



Ogle County Highway Department

Road & Bridge Committee

April 2023 Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2023

- I. Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM by Chairman Hopkins at the Ogle County Courthouse, Room 100.
Members present: Stan Asp, Rick Fritz, Austin Gillis, Skip Kenney, Ryan Reeverts, Dave Williams and Lyle Hopkins.
Members absent: None
Others present: Chairman Finfrock (8:25), Jeremy Ciesiel (County Engineer) & Shaun Gallagher (Asst. County Engineer)
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Reviewed March 14, 2023 Road & Bridge Minutes.
 1. Motion to approve minutes by – Kenney
 2. Motion seconded by – Gillis
 3. Discussion: None
 4. Vote – All in favor
- III. Reviewed Bills and Payroll
 - A. Motion to approve Highway Dept bills and payrolls by – Williams
 - B. Motion seconded by – Asp
 - C. Discussion: Nearly half of the bills were for snow and ice control.
 - D. Vote – All in favor
- IV. Received Bids (Bids Received Thursday, April 6, 2023)
 - A. 2023 Township Seal Coat (Section 23-XX000-00-GM)
 1. Concurrence on low bids by Road Commissioners (Groups 41-57 & 61-66).
 2. Motion to award low bidders, subject to no protests being filed by - Fritz
 3. Motion seconded by – Reeverts
 4. Discussion: The vote to award does not include Groups 58, 59 & 60 that are for work in Ogle County municipalities. Each municipality will make their own respective award.
 5. Vote – All in favor
 - B. 2023 County Seal Coat (Section 23-00000-02-GM)
 1. Motion to award low bid submitted by Helm Civil, subject to no protests being filed by - Asp
 2. Motion seconded by – Williams
 3. Discussion: None
 4. Vote – All in favor

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- C. Center Rd / Bethel Rd Overlay (Section 23-00000-04-GM)
 - 1. Motion to award low bid submitted by Rock Road Companies subject to no protests being filed by - Gillis
 - 2. Motion seconded by – Fritz
 - 3. Discussion: Went over the meaning of project section numbers.
 - 4. Vote – All in favor
- D. Flagg Twp Paving – Westwood Subdivision (Section 23-06143-00-RS)
 - 1. Concurrence on low bid by Road Commissioner.
 - 2. Motion to award low bid submitted by Martin & Company Excavating, subject to no protests being filed by - Reeverts
 - 3. Motion seconded by – Fritz
 - 4. Discussion: Westwood subdivision is located south of Kyte Rd roughly 1/2=-mile east of Skare Rd.
 - 5. Vote – All in favor
- E. Marion Twp Paving – Wildwood Rd (Section 23-13116-00-RS)
 - 1. Concurrence on low bid by Road Commissioner.
 - 2. Motion to award low bid submitted by Martin & Company Excavating, subject to no protests being filed by - Fritz
 - 3. Motion seconded by – Asp
 - 4. Discussion: Project was slightly over engineer’s estimate. Road Commissioner wants to proceed with project.
 - 5. Vote – All in favor
- F. Paving within the unincorporated Village of Daysville, Oregon-Nashua Township, Section 22-23131-00-FP
 - 1. Concurrence on low bid by Road Commissioner.
 - 2. Motion to award low bid submitted by Martin & Company Excavating, subject to no protests being filed by - Kenney
 - 3. Motion seconded by – Reeverts
 - 4. Discussion: Project includes the widening and repaving roads east of Daysville Rd.
 - 5. Vote – All in favor
- V. Petitions and Resolutions
 - A. Award & Appropriation Resolution for 2023 County Seal Coat, Section 23-00000-02-GM, \$330,000.00 from the County Motor Fuel Tax Fund and \$253,000.00 from the Federal Aid Matching Fund.
 - 1. Motion to approve resolution by – Williams
 - 2. Motion seconded by – Gillis
 - 3. Discussion: None
 - 4. Vote – All in favor

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B. Award & Appropriation Resolution for the Center Rd / Bethel Rd Resurfacing, Section 23-00000-00-GM; \$300,000.00 from the County Motor Fuel Tax Fund and \$264,000.00 from the Federal Aid Matching Fund.

