

MEETING: **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

DATE/ TIME: Monday, July 18, 2011 - 8:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Sinn, Terry Von Boeckman, Jim Donahue, Mel Stanford, Jim Carius, John Ackerman, and Nancy Proehl

ABSENT: Rosemary Palmer

MINUTES:

Approve

MOTION BY CARIUS, SECOND BY STANFORD to approve the minutes of June 20, 2011. **MOTION CARRIED** on voice vote.

Executive Session minutes from June 20, 2011 were passed out in confidential envelopes and read silently by each Transportation Committee member.

MOTION BY PROEHL, SECOND BY DONAHUE to approve the Executive Session minutes of June 20, 2011. **MOTION CARRIED** on voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Broadway Road Bridge Update

Mr. Anderson stated the road is open, but the project will be complete when trees are planted in the fall. He stated he met with Otto Baum to discuss overage on Working Days. The result of the meeting is a penalty for eight Working Days, a total of \$12,500. Chairman Sinn added that this penalty was critical so all contractors know we have to stick to the contract for better or worse. Mr. Donahue asked if the amount of days settled on was close to the actual overage. Mr. Anderson stated Otto Baum was 20 Working Days over the allotted amount, but eight days were agreed upon. Otto Baum stated their case on several issues, and the amount was eventually agreed to. Mr. Carius asked who Otto Baum's representative for this project was. Mr. Anderson stated it was Adam Watson, Chief Estimator. Mr. Donahue asked what would happen if no agreement could be met. Mr. Anderson stated if no agreement is reached, it can ultimately be litigated. Mr. Ackerman said although it was necessary to charge a penalty it should be noted that Otto Baum is not fully at fault for the delay of the project.

Veterans Road Bridge Update

Mr. Anderson stated we have made good progress toward ultimate bid date in November. He said Fondulac Township is currently working on vacating a portion of existing Township property. This needs to be done so the final parcel of Right of Way can be acquired.

Rural Sign Upgrade Update

Mr. Anderson informed the committee that several townships are working on putting their signs up. Mr. Anderson stated a payment (with retainage) was sent to Allied to cover the cost of the signs for each entity. Tazewell County has been informed of Allied's financial hardships and will likely be the last County dealing with them. Mrs. Proehl noted the recent article in the paper and how Tazewell appeared to be on top of things in regards to the sign upgrade. Mr. Anderson stated although the article was nicely written, the upgrade is actually controlled by IDOT with a list of counties and criteria. Tazewell County finally reached the top of the list.

**TRANSPORTATION
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Heritage Lake Update

Mr. Anderson stated there is still no further update. Mr. Carius said it was rumored from someone who lives in the subdivision that \$300 per year is the current estimated price.

**Wagonseller Road – Excel
Foundry Expansion**

Mr. Anderson stated several meetings have taken place thus far in regards to the possible expansion and road improvement. Mr. Dan Parr attended a meeting with Ms. Kristal Deininger with Tazewell Community Development, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (D.C.E.O.), Cincinnati Township Road Commissioner, Mr. Ron Hawkins, and elected officials. The next day, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Parr met via conference call with Representative Mike Unes, Senator Dave Koehler, DCEO, and IDOT. Mr. Anderson stated there is potential for Economic Development Access Road Funds, but the local agency must fill out an application for these funds. The local agency must provide matching 50% funding to acquire Economic Development Funds. Mr. Anderson stated Christopher Burke and Associates will be hired to evaluate road needs. They are Excel's engineer also. Mr. Anderson suggested the next step would be to have County leaders meet with Excel. If the Economic Development Funds were made available, they would only cover 50% of the project. He stated a commitment and agreement from other parties must be made to fund the other 50% before an application can be submitted. Chairman Sinn stated David Zimmerman and David Jones need to be involved to see if Tazewell County would be interested or could budget to provide funding. Mr. Ackerman said he would like the full County Board to be involved from the start. He said this would make the Board fully aware and deter any surprises down the road. Mrs. Proehl asked who our Economic Development Coordinator is, and if he or she was providing support. Chairman Sinn stated Vicki Clark has been contracted for help in the past. Chairman Sinn said a meeting with Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Jones, and Excel may result in learning Excel's expectations of Tazewell County. He stated Excel is trying to be a good neighbor, and they know if they expand, the nearby road system could be damaged if not improved first. Mrs. Proehl stated her concern of Excel leaving the area if the other 50% is not funded. She said another County may offer Excel the opportunity to develop, and our area could lose several current and future jobs with this company.

**NEW BUSINESS:
General Maintenance
Update**

Mr. Anderson stated the first General Maintenance contract is nearing completion. He stated Delavan Road and Towerline Road are complete, and Springfield Road will be finished soon. Mr. Anderson stated R. A. Cullinan & Son did excellent work on Towerline Road, and he is very impressed with the result. The second part of General Maintenance will begin today, July 18th, by Fischer Excavating. They will start milling Dee-Mack Road.

