

**MINUTES OF A HIGHWAY, ROAD, AND BRIDGE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN  
THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON JULY 28, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by chairwoman Patsy Davis at 8:28 a.m. Committee members in attendance include Harry Douglas, Patsy Davis, Thomas Bergmeier, Mark Menn, Pat Cramer, Wayne Bollin, and Delbert Kreps. Absent was Dennis Castlebury. Visitors included Brian Stevens, Elgin Berry, highway department engineer, and Stephanie Swisegood to take minutes of the meeting.

Mr. Stevens of the Farm Bureau talked about the infrastructure grant we had pursued earlier. Illinois is receiving \$1.9 million dollars through the infrastructure bill. Of that \$1.9 million they want half to go downstate. The Farm Bureau wants to step in and if the county comes up with a plan or project they would like to get done, the Farm Bureau will lobby in Washington DC or Springfield, IL, to get that project complete. In Hancock County there are a lot of projects that need to be done including road, bridge, water, broadband. Mr. Stevens suggested coming up with 5 plans or projects and they will lobby for us. Mr. Menn suggested the chairman get a committee together to include road, bridge, water departments, and McDonough Telephone County. Mr. Stevens left at 8:54.

Claims were gone over. Motion to pay the claims was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Cramer. All members present voted "aye".

Mr. Berry gave the engineer's report. He would like approval of a resolution for construction of a bridge in Durham Township. This had been started in 2015 but had a hangup with a right of way. They now have the right of way they need. IDOT wanted a new resolution made. Mr. Menn made a motion to approve the resolution for construction of a bridge in Durham Township with an appropriation of \$70,000 from the County Bridge Fund. Mr. Bollin seconded. All members present voted "aye".

Mr. Berry had a truck driver/equipment operator resign on July 22, 2022. He needs a replacement driver. He stated that the county needs to stay competitive on wages. Mr. Menn asked what the wage is now. Mr. Berry stated that an equipment operator makes \$21/hour. He is going to make wage increases on his budget of 2023. Mr. Douglas asked how he posts his jobs? Mr. Berry stated he advertises it in the paper. He has already had 2 phone calls.

Ms. Davis stated she went to the intersection of 2000N/1000E to check out the tree situation. She stated if you are in a bigger truck you would not be able to see oncoming traffic too far down the Connable Road. Mr. Berry stated he does not legally have a right to cut the tree down as it is on private property and needs the owner's permission. The liability issue of the tree was discussed.

Mr. Menn asked about the CO2 pipeline and how that is coming. They have filed a petition and can now speak to the landowners. Mr. Berry stated that surrounding counties would like to have something unified so we do not get taken advantage of.

Motion to recess until August 30, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. was made by Mr. Cramer with Mr. Douglas seconding the motion. All members present voted "aye".

Respectfully submitted,

Patsy Davis, Chairwoman