1. Motion to approve by – Fritz
2. Motion seconded by – Williams
3. Discussion: 2nd page of resolution is the IDOT required form for the appropriation.
4. Vote – All in favor

VI. Business & Communications

A. Unfinished Business

1. Nicor Gas Main Replacement – Work resumed in Stephenson County on April 6th. Expected to begin working on entrances in Ogle County around April 12th. Road Use Agreement has been executed and pavement condition survey has been completed.
2. Snow Plow Accident (2/1/2023) – The insurance company totaled the Ogle County Snow Plow (2013 International) and we have received the check.
3. Mailbox Damage Policy – The highway departments on policy on mailbox damage was discussed. The consensus was to replace mailboxes if physically hit with a plow. If solely damaged by thrown snow, it is the residents responsibility to repair the mailbox. The highway department will not upgrade mailboxes. The agreed to policy that will be posted on our website is attached to the minutes.
4. Project Status Report (see attached).
5. Employment Openings:
 - a) Full Time Position – We received 20 applications for the full-time truck driver position.
 - b) Seasonal Mowers – Still have room for at least 1 mower.
 - c) Civil Engineer Seasonal Intern – Have yet to receive an application. County Engineer would like to revise the requirements to allow for students entering college to study engineering.
Motion to approve by – Gillis
Motion seconded by – Reeves
Vote: All in favor

B. New Business

1. I.A.C.E. Legislative Committee (Monitoring ~32 Bills)
 - a) HB 2781 is a bill that would increase funding to the Township Bridge Program (TBP). This is an IACE initiative to increase annual funding from the \$15 Million established in the late 1970's to an updated \$60 Million. The County Engineer presented a couple fact sheets regarding the Township Bridge Program and the are attached. This is a popular bill with 11 sponsors. IACE SUPPORTS this bill.
 - b) SB 895 is a bill that would restrict the ability for a local agency to perform work for another local agency. IACE OPPOSES this bill.
 - c) HB 1465 is a bill that would increase the bid threshold to \$30,000 for township road districts. This increase was approved for other township purchases in

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2022, but failed to address the road district threshold. IACE SUPPORTS this bill.

2. I.A.C.E. Policy Committee

- a) The environmental pre-screening process for local agencies is now up and running. This has the potential of streamlining the review process for some of our more basic projects, allowing them to go to construction in a more timely manner.
- b) There has been a revision to the federal bridge inspection requirements. We have been warned that we will need to provide additional information on the structures in the NBIS. We are awaiting an update from IDOT regarding what the additional information is needed.

3. Next Meeting – **Tuesday, May 9, 2023, @ 8:00 AM,**

County Engineer has a conflict and will not be able to attend the May 2023 Road & Bridge Committee Meeting. Shaun Gallagher, Asst. County Engineer, will attend the meeting in his place.

Lettings: May 5th - Stillman Rd Culvert & Rockvale Twp
Paving

VI. Public Comment: None

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 A.M. by Chairman Hopkins.

Minutes submitted by Jeremy A. Ciesiel, PE

Mailbox Policy

Website Information

Occasionally during snow plowing, mailboxes are damaged. More often than not, this damage is caused by wet or heavy snow thrown from the plow. However, on rare occasions plows may accidentally impact the mailbox with the plow. In either case, such damage will interrupt your mail service. Please inspect your mailbox on a regular basis to ensure your post is in good condition and that the mailbox is adequately secured. From our experience, plastic mailboxes are not well-suited for placement along county highways.

Agencies plow snow only on roads under their jurisdiction and each agency has their own policy related to mailbox damage. If you live on a state road, contact IDOT at 815-732-6251. If you live on a township road, you should notify your road commissioner.

If you live on a county road, you may contact the highway department at 815-732-2851 or highway@oglecountyil.gov and personnel will inspect the reported mailbox after the roads have been cleared of snow and ice. If the box is separated from the post, please place the damaged mailbox on your doorstep so we can easily locate it. If one is available, we will place a temporary mailbox at your property until the mailbox can be repaired. If it is determined that a plow physically contacted your mailbox, we will do our best to repair the mailbox or replace it with a similar size and style of mailbox, within reason. However, if it is determined that the mailbox damage was a result of thrown snow, repair or replacement of the mailbox will be the responsibility of the resident.

If the local mail carrier has an issue with the U.S. Postmaster General Approved Mailbox we place as either a temporary mailbox or permanent replacement, it will be up to the resident to work this out with the postal carrier. The Ogle County Highway Department will not be responsible for upgrading mailboxes.



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Project Status

April 2023 Update

1. Lowell Park Rd Culvert Extensions (Section 21-00339-00-BR) (Contr: Martin & Co.)
 - a. Waiting on Nicor to relocate gas line near Woosung Rd before we can finish.
 - b. Work completed: \$399,336. Remaining work: ~\$10,000.
2. Milledgeville Rd Bridge Replacement (Section 20-00326-00-BR) (Contr: Sjostrom)
 - a. Road is closed and detour is set up.
 - b. Demolition of the existing bridge began the week of April 2nd.
 - c. Work completed: \$161,524. Remaining work: \$2,832,075
3. Leaf River Rd Bridge Replacement (Section 20-00327-00-BR) (Contr: Martin & Co.)
 - a. Trees have been removed. Contracts are executed. Preconstruction meeting week of April 9th.
 - b. Work completed: \$0. Remaining work: \$1,629,017.
4. Lowell Park Rd Overlay (Section 20-00330-00-RS) (Contr: Helm Civil)
 - a. Contracts being executed.
 - b. Work completed: \$0. Remaining work: \$940,932.
5. Eagle Point Rd Culvert Expansion (Section 22-00345-00-BR) (Contr: Martin & Co.)
 - a. Contracts are executed. Preconstruction meeting week of April 9th.
 - b. Work completed: \$0. Remaining work: \$356,062.
6. Stillman Rd Culvert Replacement (Section 22-00346-00-BR) (Contr: TBD)
 - a. Working on design. Hoping for May letting.
 - b. Currently pushed back to the May 5, 2023 letting.
7. Center Rd & Bethel Rd Overlay (Section 23-00000-04-GM) (Contr: Rock Road Co.)
 - a. Included on April letting. Awaiting award.
 - b. Work completed: \$0. Remaining work: \$563,946.
8. Church Rd Pulverization (Section ~~23-00000-06-GM~~) (Contr: TBD)
 - a. Working on the design. Construction pushed to 2024.
9. County Seal Coat (Section 23-00000-02-GM) (Contr: Helm Civil)
 - a. Included on April letting. Awaiting award.
 - b. Work completed: \$0. Remaining work: \$582,961.
10. Township/Village Seal Coat (Section 23-XX000-00-GM) (Contr: Helm Civil)
 - a. Included on April letting. Awaiting award.
 - b. Work completed: \$0. Remaining work: \$1,513,113.
11. Flagg Twp Paving – Westwood Sub. (Section 23-06143-00-RS) (Contr: Martin & Co.)
 - a. Included on April letting. Awaiting award.
 - b. Work completed: \$0. Remaining work: \$208,221
12. Marion Twp Paving – Wildwood Rd (Section 23-13116-00-RS) (Contr: Martin & Co.)
 - a. Included on April letting. Awaiting award.
 - b. Work completed: \$0. Remaining work: \$319,018
13. Rockvale Twp Paving – Mongan & Etnyre Sub (Sec 23-21000-00-GM) (Contr: TBD)
 - a. Plans being reviewed by IDOT.
 - b. Currently planned for May 5th Letting.
14. Oregon-Nashua Twp Paving East Daysville–(Sec 22-26131-00-FP) (Contr: Martin & Co.)
 - a. Included on April letting. Awaiting award.
 - b. Work completed: \$0. Remaining work: \$297,835

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15. County Striping (Contractor: Countryman, Inc.)
 - a. Work completed: \$0. Work remaining: \$55,594.
16. Crack Sealing (Day Labor)
17. Various County Pipe Culverts & Grading (Day Labor)
18. County Patching (Day Labor)
19. Courthouse Parking Lot Expansion
 - a. Working on design. Letting date TBD.

