

MEETING: TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE/ TIME: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 - 1:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Greg Menold, Nancy Proehl, Jay Hall, Mike Harris, Kaden Nelms, Mike Deppert, and Roy Paget

ABSENT: Russ Crawford

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Menold welcomed new employee Ben Vogel. Mr. Vogel is a Civil Engineer, a graduate of Bradley University, and the selected applicant hired to fill Mr. Augspurger's previous position.

MINUTES: **MOTION BY HARRIS, SECOND BY PAGET** to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2023, meeting. **MOTION CARRIED** on voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:
New Tandem

Mr. Parr stated that the low bid is nearly an identical truck to the last new tandem we purchased. Mr. Williams confirmed the bid is for a Western Star 49X, the exact truck that was approved last year. He stated CIT bid as well, and their bid was for a T880. While they were the higher bid anyway, one of their specifications was a bolt-on frame rail extensions to mount the plow instead of having a solid frame, which is not ideal. Mr. Harris inquired about the last Western Star in regards to performance and how it is liked by its driver and crew. Mr. Williams stated they all really, really like it, and it has worked out well. Chairman Menold asked how the price compares to last year's purchase. Mr. Augspurger stated it is a 4.5% increase. The committee all agreed that the increase was fair and could have been a lot worse considering the economic climate.

RESOLUTION:
T-24-1

MOTION BY PROEHL, SECOND BY NELMS to accept low bid of Truck Centers, Inc. in the amount of \$242,472.00, subject to review by County Engineer and the approval of the County Board. **MOTION CARRIED** on a voice vote. – **MEMBER HARRIS ABSTAINED.**

Shop – Construction
MFT Appropriation
BLR 09110

Mr. Parr reminded the committee of the reconstruction/upgrade plans for the Shop building (the building near the gas pumps). He stated a resolution has been passed previously to appropriate MFT funds to pay for engineering services, and now it is time to appropriate MFT funds to pay for construction. He also reminded the committee that the engineering and construction will be paid for by two different funds due to limitations of what MFT can pay for. County Highway will pay for the parts of the building, such as the shop office and restrooms, that MFT funds are not permitted to be used.

RESOLUTION:
T-24-2

MOTION BY DEPERT, SECOND BY PAGET to recommend to the County Board approval of a resolution appropriating a total amount of \$425,000 of Motor Fuel Tax Funds for construction of the shop building. **MOTION CARRIED** on a voice vote.

**Country Club Dr. –
Eng. Agreement
BLR 05530**

Mr. Parr stated there is a Groveland Township structure on Country Club Dr. that is in need of replacement. The resolution approves an engineering agreement to be able to proceed with engineering services. Township Bridge Program Funds and County Bridge Funds with pay at 80/20 (Township Br./Co. Br. and Groveland’s local funds). Ms. Proehl inquired when construction would start. Mr. Augspurgen stated it is planned for 2026.

**RESOLUTION:
T-24-3**

MOTION BY HALL, SECOND BY HARRIS to recommend to the County Board approval of a resolution approving the LPA Engineering Services Agreement for bridge replacement on Country Club Dr. **MOTION CARRIED** on a voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:
County Engineer
Evaluation**

Chairman Menold continued the discussion from last month regarding the County Engineer’s salary. He explained that he asked each member to fill out an evaluation form about Mr. Parr’s job performance. He stated he compiled all of the comments and averaged the scores. Chairman Menold stated he has already had a chance to provide Mr. Parr with a completed copy of the evaluation and was able to discuss the results with him. He passed out a copy to each member. The Committee decided to go into Executive Sessions to be able to ask further questions if necessary.

Executive Session

MOTION BY CRAWFORD, SECOND BY HALL to move the Committee into Executive Session under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) – Personnel at 1:54 P.M.

Chairman Menold moved the Committee out of Executive Session at 2:22 P.M.

**PROJECT UPDATES:
Design/Construction**

Mr. Parr briefly went over all of the current projects with changes since the last meeting. A few topics touched on more specifically were 2024 County General Maintenance, Venado Lakes, and Utility Permits. He stated the Mr. Augspurgen has started his annual review of the roads to be able to rate them and decide what will be in line for general maintenance. A meeting will occur Thursday, January 25, 2024, regarding Venado Lakes. Mr. Paul Mauer will be present. He is with IDNR, and he wrote the codes for rural subdivisions in the entire state of Illinois. Mr. Parr stated he is going to meet with Mr. Mauer and Mr. Ken Siegrist, Dillon Township Road Commissioner, to discuss options available for the Venado Lakes Homeowner’s Association because at this time, the Association does not understand where liability and jurisdiction stands. Mr. Parr stated there are 18 Utility Permits already underway which is about double what is normally at hand.

**Salt Dome / Winter
Updates**

Mr. Parr stated the salt dome is complete and has been really nice in multiple ways. Mr. Williams provided the members with a chart showing salt ordered and used. The chart showed just how much salt could be used during one event depending on the type of event with temperature and wind being huge variables.

**OTHER BUSINESS:
Village of Green Valley**

Mr. Parr informed the Committee of the Mayor of Green Valley approaching one of maintenance crew employees at Casey's in Green Valley. The employee was stopped in his tandem during a during a snow event, and the mayor approached him to complain about the County's lack of snow plow and salt assistance when the truck comes through town. Toboggan Ave. is our route and runs right into Green Valley. The mayor threatened to put up weight limit signs to keep our tandems out of their village. Mr. Williams added that in the instance, the employee had actually continued to salt as he reached Casey's, but the County does not leave the plow down. If it had been done before, it was simply to be a "good neighbor" at the moment, but there is liability with leaving the plow down, such as catching a manhole over with our blade and create damage. It is also not the responsibility of the County to salt all the entities we pass through. Mr. Parr and Mr. Williams also stated that Green Valley cannot legally restrict our trucks from passing through as they are emergency vehicles.

**REPORTS AND
COMMUNICATIONS:
Financial Reports**

No comments.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: **MOTION BY CRAWFORD, SECOND BY HARRIS** to receive and file financial reports of the six Highway funds and recommend payment to the County Board.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Menold adjourned the meeting at 2:34PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Transportation Committee is Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 1:30PM.