

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

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met for a joint meeting with the Menard County Farm Bureau Board on Monday, **January 9, 2023**, at 2:00 p.m. at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 S. Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Bob Lott, Ed Whitcomb, Troy Cummings, and Rich Brauer were physically present. A quorum was present. County Engineer Corey Dowd and County Coordinator Dara Worthington were also present. Farm Bureau Board Members Steve Holliday, Doug Gellerman, Evan Carls, and Bruce Shanle were present representing the local Farm Bureau.

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

County Engineer Dowd presented an overview of plans for Segment D for the Athens Blacktop continuing project. Dowd indicated that Right of Way had been secured for this upcoming project on all but two parcels. Without the needed parcels secured, the project will stall, and Menard County will lose out on 2.4 million in Highway Safety Improvement Program funding along with an additional \$200,000 in other funding to complete that dangerous section of road. Appraisals have been secured for those parcels by the property owners and the county, along with an additional third-party appraisal evaluation. No agreement has been reached. The County Board has followed protocols for this process and since no resolution can be reached, it has come to Quick Take. Quick Take entails the legislature (McClure and Rosenthal) supporting the action to pass a law which allows Menard County Quick Take authority allowing Menard County to proceed with the project and not lose funding. This will then be followed by Eminent Domain where the courts will decide on the final price to be paid to the property owners.

Discussion and questions followed.

Farm Bureau President Steve Holliday stated that it is the intent of the Farm Bureau to support their membership and preserve land usage however, due to the IDOT documented accidents resulting from the current road conditions, the Menard County Farm Bureau was not in opposition of Menard County moving forward with Quick Take for the greater good of the county. President Holliday plans to speak with Kevin Semlow, Director of State Legislation for the Illinois Farm Bureau, and communicate that the Menard County Farm Bureau is not in opposition of Quick Take in this situation.

Adjournment

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Whitcomb moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 p.m. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried with all unanimously.