

DATE/ TIME: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 - 8:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Sinn, John Ackerman, Nancy Proehl, Andrew Rinehart, Rosemary Palmer, and Russ Crawford

ABSENT: Mel Stanford

MINUTES: **MOTION BY RINEHART, SECOND BY PROEHL** to approve the minutes and Executive Session minutes of January 20, 2014, Special Meeting minutes of January 27, 2014, and Special Meeting minutes of January 29, 2014 **MOTION CARRIED** on voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wagonseller Road Update Mr. Anderson reminded the committee of the meeting previously held with Mr. Ron Hawkins, Mr. Freilinger, Mr. Zimmerman, Chairman Sinn, Mr. Jim Cummings, and himself to develop a backup plan. Mr. Anderson stated the next step was for Mr. Freilinger and Mr. Zimmerman to work with Ms. Carol Merna of Congressman Shock’s office, the source of the funding, to develop a plan based on the current situation. Chairman Sinn stated if the plan is not worked out within the next month, the projects cannot proceed due to construction running into harvest. Mr. Anderson added that a request for extension will need submitted to EDA if things do not proceed as expected. Mr. Crawford stated he serves on the Regional CEDS committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Roy Bockler. He stated they have worked several times with the Chicago EDA office, and that might be another route to consider with this issue. It was decided that Mr. Crawford would be in contact with Mr. Freilinger and suggest this avenue.

Enbridge Pipeline Mr. Anderson stated the pipeline is in a cleanup stage in Tazewell County. Chairman Sinn stated the cold weather has taken a toll on the completion of the project in the area. He said it has caused about an eight week halt. He stated the question still remains if the areas of farmland affected will be able to be planted in the spring or not. Mr. Ackerman stated he wanted to note the help Enbridge and Michels provided to the area after the tornado hit in November 2013. He stated he is not sure if others know of the help they provided. Mrs. Proehl stated there was an article in the paper about it.

Winter Update – Overtime and Salt Usage Mr. Anderson stated everyone is aware of the winter situation. He directed everyone’s attention to the Overtime Expenditure chart provided in the packet. He stated not only does it look alarming compared to last year and in general with the amounts spent, but he stated due to the recent weekend’s events, it is likely going to be worse. He stated the crews worked Friday evening, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday (Presidents’ Day) of the past weekend. All days will result in overtime usage. Mr. Anderson stated he will likely have to ask for a transfer in the month of March from Contingent to Overtime to supplement the budgeted amount. He reminded the committee that there is still the whole construction season left as well. Mr. Crawford said he cannot imagine anyone not understanding. Mr. Anderson stated the bigger issue is salt.

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He stated although orders have been placed, salt is not being delivered in a timely fashion or in the amounts needed. Mr. Anderson stated other entities are in the same boat. With the ice on the lakes and rivers, salt is not making it to its destination. He stated it has helped a lot that the County had so much on hand from last year.

NEW BUSINESS:

**Manito Road Bridge over
Mackinaw River**

Mr. Anderson stated the County has been approved for funds to replace the Manito Road bridge over the Mackinaw River in 2017. However, the IDOT Bridge Office did a load rating on the bridge and has asked Tazewell County do a temporary fix on the bridge or post a weight restriction. Mr. Anderson stated posting a weight restriction would cause an economic hardship for the businesses and gravel pits in that area. He stated he is in the process of having design plans drawn up for a small contract to repair the bridge. He added that the planning and construction costs will need to come out of the budget, and they are obviously unplanned. Mr. Anderson stated he does not intend for the costs to be significant. Mr. Ackerman wondered how continuous temporary fixes add up in comparison to the overall bridge replacement. Mr. Anderson stated it is a \$10,000 - \$15,000 fix compared to \$7 million replacement. He added that not only are the funds not available until 2017, the design plans for the bridge replacement are still in the works.

Line Item Transfer

Mr. Anderson informed the committee the Highway Department is requesting the Finance Committee to approve a line item transfer of \$1,000 from County Motor Fuel Tax Fund 203, line item 203-311-533-740, Highway Maintenance, to the following line item: 203-311-533-300, Mileage. In the past, general mileage reimbursement for the County Engineer was paid from the Salary line in the County Motor Fuel Tax Fund as a part of the County Engineer's paycheck. Any additional mileage, for travels outside the County, was paid from the Mileage line item in the County Motor Fuel Tax Fund. Due to the change in the contract for the current County Engineer, general mileage is no longer included in the County Engineer's paycheck and is reimbursed on a monthly basis by the Auditor's Office out of the Mileage line item. As a result, the Mileage line will soon exceed the amount budgeted since it now serves another purpose. A motion was made by Proehl, second by Crawford recommending to the Finance Committee to approve a line item transfer.

**Recommend County
Engineer Contract to
Executive Committee**

Chairman Sinn stated the agenda was comprised of a couple different items to allow for any changes that may have taken place after the agenda was completed. Chairman Sinn stated the offer that was out to the desired candidate was accepted, and a contract has since been in its final stages. Chairman Sinn stated Mr. Craig Fink accepted the County's offer after some negotiation; therefore, agenda items D-F are unnecessary. Mr. Crawford inquired as to when Mr. Fink could begin employment with Tazewell County. Chairman Sinn stated Mr. Fink has requested a start date of April 21, 2014, which exceeds the hundred day window approved by IDOT to allow Mr. Anderson to remain the appointed County Engineer.

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Although IDOT has approved an extension of Mr. Anderson's employment due to the active pursuing of a County Engineer, Chairman Sinn reminded the committee of Mr. Anderson's generosity to stay this long as well as everything on his plate. Mr. Crawford inquired if Mr. Fink's start date could be negotiated. Chairman Sinn explained to the committee that Mr. Freilinger has been negotiating contracts with Mr. Fink. Chairman Sinn stated two contracts had been offered, the only differences being salary and vacation time. He stated Mr. Fink has already planned to attend the NACE conference (that the Transportation Committee already approved to have the new County Engineer attend), and he has already planned a vacation around the conference. His expenses for the conference as well as vacation would be Dewitt County's expense. Chairman Sinn stated whether Mr. Fink starts April 1 or April 21, Mr. Fink will not be present. Chairman Sinn suggested using present staff to cover the gap if Mr. Anderson decides to finish his employment March 31, 2014, as planned. Mr. Anderson assured the committee that as much as he would like to help the Office and the County, he has been planning his life around the most recent, temporary contract. Mrs. Proehl stated that is what the committee needs to hear. Mr. Crawford asked if IDOT will approve current staff, such as Mr. Dan Parr, to be appointed as the interim County Engineer. Chairman Sinn stated it is in question with IDOT at this time. Mrs. Proehl inquired about the contract that this committee is recommending, stating they have not seen it. Mr. Rinehart agreed and stated it feels uncomfortable to vote on something without seeing it. The committee came to an agreement that they trust Mr. Freilinger to put together and provide an appropriate contract, but that they would all like to see it before Executive Committee meets. They agreed to recommend the contract on these terms. A motion was made by Ackerman, second by Crawford recommending to the Executive Committee to approve the County Engineer Contract.

OTHER MATTERS:

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

Mr. Anderson pointed out the Cargill bills for salt. He stated they are all small bills for the little amounts of salt that have been arriving. Chairman Sinn asked if the goal is to fill up on this contract. Mr. Anderson stated yes due to the high price salt could be at next year based on this year's events.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Sinn adjourned the meeting at 8:52 A.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Transportation Committee will be held on Monday, March 17, 2014, at 8:00 A.M.