

COUNTY OF MENARD)
) S.S.
STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, **September 19, 2022**, at 2:00 p.m. at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 S. Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Bob Lott, Jeff Fore, Ed Whitcomb, Troy Cummings, and Rich Brauer were physically present. A quorum was present. County Coordinator Dara Worthington and County Engineer Corey Dowd were also present.

Chairperson Bob Lott called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Scheduled/Unscheduled Public Comments/Requests for Board Action

There were none.

Scheduled Topics

The commissioners met to discuss the possible commitment of local funds for Phase 3 of the construction of the Sangamon Valley Trail to Ethell Road. Jack Knuppel and Angie Fletcher were present to provide an overview of the history of the planned project noting that this phase should bring the trail to within two miles of Athens with Sangamon County on track to cover the remaining half mile within their jurisdiction. The total portion of the project appears to be 1.8 million from the estimate of costs from Cummins Engineering for construction and engineering. Sangamon County has agreed to pay their match on the project and an IDNR grant may be available to apply for half of the local match needed, up to \$100,000. There was discussion on whether the value of the 30-acre property could be counted toward the match and it was reported that this is no longer permissible.

Rob Withers, Field Maintenance Manager for the Sangamon County Highway Department phoned into the meeting and provided an overview of the highway department duties relating to the maintenance and upkeep of such trails. Duties include mowing, trash pick-up, tree trimming, sweeping, filling cracks, graffiti removal, and tree removal. Mr. Withers was unable to provide an estimated cost for such work on a per mile basis. County Engineer Dowd shared that Menard County is missing three pieces of equipment that Sangamon County regularly utilized for their trail upkeep. Dowd also reported that Menard County has four full time employees whereas Sangamon County has more than 20 full time employees. When questioned, Dowd indicated that the work would get done, but at the expense of other responsibilities.

Commissioners discussed the funding source for the local match with the final decision being to utilize Cresco funds, if everything is approved and moves forward. It was noted that if this resolution fails to move forward, Cummins Engineering will proceed with the completion of the application, but it will not be submitted into the competitive process and it would be at the expense of Menard County to attempt to proceed with an application in

the future. Engineer Dowd noted that Sangamon County is not submitting an ITEP application this year which could result in a better chance for approval for this application.

Upon completion of the discussion, a motion was made by Rich Brauer to approve the commitment of local funds to the construction of the Sangamon Valley Trail Phase 3 Extension to Ethell Road with the stipulation that, if approved, Cresco funds be utilized for the local match. Jeff Fore seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Rich Brauer – “Aye”, Troy Cummings – “Abstain”, Jeff Fore – “Aye”, Ed Whitcomb – “Nay”, and Bob Lott – “Aye”. Motion carried.

Executive Session

At 3:50 p.m., Ed Whitcomb made a motion to enter Executive Session as allowed by 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) to discuss employee compensation. Jeff Fore seconded.

Adjournment

County Commissioner Ed Whitcomb made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:51 p.m. and Commissioner Fore seconded. The meeting was adjourned.