

MEETING: **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

DATE/ TIME: Monday, January 16, 2012 - 8:00 A.M.

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

ABSENT: Jim Donahue

MINUTES:

Approve

MOTION BY STANFORD, SECOND BY CARIUS to approve the minutes of December 12, 2011. **MOTION CARRIED** on voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Veterans Road Bridge Update

Mr. Anderson advised the committee that a preconstruction conference will take place soon. This will let us know when the contractor plans to start construction.

Farmdale Road Update

Mr. Anderson reminded the committee that this project was initially going to involve the elimination of two railroad crossings by relocating a portion of the road. However, a resident would have been affected by eliminating both crossings. Therefore, the project will leave one crossing for access. Negotiations are still ongoing with property owners and the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Wagoner Road Improvements Update (Industrial Expansion)

Mr. Anderson informed the committee of a possible press conference taking place Tuesday, January 17th regarding the Excel Foundry expansion plans. This announcement will also cover the road funding from State of Illinois to aid in the expansion.

Heritage Lake Update

Mr. Anderson informed the committee of a meeting that took place Friday, December 16, 2011, with representatives of Heritage Lake homeowners. The meeting was to discuss the estimated cost of \$7 million to upgrade the road system before it can be dedicated to Mackinaw Township. This estimate includes an upgrade of the drainage ditches, culverts, signs, as well as road upgrades. The representatives had planned to take the estimate and information to the Homeowner's Association in late January 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to disclose the Highway Department's estimate cost of improvement. The thought was to have homeowners understand true costs prior to proceeding with costly engineering and legal fees. Mr. Carius inquired about the reimbursement for services of Attorney Bob Brown and Tazewell County Highway Department. Mr. Anderson stated any further work for this project will be at a cost, and he stated Mr. Brown has not specified reimbursement for his services. Chairman Sinn stated that Mr. Brown has been a good source to go to in the past, and he will be in the future as well. Mr. Ackerman stated he would like to see Mr. Brown reimbursed for his services so we can continue to utilize him in the future.

Terminal Avenue Update

Mr. Anderson informed the committee that Ameren has agreed to move their five transmission towers at their expense.

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Ameren’s decision has created large cost savings for residents living in that area, and the project can now be adequately designed. Mr. Anderson stated the next step is to figure out an estimate and have another meeting with owners. This will be a Special Assessment.

Eastern Bypass Update

Mr. Anderson reminded the committee of a mini-presentation by IDOT scheduled before this month’s County Board Meeting for the Eastern Bypass. It will give everyone a chance to view exhibits and later discuss routes. The presentation will be informative and is intended to create communication in hopes to narrow down possible corridors. Mr. Anderson stated there should be three issues to take into consideration when making a decision on where the road should go: Is there a need for the road? Does it solve transportation issues? Who will the road affect? Mrs. Proehl stated she has not heard much discussion regarding the actual need for the road. 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 and elected officials. Mr. Ackerman stated his concern regarding the County Board’s input. He stated it is pressing that the board provides participation to move in the direction that would benefit the County, rather than let municipalities provide their input and benefit only that jurisdiction. Mr. Anderson said his best advice would be to study the Eastern Bypass information and ask good questions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Winter Update – Overtime and Salt Usage

Mr. Anderson stated it has been a good winter with very little snow and higher temperatures. With barely any snow or ice, the salt usage has been at its minimum. However, Mr. Randy Evelsizer had his crew on their routes at 4:00AM for Thursday’s (January 12, 2012) snow storm. The goal was to treat the roads before commuters travel the roadways later in the morning. The crew worked throughout the day. Mr. Evelsizer had a crew member go home during normal work hours to be able to man the roads throughout the evening and night due to winds. The crew was also out Saturday for about six to seven hours due to the wind and freezing conditions. Again this morning, the crew was out because of wind and drifting. Mr. Anderson stated that although it was a small accumulation, the wind caused issues and created significant overtime. Mr. Stanford stated that overall the overtime usage is down considerably low in comparison to previous years. Mr. Anderson stated since salt usage is down as well, the County may need to look at salt storage issues to fulfill our contract.

Discussion of Summer Maintenance Program

Mr. Anderson directed the committee’s attention to the map included in the packet that illustrates the 2012 Summer Maintenance Program. He stated the four areas shown are in the highest need of attention in the County. Mr. Ackerman inquired as to why a fourth of Hopedale Road was not included in the program.

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Mr. Anderson stated that fourth, as well as a part of Armington Road, was completed during the wind farm project. Mr. Anderson stated another part of Armington Road was completed by the County during the 2011 program. Mr. Anderson informed the committee that the program is approximately 10-11 miles worth of roadwork with majority of the work on Minier Road, about 5.8 miles.

OTHER MATTERS:

Mr. Anderson informed the committee of the coming months, March and April, as bid months for most of the projects.

Mrs. Proehl inquired about further progress with the Wick Building. Mr. Anderson stated there has not been any progress at this time due to several other projects needing attention.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Sinn adjourned the meeting at 8:54 A.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Transportation Committee will be held on Monday, February 13, 2012, at 8:00 A.M.

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