied what wouldn't we be getting done if we are doing that. This is not something we do, and to pull them off another job. If it was chip seal, we wouldn't even be talking about it because that is what we do. To come in and do concrete work, we don't have the equipment. Ryan asked this \$150,000 is what we are allotting for. Bruce did the plans on these and that is his estimate based on past concrete projects that we have had. Pat Dawson asked not in the last two years. Joe stated we used patching contracts and those are pretty close approximations. One of them was back to 2018. He had to adjust it for the current time. Pat asked is this being bid out by somebody. Joe replied yes, it will be bid out. There are a number of concrete contractors that would do a fine job. Ryan stated if those prices come back significantly high, we can at that time still discuss whether we want to do it ourselves. Joe replied I'm sure on something like that, I'm sure we could yes. Jim stated there are other things involved, moving the gas pumps and stuff like that. Ryan stated that is not part of this \$150,000. Joe stated no it not. Kathy stated Building Commission is doing the fuel pumps. They are getting ready to bid it out next week. Pat Dawson stated so we are talking over \$200,000 for all of it, this and the gas pumps. Kathy stated Building Commission is paying for the pumps to be moved. Ryan asked has Building Commission already purchased the pumps or is that part of the bid. Joe replied the tanks underground will stay where they are at. They are just re-piping it from where the pumps are now to where the new one will be. Pat Dawson asked did we say what happens if it comes back over this price. Ryan stated I would think that if it comes back over it will have to come back to us to approve it. If it comes back under then you guys can just move forward, correct. Joe stated yes. Ryan Kreke made a motion to approve, seconded by Marcy Rood. Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance 5-0

***Macon County Board Resolution granting permission to dispose of surplus equipment:***

Joe explained one of them is the CAT Roller that we talked about earlier, the other is a Rubber-Tired Roller that we want to dispose of also. Pat asked to define dispose. Stuart stated we will offer it to the Townships first, then if they don't buy them, they will go to auction. We have one Township interested in the Steel Roller. Ryan Kreke made a motion to approve, seconded by Marcy Rood. Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance 5-0

**County Engineers Report:**

Joe stated we started our paving project on CH 32 on Tuesday. We have paved for two days and hopefully they have ironed out all the bugs. Pat asked where is CH 32. Joe replied it is the road between Macon and Dalton City. We are repaving half of it because we did the other half last year.

We have a project on CH 27 by the quarry where we are doing a bridge repair. They started that one Monday. It is going well.

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We have a box culvert project that we are waiting on the dirt to dry up a little bit so they can finish it. The box is in place and they have done some guardrail work. As soon as they can do the dirt they will finish up. Stuart informed the Committee that we are sealing cracks and trying to put some culverts in. If things dry out, we should be mowing in the next month. Kevin asked do we have the tractors in. Stuart replied they are here and ready to go. Kevin asked are they all new ones. Stuart replied yes.

Marcy asked if there are any vacancies right now. Stuart stated we do have one for the Shop, our Shop Supervisor has talked to a couple of guys. If they don't work out, we may go through Workforce and see if they can find someone.

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Pat Dawson asked if the guys have a diversity program? Joe replied I do not know if it is a formal program. Pat stated not a program but do you do diversity, ethics, sexual harassment training for your employees. Joe stated we do sexual harassment training yearly. A formal diversity training, I don't recall, but in terms of diversity every time we have hired, we have sought out trying to be diverse. Pat stated I do not mean it in that respect. I mean with talking to your employees about certain language and things. People may say Honey, Babe, whatever and some of that is not appropriate. Joe stated that is covered under sexual harassment training. Marcy stated do you have any online modules that employees are required to use. Kathy stated usually all the training stuff comes from downtown, the HR Department. Pat stated and HR referred us to you. Jim Gresham asked Pat, do you have something like that at your workplace. Pat replied yes, we are required for sexual harassment, ethics, and diversity. Kevin asked what does that entail. Pat stated most of it is done online. You go on and they show you examples of what is proper and what is not. Joe stated I have done the ethics and the sexual harassment but I have not done the diversity. Ryan asked Pat if it was a yearly requirement for her. Pat replied it is not a requirement it is just something, if you get sued enough, I think you want your employees to know. Joe stated for Bruce and I the sexual harassment and ethics is a requirement for our license. If we have a program for the diversity training, I would not be opposed to it. Pat stated it is just something that came to mind. We all need to be educated, it is a different world that we live in.

Marcy stated the City has applied for some low no emission grants for transit. There is a chance we could include some of the rural transit operators and get them some money. Do we know how many rural transit providers there are? Joe stated Bruce was involved with Show Bus, I think that is the only one. Marcy stated Anne Schneider is working on that grant. I think the City is okay with it being a broader application. Joe asked is it for replacing equipment. Marcy replied in this case it is transit buses, low emission vehicle technology. They will be electric, natural gas.

Kevin asked where are we at on Reas Bridge, do you know. Did we ever get anything back from them saying why they thought the bids were \$6.5 million higher than the estimate? Joe replied no, not that I know of. We cannot even look at the unit prices to do our own investigation. The State has not published them. When we do our own, we look at them right away and we can compare our Engineer Estimate to the bids and see the difference. Until we see those numbers, we don't even know what blew it out of the water, or if it was just everything in general because of uncertainty on fuel or who knows.

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Kevin asked do you know when they are going to start the bridge on Williams Street? Joe stated I do not.

**No Closed Session**

**Adjourn:**

Pat Dawson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 pm, seconded by Kevin Greenfield.  
Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance. 5-0