

Road and Bridge Meeting
Blue Room, Logan County Safety Complex
April 1, 2013

Present: Bill Martin; Rick Aylesworth; Bob Farmer; Andy Meister; Gene Rohlf; Chuck Ruben

Absent:

Guests: Bret Aukamp; Curt Fox

Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

A motion was made by Mr. Aylesworth, seconded by Mr. Farmer, to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2013 meeting as printed. Motion passed.

The list of claims for payments was reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Aylesworth, seconded by Mr. Ruben to approve the list of claims for payment. Motion passed.

Monthly report on current maintenance and construction: Mr. Aukamp reported the late spring snow storm required all of the department resources. The wet, heavy snow was very difficult to move with the older trucks. The crew is now preparing for spring. The shoulder discs are mounted on the tractors. The herbicide sprayer is being modified to allow spraying around guardrails. The bridge repair project near Lake Fork is all but complete. Finish grading work will be completed when water levels are lower. Both bridges are open for traffic. Mr. Aukamp is working with IDOT to remove or change load postings. Engineering design plans are being review for high speed rail projects. Work will begin on Nicholson Road later this month. Road widening will be done in preparation for next year's resurfacing. Work has been done with a consultant on Deer Creek bridge on Primm Road. Work will not be done for several years, but research is currently being done to identify the size and road profile. This section will be skipped over when the resurfacing is completed of Primm Road in 2015. Some funding may be available for the Salt Springs levy since a portion of it will be affected by the bridge replacement. Seasonal weight limits will be lifted on Wednesday. So far, there have been 62 days of closure which is higher than expected. It was open for two days in February and only one day in March. Mr. Aukamp expressed concerns over haulers using the roads that have weight limits imposed with little enforcement. Mr. Rohlf questioned whether photo enforcement would help. Mr. Aukamp said he would check the legality, but there are circumstances where an empty truck might be allowed whereby a loaded truck would not. He also mentioned it would probably require movement of the cameras on a consistent basis.

Old Business:

- 1) 5th Street Road right-of-way acquisition and roadway boring project: There were a total of forty parcels and twenty acquisition agreements have been signed. Accommodations and agreements were made previously to allow a casing to be bored under the intersection of Fifth Street and County Highway 15. This would allow the farmer to place drain tile. The landowner has asked whether this can be done before the Fifth Street Road project is completed. This committee previously agreed to allow \$10,000 for this to be accomplished. Mr. Aukamp received estimates and the lowest is approximately \$18,000. **A motion was made by Mr. Ruben, seconded by Mr. Farmer, to approve the expenditure up to \$20,000 for this project. Roll call vote taken 6 yes 0 no Motion passed.**

New Business:

- 1) County Highway Fund impact of health insurance costs and fund balance projections: Mr. Aukamp discussed his concerns about the increase in insurance premiums for Highway Department union employees. He expressed the difficulty to absorb a 20% increase in any item within his budget since his department is not part of the General Fund. Mr. Ruben indicated this would be taken into consideration at budget time and he is aware of the impacts on the Highway Fund. Mr. Aukamp then provided an overview of the fund balance projections for the Highway Fund. The declining fund balance will require attention of the Board to avoid requiring tax anticipation warrants for Highway operations in the future.
- 2) Revisions to Right-of-Way permit: Mr. Aukamp provided a document showing edits to the right-of-way permit based off of feedback from the State's Attorney's office. The revisions include addressing the casing projects mentioned earlier this evening, right-of-way to place utility cables and language requiring contractors to list the County as additional insured for any work being performed. **A motion was made by Mr. Rohlf, seconded by Mr. Aylesworth, to approve the revisions to the Right-of-Way permit. Motion passed.**
- 3) Changes to Rural Reference signs: Mr. Aukamp displayed the changes required by the federal government to rural reference signs. The newer signage is much larger. The signs must be updated as they deteriorate and need replaced. The cost is funded from the General Fund. The approximate cost would be \$100 per intersection. This is required unless, by engineering opinion, something different is recommended. Mr. Aukamp is developing an engineering opinion for an alternative since the new recommendation requires a much larger sign that could block visibility and more likely be damaged in any significant windstorm. The committee agreed with the recommendation of using eight-inch sign blanks with wider, four-inch tall letters.
- 4) Resolution to award 2013 MFT contract for Bituminous Materials to the lowest responsible bidder (Letting scheduled for April 9 at 10:00 am): **A motion was made by Mr. Ruben, seconded by Mr. Farmer, to approve this resolution. Motion passed.**

A motion was made by Mr. Rohlf, seconded by Mr. Farmer, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting ended at 8:29 pm.