

MEETING: TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE/ TIME: Monday, September 19, 2011 - 8:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Sinn, Rosemary Palmer, John Ackerman, Terry Von Boeckman, Jim Donahue, and Nancy Proehl

ABSENT: Jim Carius, Mel Stanford

MINUTES: **MOTION BY PALMER, SECOND BY DONAHUE** to approve the minutes of August 22, 2011. **MOTION CARRIED** on voice vote.
Approve

OLD BUSINESS:

General Maintenance

Mr. Anderson stated R.A. Cullinan was the low bidder for the guardrail repair project on Toboggan Avenue. He stated work is set to start Monday, September 26, 2011 and last approximately three weeks to a month, weather permitting.

Veterans Road Bridge Update

Mr. Anderson stated Mr. Dan Parr has reached closure on acquisition of all Right of Ways needed for this project. Mr. Anderson informed the committee the project will be bid this November through IDOT. The project will be funded with 80% federal funding. Mr. Anderson added that the new Fondulac Township Road Commissioner, Paul Whittington, has been a big help since taking his new position. Mr. Anderson stated Mr. Whittington is very knowledgeable and has helped with the interface with the Fondulac Board.

Rural Sign Upgrade Update

Mr. Anderson informed the committee that several townships are working on putting their signs up and some are close to completion. Mr. Anderson stated Tazewell County's signs have not yet been put up, but Mr. Evelsizer will begin this process after fall work is complete. Chairman Sinn stated it seems to him as if some townships have more signs now than before and asked if those townships were possibly under-signed to begin with. Mr. Anderson stated some signs could have been added, but a lot of the signs are simply being moved to their correct locations according to M.U.T.C.D. (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) specifications. Mr. Anderson stated other sign specifications being addressed are reflectivity, height, and distance from the road. Mr. Ackerman asked how many signs Tazewell County Highway Department is responsible for. Tazewell County Highway Department is responsible for 1,309 signs.

Wagonseller Road Improvements Update (Industrial Expansion)

Mr. Anderson stated several meetings have taken place thus far in regards to the possible industrial expansion and road improvement near Wagonseller Road. The EDC is currently preparing an application for funds for this project. Mr. Anderson stated the County Board will soon be acting on C.D.A.P. grants. Mr. Donahue asked which route trucks normally take to get to the industrial businesses. Mr. Anderson stated the route is normally Route 29 to Manito Road to Wagonseller Road. However, some trucks use I-155 to Townline Road to Wagonseller Road. Mrs. Proehl stated an owner of land near the intersection of Manito Road and Wagonseller Road provided positive feedback to her regarding the possible improvements.

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Mr. Ackerman stated it would be ideal to start working with the railroad to prepare for the increased traffic through the railroad viaduct. Mr. Anderson stated it can be very difficult to move forward on improving railroad structures that are affecting the roadway if the railroad bridge itself is structurally sound. Mrs. Proehl suggested contacting Ray LaHood for help with the industrial expansion/road improvement project. She stated he knows the area and has previously offered his assistance to local projects.

Eastern Bypass Update

Mr. Anderson stated the first public informational meeting for this project took place on September 15, 2011. Details are still vague, but the next goal is to drop six possible corridors down to three possible corridors. Mr. Ackerman stated he has heard many people in the area do not want the “Ring Road” to split the City of Washington and several others do not want to alter prime farming land. Mr. Anderson stated feedback of that sort will help narrow down the possible corridors. Mr. Donahue asked about Mr. Anderson’s stance on the project. Mr. Anderson stated it is his goal to speak for the interest of the Road Commissioners and for Tazewell County. Mrs. Proehl inquired if anyone has heard of the project being a positive development. Mr. Anderson stated the project was introduced several years ago and was stopped. It has been brought about again, and not because of IDOT, but through the business community. Mr. Ackerman added that several businesses in the area are pushing for the bypass, and it ranked number one on their project wish lists at a business meeting he attended. Chairman Sinn stated that this project would in fact complete the “ring” of I-474 / ILL-6; it is just the path that is the struggle.

Farmdale Road Update

Mr. Anderson stated Illinois Commerce Commission has agreed to provide another \$250,000 on top of their previous proposal of \$500,000 because of the additional railroad crossing applied to the project. Mr. Anderson again stated the benefits of having Mr. Paul Whittington in the Road Commissioner position at Fondulac Township. Mr. Anderson informed the committee of Mr. Whittington willingness to bridge the gap between the Fondulac Board and Tazewell County. Mr. Anderson stated he has put money in next year’s budget for this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Preliminary 2012 Budget Discussion

Mr. Anderson stated **Township Bridge Fund (201)** will not have expenditures for 2012. The fund must be built back up to build a bridge in the future. Mr. Ackerman asked if a certain bridge is in the works for the future. Mr. Anderson stated Robison Road bridge in Morton Township is currently in the engineering phase and is planned for 2013.

