

**MINUTES OF A HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK,  
STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD IN THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF  
CARTHAGE ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> OF DECEMBER 2023.**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 by Chairman Davis. Those in attendance were Patsy Davis, Mark Menn, Steve Lucie, Tom Rodgers, Alex Blythe and Mark Harrison. Mr. Bollin was absent. Mr. Berry and Ms. Wilde-Tillman were also present.

Claims were gone over by the committee members. Mr. Menn asked Mr. Berry how he planned to use the IRRP safety grant. Mr. Berry will use it on signs and safety vests. Mr. Blythe made a motion to approve the claims and it was seconded by Mr. Rodgers, all members voted "aye." Motion carried.

Mr. Berry gave the Engineers report. He updated the board on the Four Seasons videography bill and email correspondence. The video obtained was approximately 30 ft which did not get to ROW. Mr. Blythe and Mr. Lucie understand the cost of the equipment and time involved. The board feels they have done their due diligence investigating the bill. Mr. Lucie made a motion to pay the \$1,500 owed, it was seconded by Mr. Harrison. All members present voted "aye," motion carried. Mr. Rodgers asked for more clarification from Mr. Berry why they could not get more footage.

A motion was made by Mr. Lucie to approve the joint funding agreement for construction work, local funds appropriation resolution, and resolution establishing a Class II Truck route to move forward with the Connable road improvements, it was seconded by Mr. Harrison. All present voted "aye," motion carried. Mr. Berry is still waiting to hear about the archaeological study before he can proceed. Mr. Menn and Ms. Davis have both reached out to Norine Hammond for help.

Mr. Berry presented the bridges he would like to focus on in the future. Mr. Blythe made a motion to approve the Engineering agreement with Klingner and Associates in the amount of \$52,742 to rehabilitate or replace Fountain Green Road and LaHarpe Creek, it was seconded by Mr. Harrison. All members present voted "aye," motion carried. This will only be an agreement for Phase 1 until it is decided if they will replace or rehabilitate.

Mr. Berry presented two townships bridges he will be working with townships to replace in Pilot Grove and Fountain Green.

Mr. Lucie made a motion to approve the Half Aid petition for the county to equally split the local share with the township and the Engineering agreement with Klingler and Associates for

Phase 1 and Phase 2 for Pilot Grove township bridge, it was seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All present voted "aye," motion carried.

Mr. Blythe made a motion to approve the Half Aid petition for the county to equally split the local share with the township and the Engineering agreement with Klingler and Associates for Phase 1 and Phase 2 for Fountain Green township bridge, it was seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All present voted "aye," motion carried.

Mr. Berry voiced his concern regarding his employees' interpretation of the 3% increase. The Highway department employees felt the 3% increase would be based on their salary and the \$1000 stipend that was given last year in December to all employees. Mr. Menn stated that was a one-time stipend given for all the employees' effort over the last few years from ARPA funds. There were also questions regarding the wage parity and if prior service was included. Mr. Berry is concerned that he will lose good employees. The board will look at all employees' salaries during budget time.

Mr. Lucie thanked Mr. Berry for coming to the committee representing his employees.

Mr. Harrison asked when the bill for Four Seasons would be paid and Mr. Berry stated possibly mid-month.

Discussion was had regarding BNSF and if Hancock County had been notified about an increase in toll on the Fort Madison bridge. The committee suggested a letter be sent to BNSF stating the boards concern.

Mr. Lucie made a motion to recess until January 30, 2024 at 8:30 in the Hancock County Board room, it was seconded by Mr. Rodgers, all members present voted "aye," meeting recessed at 9:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Patsy Davis, Highway Chair