

**MINUTES OF A HIGHWAY, ROAD, AND BRIDGE MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF  
HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD IN THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY  
OF CARTHAGE ON FEBRUARY 25, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Patsy Davis at 8:28 a.m. Committee members present at the meeting were Mark Menn, Dennis Castlebury, Delbert Kreps, Patsy Davis, Harry Douglas, Pat Cramer, and Wayne Bollin. Absent was Tom Bergmeier. Visitor in attendance was county engineer Elgin Berry. Holly Wilde-Tillman and Stephanie Swisegood were in attendance to take notes of the meeting.

There were 44 claims presented to the committee totaling \$110,275.25. Motion to pay the claims was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Castlebury. All members present voted "aye".

Mr. Berry presented the engineer's report. In the past several months he has been talking about a grant to finish the north end of the Connable Road, the Notice of Funding Opportunity. He does not see much point in applying for it now because of certain verbiage in the grant. "Projects that have specific elements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change impacts". The grant does state projects that have significant local and regional impact. Ms. Wilde-Tillman asked if it has to meet both of these criteria. Mr. Berry stated when committees are selecting the projects that win the grants that the more boxes that are checked off the better chance you have of winning. Mr. Menn stated that this is a cut-off road so that should help with greenhouse gases. Ms. Davis asked about the CO2 pipeline. Mr. Menn stated this is being heavily opposed. Mr. Bollin stated there are several counties in Iowa who are trying to stop this. These will link CO2 pipelines to ethanol plants. Mr. Kreps stated if this gas escapes it can kill you.

Mr. Berry stated the other option is to take our regular county allotment and save up the money. He states it would take approximately 5 years to save up enough money, about \$500,000/year. They have let us carry a negative value in the past. He stated federal money has to be programmed for at least a year or 2. Mr. Menn asked if he would start saving money in 2022? Mr. Berry stated he would start saving now. Mr. Menn asked if we are looking at 2027-2028, and Mr. Berry stated yes. Mr. Bollin questioned if it would cost the same amount of money to do the north side of the Connable as it would be to do the south side because of the differences in terrain. Mr. Berry stated with inflation he was not sure. He had put down that it costs \$100/ton but with inflation he believes it is more. Mr. Berry stated he had looked into it being a dangerous situation but you have to have fatalities before they consider it a dangerous road. Mr. Menn suggested WIRC if they could help with gas emission count or maybe they could define what the granting is looking for. Mr. Bollin believes that the whole Connable road

needs to be redone at pretty much the same time. Mr. Cramer brought up a wreck that occurred at the Connable and Ferris intersection. Mr. Berry stated that there is a safety grant but he had looking back on a 10-year history of it and there was nothing that could directly point to the Connable as being a dangerous road.

Mr. Bollin thanked Mr. Berry about taking the branches down on the Ferris blacktop on 1200 East. Mr. Berry stated the property owner was there one day and was not thrilled with them chopping down her tree but she also did not want to be responsible for someone getting hurt.

Ms. Davis asked if there has been bid letting for the south part of the Connable. Mr. Berry states he thinks most of the survey work has been done. Most of the money that has been spent has been paid to the surveyors who are collecting data.

Mr. Menn asked about the Pontoosuc bridge. Mr. Berry stated we have to turn it over to the village so he did not know how that was going. Bridge inspection has been done every 2 years, and hopefully he does not find anything to make it any worse in March.

Mr. Douglas made a motion to adjourn until March 30, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. Mr. Cramer seconded. All members present voted "aye".

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patsy Davis, Chairman