County Highway Fund (202) shows an increase in the fuel budget, for obvious reasons, and an increase in the overtime budget reasons of wage increases and basic historic trends. Mr. Ackerman added the Transportation Committee has helped to support the Highway Department’s need for funds in the overtime budget.

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He said they understand that overtime for the Highway Department is very weather dependent and quite often, there is no way around overtime hours. Mr. Anderson stated there are also plans for the purchase of a new tandem from the new equipment line item.

Mr. Anderson informed the committee the **County Motor Fuel (203)** budget is in outstanding shape. He stated he tries to keep a balance in this fund for projects that may or may not happen in the particular year planned. Mr. Anderson stated there is money in next year's budget for Wagonseller Road, an example of a project that needs to be budgeted for but could be delayed or not take place.

Mr. Anderson stated **Township Motor Fuel Fun (204)** will remain about the same as the townships find use for their money each year.

County Bridge Fund (205) has funds for Veterans Road bridge, and a precast box for Armington Road bridge.

Mr. Anderson stated **Matching Tax Fund (206)** is budgeted as a lower amount due to outstanding bills, Broadway Road in Pekin and Broadway Road/Springfield Road intersection project, being paid in 2011. Mr. Anderson stated Dee-Mack Road/Cooper Road engineering will continue to be paid from this fund.

Mrs. Proehl inquired about the layout of the budget referring to the 2012-2016 plans and if the layout was the County's or Mr. Anderson's. Mr. Anderson stated that was his setup, and he is able to put together such plans because majority of the projects must go through the engineering process long before construction can begin. Mrs. Proehl stated she greatly appreciated being able to see the plans this far out, rather than being surprised with a costly project and having to immediately react. Chairman Sinn inquired about the wash-bay/maintenance garage construction. Mr. Anderson stated the project will still be in budgeted for its engineering phase, and it is a project that has money set aside in County Motor Fuel Tax for when the time comes to build it. Tazewell County has historically used Motor Fuel funds for paving needs, and not for day labor activities. Since other counties differ in this aspect, there is a noticeable, positive difference in the road system from our county to others. Mr. Donahue inquired as to why we lease equipment rather than purchasing it. We tend to lease the equipment that is likely to have the most maintenance needs, and thus the lease can cover the majority of those costs. We also can get replacements if a piece of equipment breaks down. Mr. Anderson stated the Highway Department leases an end loader and mowers/tractors. The end loader works in salt. It would not be economical to buy a piece of equipment that we use in this manner when it can be leased for three years, and we can get a new piece of equipment in its place.

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Mr. Anderson stated the mowers follow the same concept. He added that we own all of our other equipment such as our tandems, backhoe, and motor grader.

**State Bid for 2012 Ford
F150 Extended Cab Truck**

Chairman Sinn noted that the Transportation Committee gave approval for the Highway Department to start looking into a new vehicle. Mr. Anderson stated Mr. Rusty Albers and Mr. Dave Scheuermann did an excellent job pulling all of the numbers together. Because of the difficulty of time periods required to open bids, it was difficult for dealers to guarantee availability of 2011 models. The decision was subsequently to seek a vehicle via state bid. Mr. Ackerman stated that the ordinance was put in place by the committee, and therefore can be reopened and changed by the committee. Chairman Sinn stated this was true, but by increasing the limit, the chance of the Board being removed from large purchases is higher as well. Mr. Anderson stated purchasing this vehicle in 2011 with the remaining New Equipment funds will eliminate having to budget for this particular vehicle next year while having a year older trade in and possibly higher prices.

RESOLUTION:

MOTION BY ACKERMAN, SECOND BY VON BOECKMAN to accept the state bid from Morrow Brothers Ford, Inc., in the amount of \$21,559.00 (with the trade in of a 2004 Ford Explorer) for a 2012 Ford F150 4x4 Extended Cab, to be paid from County Highway Tax Fund, New Equipment Line Item (202-311-544-000), subject to review by the County Engineer and approval of the County Board. **MOTION CARRIED** on a voice vote.

Line Item Transfer

Mr. Anderson informed the committee we are requesting the Finance Committee to approve a line item transfer of \$2,560.00 necessary to provide sufficient funds to purchase the subject technical staff vehicle. The purchase will eliminate the need to provide funds in 2012 budget for subject vehicle. A motion was made by Mr. Donahue, second by Mr. Von Boeckman, requesting the Finance Committee to approve a line item transfer of \$2,560.00 from County Highway, Engineering Supplies, line item 202-311-522-120 to New Equipment, line item 202-311-544-000.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Sinn adjourned the meeting at 9:15 A.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Transportation Committee will be held on Monday, October 26, 2011, at 8:00 A.M.

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