

Called Meeting
Union County Courthouse
December 11, 2023. 4:30pm
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lamar Paris at 4:30pm.

Commissioner Paris accepted an emergency contract between Contech Engineered Solutions, LLC and Union County in the amount of \$132,400 for a prefabricated bridge to replace the existing bridge on Fisher Field Road. This contract has an effective date of December 11, 2023, and the estimated manufacturing time is fourteen weeks. County Manager, Larry Garrett, interjected that the estimated manufacturing time would actually be seventeen weeks.

The existing bridge on Fisher Field Road is listed on GDOT's inventory and is inspected by them every two years. This bridge is the only access for a residential area of approximately 18 homes. As noted in the last inspection completed by GDOT, this bridge did not meet acceptable standards to remain in operation. As a result of this, a sign was posted immediately stating that there is a 3-ton maximum load that can cross the bridge as an interim measure. GDOT has since put the county on notice that should immediate action not be taken; they will have no choice but to close the bridge. This would be a disaster to the people who reside across the bridge. Preliminary engineering has been completed and determined that a prefabricated bridge is the best option given the following:

- This option allows for the least amount of time and disruption for a full bridge replacement.
- A temporary stream crossing per EPD and GDOT guidelines must be established and maintained throughout the duration of construction since this is a trout stream.
- Given the residential area, the new bridge must be able to support heavy vehicles such as ambulances, fire trucks, construction equipment, and propane trucks.
- It is important to proceed with getting this bridge in production now given the longer lead time and supply shortages.
- While this bridge is in production, the county will be finalizing the engineering design, resolving any state permitting issues, relocating utilities, evaluating constructability methods, and resolving property conflicts.
- The anticipated schedule is that construction will begin around the beginning of March, 2024, and the bridge will be delivered to the site around the end of April 2024.
- It is expected that construction will be completed no later than May 2024.

Commissioner Paris added that the bridge will be 14 feet wide by 60 feet long. It will be delivered in two pieces. The reason this contract was done so quickly is that the company is waiting on the contract so they can get started on the fabrication of the bridge. Commissioner Paris asked for questions.

Question – What is the standard weight limit on a bridge?

Paris – The standard on this one is 36 tons - which should cover any typical vehicle that we know, including tractor trailers.

Question: Fully loaded tractor trailer?

Larry Garrett – This is a residential area, no, you are not going to have trucks going over it every day. It will handle school buses, gas trucks, and septic trucks; trucks that normally would have to get into a residential area.

Commissioner Paris stated this emergency contact has been accepted as work must get going quickly. If something would happen to where the bridge would have to be closed, there is no way to get these eighteen homes serviced.

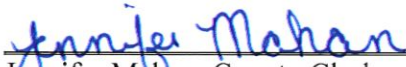
Question - Have the residents been having any issues getting across the bridge so far?

Paris – Not at this point. They may have to bring in a portable bridge during construction, but that is just not known yet.

Larry Garrett, County Manager, interjected that the weight load of the bridge will be 16 tons, not 36 tons or 32 tons as previously discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jennifer Mahan, County Clerk

Approved this 21st day of December, 2023



Lamar Paris, Commissioner