

**DATE/ TIME:** Monday, August 20, 2012 - 8:00 A.M.

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

**ABSENT:**

**MINUTES:** **MOTION BY CARIUS, SECOND BY PALMER** to approve the minutes of July 16, 2012. **MOTION CARRIED** on voice vote.  
**Approve**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Veterans Road Bridge**

Mr. Anderson informed the committee Veterans Road will be closed for two weeks starting tomorrow, August 21, 2012, to make the connections between the new bridge and the old bridge. The old bridge will then be removed. He added that the road is a cut through for several areas such as Morton and Groveland to get to East Peoria. A meeting was held a week prior to brief all of the schools, police, fire, emergency response, etc. However, a lot of agencies were not present. Mr. Paul Whittington, Fondulac Township Road Commissioner, did a great job notifying those that were not present. Mr. Anderson stated a news release describing the road closure and a map of the area being closed was sent out via fax and email. Mr. Carius suggested sending the closure to the Journal Star because they did not have it printed in the paper. Mr. Anderson stated the Journal Star was notified a week prior. It was noted that more efforts would be made to reach someone at the Journal Star directly to get the notice printed. Mr. Anderson added that electronic message boards have been up for a week advising passersby of the construction and closure.

**Farmdale Road Update**

Mr. Anderson reminded the committee this project is by order of Illinois Commerce Commission to move part of the road. He stated Mr. Dan Parr has been working on Right of Way matters and started the appraisal process to buy property. He noted the invoices related to this project in the month's bills. He stated the construction of this project will be included in the budget for 2013.

**Eastern Bypass Update**

Mr. Anderson said there is currently no update at this time. He stated a relatively quick turnaround was expected after the last meeting; however, there is still no information.

**Dee Mack Road/Cooper Road Intersection Update**

Mr. Anderson stated construction for this federal safety project is complete. He stated R.A. Cullinan and Son did a fantastic job. Mr. Anderson stated the intersection is safer now due to paved shoulders, a wider intersection, rumble strips outside the white lines, a corrected cross slope, and improved sight distance. Chairman Sinn inquired if the rumble strips were milled out or if parts were raised. Mr. Randy Eveltizer stated they were milled to keep from being damaged by the snow plows.

**Wagoner Road / Shady Lane Construction Update** Mr. Anderson stated although this project is complete a prospective ribbon cutting is planned for early October.

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### Bridge Damage / Allentown Road Bridge Repair

Mr. Anderson referenced the packet and the letter from the insurance company of the farmer who caused the damage. He stated Assistant State's Attorney Mike Holly has reviewed the response letter and the language of the claim, and he is comfortable with it. It will then go before Risk Management Committee. Chairman Sinn inquired about the language and if it was prepared by the County or by the insurance company. Mr. Anderson stated the language was put together by the insurance company. Mr. Anderson stated he has worked with several insurance companies in the past as far as guardrail and other highway related claims, and he stated this company has been excellent to work with thus far. He stated they have agreed to reimburse us for everything we documented during the accident and repair.

### Armington Road Bridge Repair

Mr. Anderson stated Armington Road bridge has been opened to traffic. He stated Stark Excavating was the contractor, and Mr. Dave Scheuermann oversaw the work. Mr. Anderson addressed concerns brought to his attention by Mr. John Ackerman and Mr. Carroll Imig regarding the lack of guardrail on this bridge. He stated the old bridge did not have a guardrail, but it did have a concrete bridge rail. He added when a project like this is constructed, the culvert is extended beyond the "clear zone." A clear zone is a safety factor relating to the traffic on the particular road. In this case, the culvert is extended eight feet off the edge of the payment and the clear zone for this particular road is six feet. Following the culvert extension, it is an engineering judgment to put up guardrail or not. He added that not only is the drop only six feet, but guardrail has shown to cause harm when it is hit a certain way. Therefore if it is unnecessary, it may be safer without it. In addition, guardrail poses a problem during winter months in regards to snow, wind, and ice. All in all, the engineering judgment is that the bridge is safer without guardrail than it is with it.

### NEW BUSINESS: Preliminary Budget Discussion

Mr. Anderson stated **Township Bridge Fund (201)** is funded by the State of Illinois at about \$160,000 per year. The fund has to be built up before a bridge can be constructed, and the last bridge funded was Broadway Road Bridge. Robison Road bridge in Morton Township has been through the engineering phase and is now budgeted for construction in 2013.

**County Highway Fund (202)** shows an increase in the fuel budget, for obvious reasons, and an increase in the overtime budget due to wage increases and basic historic trends. He stated the current 2012 budget is down due to a mild winter. Mr. Anderson stated the unused FY2012 budget of \$75,000 for the Wick building engineering consultant will remain in the budget for FY2013. Mr. Anderson stated a new backhoe is in the works, but it would fall under the Interest and Principal line items due to leasing the equipment. He stated Altorfer CAT is offering great rates on new equipment as well as the trade-in value for our current equipment. Mrs. Proehl added having leased equipment means you have excellent equipment under warranty; therefore, it comes with equipment maintenance provided by the dealer. She stated, "It is the way to go."

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Mr. Anderson stated the current New Equipment line item has approximately \$20,000 remaining, and instead of adding to the 2013 budget, he would like to purchase a new vehicle with the 2012 budget. One of the technician vehicles has about 90,000 miles on it, and loses about \$2,000 in trade-in value per year. The Committee gave their approval to move forward with the steps to purchase a vehicle with the remaining 2012 budget.

Mr. Anderson informed the committee the **County Motor Fuel (203)** budget is down a little from the previous year, but the general maintenance program will consist of the same amount of mileage.

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)** is up due to Robison Road Bridge. The County will pay a share towards this bridge as well as pay the Township's portion until they have been billed and reimburse us. He added that a County bridge on Wagonseller Road near Hickory Grove will also be built.

Mr. Anderson stated **Matching Tax Fund (206)** is up dramatically, but the main reason is we have two "one time" projects. One project is Centennial Drive and the other is Farmdale Road. The County will act as the "bank" for the local share on Centennial Drive. The same goes for Farmdale road, and Illinois Commerce Commission will reimburse us. We must show the expenditure, but we will have corresponding revenue coming in from the appropriate agency to offset the expenses. He stated there are also two options for remaining Wagonseller projects. He stated one option is to complete both intersections as well as the south portion of Wagonseller Road in 2013, and the other option would be to wait on one of the intersections, being Manito Road turn-lane, until the following year. Mr. Anderson stated the first option may require hiring consultants due to the high volume of construction planned in 2013. If the County waits to complete Manito Road intersection until 2014, minimal outside help will be necessary, and it will save money. Mr. Anderson reminded the committee that the work will be done, but it may be delayed one year. He added that majority of the large truck traffic for Excel comes from Townline Road due to the Manito Road and Route 29 railroad trestles, but it is hard for trucks to make the turn from Townline to Wagonseller. His recommendation is to construct Manito Road intersection in 2014 because of the man power concerns and the amount of Right of Way to be purchased.

**Underground Storage  
Tank (UST) Discussion**

Mr. Anderson informed the committee the Highway Department has Underground Storage Tanks (UST) for fuel. On August 3, 2012, the Highway Department learned about a requirement to have at least two A/B Licensed personnel by August 8, 2012, to oversee the UST facility.

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Mr. Randy Evelsizer and Mr. Dave Scheuermann immediately took the appropriate course (training invoice was noted in the bills) and are now certified and in accordance with the requirement by the State Fire Marshal. Mr. Anderson added that a bigger issue has come about since the training regarding the tanks our facility has. He stated all tanks and piping will eventually have to be double-walled tanks, and our tanks are single-walled. Mr. Evelsizer stated if an issue arises and a repair is necessary we will first be red tagged and shutdown, and we will then have 60 days to fix the issue. To fix the issue, a new system will likely have to be put in. Mr. Anderson stated he contacted Mr. Michael Freilinger about the matter, and informed him this should now be a budget concern to take steps to putting in a new system. Mr. Anderson said he is trying to create awareness about it because all County offices utilize this system. Mr. Donahue inquired about the estimate to replace the system. Mr. Evelsizer stated the County was given an estimate of \$81,000 to replace the whole system in 1992. He stated since that cost is 20 years old, the new cost could likely be triple that amount. The current system was put in, along with the shop building, in 1979. Mr. Anderson said they are working on getting a new estimate.

**Citizen Request for  
Auxiliary Flashing Light  
at Townline Rd./Mall Rd.**

Mr. Anderson informed the committee of an issue that first came up about six years ago. He stated a resident that lives at the T-intersection of Towerline Road and Mall Road requested a flashing yellow light on the advance warning sign on Towerline Road to prevent the cars from ending up in his front yard. The Highway Department spent \$1,600 in 2006 to put up the light, and a couple months ago the sign, along with the light, was stolen. The resident has now asked if we are going to replace the light. The dilemma is that the County cannot continue to replace signs that are just going to be stolen. In addition, the City of Pekin will be constructing the Veterans Road bypass which will eliminate some of the traffic at the Towerline/Mall Rd. intersection. Mr. Anderson asked for advice from the Committee regarding the decision to replace the sign with the flashing light. He added that the intersection itself is already lit with overhead lighting and there are two advance warning "T" signs, but the resident stated the fog is what causes the cars to run through the intersection into his yard. Mr. Donahue inquired if rumble strips would be an option. Mr. Anderson stated those create a loud sound; therefore creating another problem. Mrs. Proehl said she travels that route quite often, and she plans to check out the area, possibly talk with the resident, and report back. Advice was give to wait on the installation of the light.

**OTHER MATTERS:  
State Pension/County  
Engineer Retirement**

Chairman Sinn brought the current political talk of the state retirement system to the attention of the Committee. Mr. Anderson stated he has 27 years of service with IDOT combined with his County service, he is eligible for retirement. With the talk lately of changing the state retirement benefits, Mr. Anderson stated he has been forced to weigh options. He stated he had not wished to retire, but he must protect what he has worked and saved for. He added that he cannot ignore the possibility for being retired to be more beneficial than being employed.

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Chairman Sinn stated he does not want this issue to be a scare, as nothing may come of it, but he stated he wanted the Committee to be aware in case things were to move forward.

**Enbridge Pipeline**

Mr. Anderson stated he recently met with several other counties, and they discussed the Enbridge Pipeline that will be coming through soon. He stated the other counties discussed having a road use agreement similar to what Tazewell County had for the wind farm. Mr. Anderson stated the counties met to have a somewhat consistent approach to protecting the integrity of the roads; however each county has different needs based on their road system. Mr. Carious added that Tazewell County should have no less worry just because our roads are in better condition. He stated we should protect them just the same. Other members speculated if a road use agreement could even be used in a situation. Mr. Anderson stated he plans to meet with Community Development concerning these issues. The Committee advised to seek input from State's Attorney.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS: MOTION BY STANFORD, SECOND BY PALMER** 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, September 17, 2012, at 8:00 A.M.