Total work under contract: \$9,869,634

Total contracted work completed: \$560,860 (includes 2022 project rollover)

Remaining contracted work: \$9,308,774

ILLINOIS TOWNSHIP BRIDGE PROGRAM (TBP)

The Illinois Township Bridge Program (TBP) is a legislated (605 ILCS 5/6-901) fund designated for the construction and maintenance of bridges on the Township Highway System. There are 12,165 bridges in Illinois under the jurisdiction of the 1429 Illinois Townships. The program was initiated in 1979 with an annual allocation of \$15 million. This year, 43 years after the program was instituted, the annual allocation from the Illinois Road Fund remains at \$15M per year. The TBP program has been an invaluable program for the Township Road Districts of Illinois.

Since the implementation of the program, the number of deficient Township bridges has consistently decreased from a high of 6063 bridges in 1980 to 2021 total of 1624 deficient Township bridges. While significant progress has been made, more than one out of every ten Township bridges is still classified as deficient.

Over the past 43 years, the \$15 million allocation has lost significant purchasing power. Since 1980, the Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index (CCI) has risen from 3,237 to 13,175, an increase of over 300%. In other words, the TBP appropriation of \$15 million in 1980 would equate to a TBP appropriation of \$3.69 million today. The TBP program has lost nearly 75% of its buying power. Based strictly on the referenced Construction Cost Index, an annual 2023 appropriation of \$60 million to the TBP program would be necessary to meet the original program funding level. However, the 2023 needs of Township Bridges across the state are greater yet.

The two most common revenue sources utilized in the replacement of township bridges are the TBP program and local property taxes. The \$15 million annual TBP program can fund up to 80% of the cost of the bridge replacement and other sources are used to complete the funding. Most Counties use local property taxes to match the remaining 20%, while other Counties use a combination of local funds and Federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP) funds. For many Counties, the HBP funds are the only additional source of revenue to replace **County** bridges so the use of HBP funding for township bridges can be to a detriment to the County bridge system.

Results from a previous Illinois Association of County Engineers (IACE) TBP survey determined that the average lifespan of Township bridges before they become deficient is approximately 55 years. Given this lifespan, 221 township bridges should be replaced across the State of Illinois per annum to prevent even more bridges from becoming deficient. This replacement rate would not decrease the number of existing deficient Township bridges in Illinois, it would only keep the current deficiencies in check.

Using the latest IDOT average cost of bridge construction, and an engineering cost estimate of 15%, the annual cost to replace the 221 Township bridges would be \$97.9 million. Even if you ignore the engineering costs, which are real and substantial, and the local share costs of 20% of construction, the need is still over \$60 million annually. This lifecycle bridge replacement cost greatly exceeds today's investment level in Township bridges.

In addition, it has become increasingly difficult for local agencies to be able to afford the local share of costs of structures as property taxes have not increased at the same rate as the cost of construction. One method of addressing this shortfall is to reduce or eliminate the local match requirement on TBP projects; while we support this change, we recognize this would result in TBP funding not being able to complete as many projects, increasing the TBP need even more. Unfortunately, with many townships already levying at the maximum rate and most townships experiencing stagnant growth, it is our opinion that it is necessary in order for townships to be able to afford to complete these projects.

Finally, It is essential that an increase in TBP funding take place as soon as possible. The program is 43 years old which means that we are going to start to see many bridges that were built during the infancy of the program need to be replaced themselves over the next 10 years. In fact, bridges are already beginning to be replaced that were unable to endure a lifespan of even 43 years. At current funding levels, we can't replace the bridges at the same rate they were constructed at the beginning of the program. If these needs are not adequately addressed, the anticipated increase in deficient bridges could reflect poorly on the Illinois Department of Transportation to the Federal Government as the administrator of the NBIS program for the State of Illinois.

Age of NWI Area (13 Counties) Twp Bridges

