

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION

October 22, 2004

Meeting Room 1, Brookens Administrative Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cowart, Carter, Crozier, Feinen, Jay, Langenheim

MEMBERS ABSENT: Schroeder, Shoemaker

OTHERS PRESENT: Patricia Avery, Deb Busey, Jeff Blue, John Cooper, Debby Wagner, Tracy Wingler, Chris Doenitz, Marvin Johnson

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cowart called the meeting to order a 9:00 a.m. Declaring a quorum present; the chair proceeded with the meeting.

APPROVAL O FAGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Carter to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Langenheim. There was no addendum for the meeting. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Crozier to approve the minutes of September 17, 2004 and September 24, 2004 as presented; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

MONTHLY REPORTS

County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – September, 2004

MOTION by Crozier to receive and place on file the monthly report of the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for September, 2004; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Final Bridge Reports

MOTION by Langenheim to receive and place on file the Final Bridge Reports; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

COUNTY ENGINEER

Resolution appropriating an additional \$2,055.56 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the County's share of the Curtis Road Engineering Study – Section #98-00374-00-ES

MOTION by Feinen to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution appropriating an additional \$2,055.56 from the County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the County's share of the Curtis Road Engineering Study – Section #98-00374-00-ES; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried.**

Resolution appropriating an additional \$167,913.45 from the County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the County's share of the County Highway 14 (Homer Lake Road) improvement to complete the project – Section # 00-00381-00-WR

Jeff Blue explained that this project was done last year and is now coming to the final stages in which we will do the final payment. The majority of this increase in funding is due to the fact that the shape of the roadway was poor and they needed a considerable amount of additional asphalt in order to make it a properly shaped road and build it to the standards required. There was also a bridge on the project which the beam thickness came in thicker than what was originally anticipated by the consultant; as a result they had to raise the roadway up a foot. He explained that if a project runs less than 10% over the anticipated budget they do not need to have additional approval from IDOT to appropriate the money to pay for the overrun. This was in the 5 year plan and should not affect other projects. This bill has already been paid this is just the resolution backing up the payment

MOTION by Crozier to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution appropriating an additional \$167,913.45 from the County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the County's share of the County Highway 14 (Homer Lake Road) improvement to complete the project – Section #00-00381-00-WR; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Resolution appropriating an additional \$33,335.65 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the County's share of the IL. Route 10 (Springfield Avenue) and County Highway 25 (Staley Road) improvement for Gas Main Relocation to complete this project – Section #01-00389-00-WR

Mr. Cooper stated this was part of a deal where we had to have gas line relocated; this is the stretch of road that Champaign is going to get.

MOTION by Crozier to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution appropriating an additional \$33,335.65 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the County's share of the IL. Route 10 (Springfield Avenue) and County Highway 25 (Staley Road) improvement for Gas Main Relocation to complete this project - Section #01-00389-00-WR; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Bridge Petition - South Homer Lake Road District

Mr. Blue stated this is a petition from the Road District to the Commissioner for \$9,980.00 to repair erosion problems on one of his bridges. They already have a quote from a local contractor, anything under \$10,000 they do not have to go out for bid.

MOTION by Crozier to recommend County Board Approval of a petition requesting and a resolution approving the appropriation of funds from the County Bridge Fund pursuant to 605 ILCS 5/5-501 for South Homer Lake Road District; seconded by Jay. **Motion carried.**

Request approval to forward Recommendation to the Policy, Personnel & Appointments Committee for the creation of a certified Master Mechanic Position

Mr. Blue stated the Highway Department has never had a mechanic on duty, we do all of our mechanic work through local vendors in town and have a line item of \$80,000 to do so. Creating this position would give us a great deal of flexibility when we have equipment breakdown, repairs will be done faster and more economically. In his opinion, this position is something that is almost a must in order to run an efficient operation. We may not use this person for big work but they will be able to do everything from replacing a transmission to oil changes. He stated he had a mechanic in his former County which had a very similar work force with similar equipment and that mechanic was able to keep up with the work load.

Ms. Feinen asked if we continue discussion for a shared maintenance facility with the cities how this position would be impacted, and if there are any downsides to having our own mechanic.

Mr. Blue stated he does not feel there is a downside to the County. They will require this person to have a CDL but he will be a mechanic and will not plow snow unless his is needed. He believes whenever you share something there is always the question of who comes first, his opinion is if we create a shared facility in the future, we need our own mechanic.

Ms. Busey stated the salary will be negotiated with AFSCME; the information given to the committee is for a general unit employee who falls into this classification. She feels the wage for this position will be more consistent with the salary paid to the highway maintenance workers.

Ms. Avery questioned the cost for the tools for this position.

Mr. Blue stated we currently have the appropriate tools to do the work on the equipment we have, the cost for whatever tools we need will have be negotiated through AFSCME and will be there only for the mechanics use, he will have a locked tool box that only he can use.

MOTION by Jay to forward to the Policy, Personnel & Appointments Committee the approval of the recommendation to create a certified Master Mechanic Position; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried** with a 6/0 roll call vote. Voting aye were Cowart, Carter, Crozier, Feinen, Jay, & Langenheim. There were no nay votes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Committee Meeting: Friday, November 5, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Chair Cowart reminded the committee the November meeting will be held on Friday, November 5th.

Ms. Avery stated the committee had discussed having another meeting on the North Prospect issue and decided to wait until Mr. Blue arrived before that was scheduled so they could include him in the discussion. She would like to set aside the date of November 3, 2004 at 12:00 noon in Meeting Room 2 to meet regarding this issue.

Mr. Blue informed the committee he had attended a district County Engineers meeting at which the District Engineer for IDOT informed them that the face of IDOT as we have known it will be totally redone starting January 1, 2005. This will include cutting down the number of IDOT districts in the State from 9 to 5, basically doubling the size of all the districts and while doing that they are expecting 600 layoffs statewide in the IDOT employment force. Things are going to change the way the State does business as far as transportation, he feels that some of the functions that IDOT takes on for Counties and townships will be passed on to local facilities. He explained that the Paris office, which is the office we coordinate with, is being downgraded to a maintenance shed; our main focus will be Peoria or possibly Bloomington. They have heard that IDOT is talking about only plowing during daylight on their secondary routes starting this year, there was no talk about funding, and he stressed that there is nothing yet set in stone. He believes this is not the last we will hear from IDOT regarding changes in Illinois, he will keep this committee up to date.

DETERMINATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Committee consensus to include items 6 a, b, c, & d on the November 4th County Board Consent Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cowart declared the meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary

*Secretary's note: The minutes reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting and not necessarily the order of the agenda

