

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES
HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION**

April 8, 2005 - 9:00 a.m.
Meeting Room 1
Brookens Administrative Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bensyl, Gross, Jay, Langenheim, O'Connor,
Weibel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cowart, Carter, Feinen

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue, John Cooper, Debby Wagner,
Deb Busey, Barb Wysocki, Tracy Wingler,
Chris Doenitz

CALL TO ORDER

Vice- Chair Jay called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Weibel to approve the agenda; seconded by Gross. There was no addendum for the meeting. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 11, 2005

MOTION by Bensyl to approve the minutes of March 11, 2005 as presented; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation

MONTHLY REPORTS

County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims - March 2005

MOTION by Weibel to receive and place on file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for March 2005; seconded by Gross. **Motion carried.**

COUNTY ENGINEER
Urban/Fringe Road Funding Cap

Mr. Blue presented each committee member with information representing 6 funding options based on different levels of urban funding through our County Motor Fuel Tax Fund. He explained he is showing the MFT allocation every year at 2.8 million dollars; past history shows that the allocation would continue to grow but we have no way of knowing so he did not make that assumption in the numbers. In each year after 2005 he has included a \$900,000 MFT maintenance which is all of the service and maintenance we do out of MFT, he did inflate that number by 3%. He also included 2 million dollars per year for rural construction starting in 2006. After going through all the numbers it was determined we would need about 2.5 million per year to keep our rural roads on a 15 year rotation, if we stretched that out to 20 years we could use that 2 million dollar number as a number to shoot for to have enough money to keep our roads in the shape they are now. He also included a 4 million dollar outlay in 2006 for a new facility; that number will carry through all the information.

He explained that if we meet our current obligations and try to keep up with our rural projects we are doomed to have a negative balance. Most of the agreements on our current obligations say there will be a more precise agreement closer to the start date of the project, if we decided we will start the million dollar cap next year and a project costs 9 million dollars it would take us 9 years to pay it off. That option is a little better for us, spreading an obligation over a longer period with the good news being we would not go broke until 2012 but the bad news is that we still have these obligations. The next option is using motor fuel tax, meeting our current obligations with a future million dollar urban cap and a million dollar revenue increase. He doesn't believe the possibility of a revenue increase lies in the levy but will have to be generated in some other way. He stated although this would put us in pretty good shape until about 2015, we will still be spending as much as we are getting in even with the increase. He stated using MFT to meet our current obligations only with a 1 million dollar increase in 2006 would mean we will pay for our obligations when they come up, putting a soft cap on urban projects. This takes us in and out of the red in the out years but there is a possibility that if we were to get a revenue increase we could make this scenario work. We can say to the cities that as a policy decision we are going to only appropriate 1 million dollars per average per year on urban construction projects. He stated that if we are going to continue to fund urban projects we have to come up with a revenue generator.

Mr. Jay expressed his concern that we cannot guarantee we will get the additional revenue, he feels we need to use motor fuel tax to continue with our new building regardless of other issues but he does believe we do not have a choice but to cap the fringe roads. We could do some bond issues and keep a float for 10 years with no more obligations being set.

County Engineer Cont.

Mr. Bensyl stated he is 100% behind building the new building. He doesn't like the idea of bonding but doesn't see any other way around it. The cities need to understand that we are done after these projects.

Mr. Langenheim stated he believes it is overly optimistic to assume that gas prices will go down or stabilize and counting on stability on gas tax income is risky.

Mr. Blue stated there is already a bill in place naming the four counties who have this gas tax, the legislature gives a county board the discretion to take up to 4 cents and also the discretion on how they will divide the money they receive.

MOTION by Bensyl to have Champaign County petition our Legislature to add our name to the piece of legislation regarding a County gas tax; seconded by Weibel.

Mr. Blue stated he does not believe this will happen this year because the legislature is already too far into their process. He feels there may be a heavy debate on the subject and due to his absence in April he suggests it be on the agenda in May.

Motion carried with a 5/0 roll call vote. Voting aye were Bensyl, Jay, Langenheim, O'Connor, Weibel. Voting nay were none – 0.

Mr. Bensyl asked for information on the potential impact if we did some type of bond issue.

Mr. Jay stated we do not have a choice but to cap this money and as a committee we should recommend we do not enter into any fringe road agreements on anything that is not a County road.

MOTION by Bensyl to direct our County Engineer to draft a Resolution stating the policy of the County Board will be to not enter into any future intergovernmental agreements unless they are on a County Highway; seconded by O'Connor. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Busey stated that the committee's approval of a resolution would create a record of what the intent of the motion was and specify that it is coming from this board.

Highway Maintenance/Fleet Facility

Mr. Blue explained that the RFP responses are in and the evaluation committee will be reviewing them.

County Engineer Cont.

Ordinance for the Establishment of an altered speed zone located on TR 2500N from 430E to 500E in Newcomb Road District

MOTION by Bensyl to recommend County Board approval of the Ordinance for the Establishment of an altered speed zone located on TR 2500N from 430E to 500E in Newcomb Road District; seconded by O'Connor. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Blue stated they completed a speed study after a request from the Township Commissioner. Based on that study, there are two different speed zones to be posted in this area.

Bridge Petitions – Sadorus Road District

Mr. Blue explained this is for a bridge that sits over the Kaskaskia river that is undersized to some extent and the water ends up pushing against the roadway, washing it out. They are going to install arch pipes in the area.

MOTION by O'Connor to recommend County Board approval of the Petition requesting and Resolution approving appropriation of funds from the County Bridge Fund pursuant to 605 ILCS 5/5-501 for Sadorus Road District; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

Resolution awarding of contract for the purchase of a current production model cab and chasis for Dump Truck

Mr. Blue explained they went out for bid on April 5th and received two responses, one from Peterbilt and one from Prairie International. He stated they have had a bad history with Prairie International and in their bid there were a number of areas in which they did not meet the specifications. Peterbilt did meet the specifications and even though their bid was \$10,000 higher, he would like approval to go with them.

MOTION by O'Connor to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution awarding of contract for the purchase of a dump truck cab and chasis to Peterbilt Central Illinois; seconded by Bensyl. **Motion carried.**

County Engineer Cont.

Resolution awarding of contract for the purchase of a dump body, hoist package and snow removal equipment

Mr. Blue stated they had one bid come in from Danville which he feels is competitive.

MOTION by Bensyl to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution awarding of contract for the purchase of a dump body, hoist package and snow removal equipment to Rahn Equipment Company; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

Resolution appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for County Roads Maintenance for the period from January 1, 2005 thru December 31, 2005: Section #05-00000-00-GM

Mr. Blue explained that these items are purchased with motor fuel tax for materials and they have to be approved by IDOT.

MOTION by O'Connor to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution appropriating Motor Fuel Tax Funds for County Road Maintenance for the period from January 1, 2005 thru December 31, 2005: Section #05-00000-00-GM; seconded by Bensyl. **Motion carried.**

Other Business

There was no other business.

Determination of Consent Agenda Items

Committee consensus to include items 6 C, D, E, F, & G on the County Board consent agenda.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Jay declared the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary