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County Engineer’s Salary Program (CESP) Mr. Anderson informed the committee that CESP is an annual resolution that allows us to use MFT funds to offset salary expenses of the county engineer. One-half of the County Engineer’s salary is reimbursed through the program. This resolution will be for the period of July 1st, 2011 through December 31st, 2011 (to the end of County Engineer’s term/contract).

RESOLUTION: **MOTION BY STANFORD, SECOND BY CARIUS** to recommend to the County Board that \$27,716.72 of Tazewell County’s Surface Transportation Program funds be used for the County Engineer’s salary. **MOTION CARRIED** on a voice vote.

RESOLUTION: **MOTION BY ACKERMAN, SECOND BY CARIUS** to recommend to County Board to grant permission to Triangle of Opportunity Bicycle Tour to ride on the county roads with no liability on our part, August 6, 2011. **MOTION CARRIED** on a voice vote.

Mr. Donahue expressed his concerns about liability on the County’s part. He inquired if there is any sort of waiver these organizations sign before participating in these types of events. Chairman Sinn stated the policy has been addressed before, but it may be in the best interest of Tazewell County to revisit the issue. Mr. Donahue stated a lot of the roads the events take place on are 55MPH roads and can be very dangerous to bikers or runners. Mr. Ackerman stated the participants of events or individuals using the roads as personal use for biking and running are aware of the risk. Mr. Anderson stated our current resolutions require a letter stating there is no liability on our part as a part of the request and permission process.

Village of Hopedale Letter County Bridge Aid Funds Mr. Anderson stated the Highway Department received a letter from the Village of Hopedale stating they would not be taking advantage of the funding for the Tremont St. culvert that is currently budgeted for 50% County Aid. Chairman Sinn added that several years ago they petitioned us for funds, but it was not in the budget. He stated if Hopedale wanted these funds again in the future they would have to petition for them again.

IDOT Letter – Illinois Jobs Now Mr. Anderson informed the committee of the second installment of “Illinois Jobs Now!” \$500 million funding. The installment of \$100 million will be distributed to local agencies based on the regular Motor Fuel Tax formula. Tazewell County’s second year installment totals \$381,410. Each township will receive its own portion of the \$100 million as well. Mrs. Proehl asked if the money had to be spent a certain way, and Mr. Donahue asked if the money had to be spent within a certain amount of time. Mr. Anderson answered no to both questions and stated although it seems like a lot of money it will actually only cover the cost to pave about two miles.

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**Excessive Engine Braking
Noise Prohibited**

Mr. Anderson stated he received a request to put up signs that read “Excessive Engine Braking Noise Prohibited” on the County roads that pass through Dillon. This would require four signs, one going each direction on Springfield Road and Townline Road. The placement of these signs would require a County policy passed by the Board because of the enforcement issue. There is a state statute in place that allows counties to place these signs. Mr. Anderson informed the committee that Tazewell County Sheriff’s Office said it is very difficult to enforce this statute. Mr. Anderson received the support from the Transportation Committee in that it would not be in the County’s best interest to add these signs because of difficulty of enforcement and ultimately sign maintenance and costs.

OTHER MATTERS:

**Centennial Road
Improvement – Public
Meeting**

Mr. Anderson informed the committee of a public meeting taking place at Grange Hall on Wednesday, July 20, 2011 from 5:00PM to 7:00PM for Centennial Road Improvement. The meeting’s purpose is to make those affected by the improvement aware and allow them to ask questions.

**In Place Meeting for St.
Jude Tremont to Peoria
Run**

Mr. Anderson stated that an In Place Meeting will need to be held at the next County Board Meeting for a request to use County Roads for St. Jude Tremont to Peoria Run. The request was submitted too late to be placed on the Transportation Committee Meeting agenda, and the event is for August 6, 2011.

**Broadway Road Widening
Bill**

Mr. Anderson stated we received the final bill from IDOT for the Broadway Road widening project in Pekin. Tazewell County Highway Department has also sent the final bill to the City of Pekin for their final 1/3 share of the project’s cost.

Bill Pay Process

Chairman Sinn informed the committee of the current concern with the bill pay process. The current use of manual checks will possibly be eliminated, and as a result, some contractors may wait up to six to seven weeks to receive payment. Each member discussed concerns of not being able to see and approve bills, as well as a concern of higher construction costs from contractors to make up for the larger gaps in payments. Mr. Anderson stated that he wanted the committee to understand that longer periods to pay bills could ultimately cost us on bid prices. A letter from Beniach Construction was read aloud by Mr. Anderson. It explained how their bids would have to increase to cover their company’s operations. A letter from McLean County was read aloud as well. It mentioned that they cut checks every two weeks.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

MOTION BY CARIUS, SECOND BY STANDFORD to approve the bills as presented and recommend payment to the County Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Sinn adjourned the meeting at 9:14 A.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Transportation Committee will be held on Monday, August 22, 2011, at 8:00 A.M.

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