

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION

Meeting Room 1
Brookens Administrative Center
November 5, 2004

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Shoemaker

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ziegler, Jeff Blue, Tracy Wingler, Debby Wagner, John Cooper, Deb Busey, Patricia Avery, Chris Doenitz, Steve O'Connor, Tony Fabri, Marvin Johnson, Rick Wolken

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Declaring a quorum present, the Chair proceeded with the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Carter to approve the Agenda; seconded by Schroeder. There was no addendum for the meeting. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 22, 2004

MOTION by Jay to approve the minutes of October 22, 2004 as presented; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

MONTHLY REPORTS

County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – October, 2004

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

COUNTY ENGINEER

Bridge Petition – Crittenden Road District

County Engineer Jeff Blue explained this petition is for replacement of a structure in Crittenden Township. The structure in question is currently an old tank car and there is a need for a new bridge. They estimate the cost to be \$129,000 of which half will come from the Township bridge fund, 40% from the County bridge fund, and 10% from the Township.

MOTION by Jay 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 Crittenden Road District; seconded by Smith. **Motion carried.**

Bridge Petition – Sadorus Road District

Mr. Blue stated this is for a bridge that is currently in place with an inspection showing deteriorating concrete. The estimated cost of \$128,000 will be split with 50% coming from the Township bridge fund, 40% from the County bridge fund and 10% from the Township.

MOTION by Langenheim to recommend County Board approval of a petition requesting and a resolution approving appropriation of funds from the County Bridge Fund pursuant to 605 ILCS 5/5-501 for Crittenden Road District; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Resolution authorizing the County Board Chair to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with Champaign Road District for the Snow Removal and Ice Control of County Highway 25 in Champaign County

Mr. Blue explained that the current intergovernmental agreement with Champaign Township to provide snow and ice control on Staley road expired this spring. It was assumed at the time the current agreement was left to expire that Staley Road would be completed for snow removal and ice control this winter, that is not the case. The City of Champaign had agreed to take over Staley Road once the construction is complete but because it is not, we approached Champaign Township about doing the snow removal and ice control for another winter. The Township Highway Commissioner did agree to provide the services based on the same agreement we had for the 02-03 year in which we pay Champaign Township a small amount of money and provide them with salt.

MOTION by Langenheim to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing the County Board Chair to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with Champaign Road District for the Snow Removal and Ice Control of County Highway 25 in Champaign County; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

North Prospect Avenue

Mr. Blue stated since the subcommittee met 2 days earlier he has talked in length with the City of Champaign Engineer and received correspondence dating back 10 years. He presented the committee with a thorough background which lays out the intent of the fringe road agreement and in specific the intent of the Prospect Road piece of that agreement. His understanding is that the City Engineer and the County Engineer at the time had agreed in principal that the County would turn Prospect Avenue back over to Champaign and at some point in the future the County would participate in the widening of that road. He has reviewed the phase 1 bid tab which has a total of \$1,863,000; by removing all items that do not accommodate a widening project the total drops to about \$1,328,000. If we were to participate for the widening of Prospect Avenue his estimation after the Walmart contribution would be \$500,000-\$600,000 for phase 1, widening only. He explained it is hard to tell what will happen in phase 2 but doing a similar cost share, the County's share will be about 1 million dollars; phase 2 is in the Cities improvement plan for 2011. He reviewed the County highway budget and realized that the County highway fund has a balance of about 2 million dollars; noting there are obligations from the fund in the future. He wants to be sure we keep a balance in the highway fund and explained if we levied about \$200,000 a year in road improvements over the next 6 years that would get us enough money to fund phase II in 2011. He has talked to the City Engineer whom agrees in principal that, after reading all of the correspondence between the City and County dating back to 1994, the County agreed in principal to help the City widen Prospect Avenue. He believes we have a way to fund our portion without having to do a transfer, and he feels by going this route our original agreement would be fulfilled.

Ms. Feinen stated she is impressed by Mr. Blue and asked what the benefit to the County is in using the Highway fund instead of the Motor Fuel Tax Fund.

Mr. Blue stated the best reason to use the County fund is that we have a large balance, any time people see a balance in a fund and the County comes on hard times they see that as a pot to pull from. He would rather pull that fund down to a good reserve but so it doesn't look like our levy limit is too high, our Motor Fuel Tax money is totally obligated for road projects.

Ms. Busey stated we have to hope that through growth, we will see an equivalent dollar growth in the levy to what we have anticipated we need; it is not unreasonable to expect that the dollar amount is an amount that this levy could increase by under PTEL. We will not have to borrow levying authority from another fund but if we give the highway levy more growth than PTEL allows we will have to borrow it from one of the other levies.

Mr. Jay asked where the County's benefit is in all this, assuming it might be monetary.

Mr. Blue stated the benefit comes from providing a safe transportation system for the people in the County. We will also benefit by the City taking over these roads when you look at what the cost would be to maintain them over future years.

Ms. Busey stated the monetary benefit to the County is indirect but the County does have *two* quarter cent sales taxes and a substantial portion of that is generated on North Prospect Avenue.

Mr. Blue stated his intent, by the next committee meeting is to come up with a specific agreement for Prospect that financially caps our responsibility so we and the City both have a number to budget for.

Mr. Ziegler stated there is one point on which he and Mr. Blue do not agree and that is the County's obligation to do certain things. That obligation is something the highway department feels they are morally obligated to do and it does not change his feelings about the vagueness of this.

MOTION by Ms. Feinen to give our staff the authority to negotiate with the City of Champaign on phase I and phase II contingent upon also cleaning up of the attachments relating to other road projects and that the negotiations be based upon the information Mr. Blue provided to the committee with respect to the percentage of contributions from the County and that it be based upon the County being able to pay for it out of County Highway Funds, with a not to exceed amount; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Resolution authorizing the County Board Chair to sign a Letter of Understanding concerning Curtis Road between First Street and Race Street.

Mr. Blue stated this letter of Understanding has been agreed to in principal by the staff of the City of Urbana, the U of I, Urbana Township, and the Village of Savoy. He has reviewed the document and doesn't feel it contains anything that obligates us in anyway; it states it is not intended to be a binding contract but to record essential points of concern of the parties. Basically this reviews the expansion of the South Farms for the University and how they will be having a lot of their farming operations in and around Curtis Road and details how the University and the City and Townships will work together to try and develop Curtis Road in the future. The County is agreeing to agree with what the other entities have stated.

Mr. Langenheim stated through CUUATS he was involved in the discussion leading up to this and it represents about the best compromise they could come to. Urbana is adamant that the road be maintained as a thoroughfare and the University wants a protected crossing for the movement of their animals, what you see here is a very definite *curbing* of the University's point of view.

Ms. Feinen voiced concerns about different parts of this letter of Understanding stating it seems to her we are bound by it and it is a contract.

Ms. Avery also stated her concerns and suggested someone from the State's Attorney's office review before a decision is made.

MOTION by Jay to defer this item until we have an opinion from the State's Attorney's office; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried.**

Special Meeting prior to County Board Meeting on November 18th to approve a Resolution awarding of Materials for Township Motor Fuel Tax Program for FY-05 (Letting to be held on November 17th)

Mr. Blue explained this special meeting is for a Motor Fuel Tax Program but the committee also needs to have a special meeting on the North Prospect Issue.

Committee consensus to have a special committee meeting to address the North Prospect Avenue issue on Monday, November 15th at 9:00 a.m. in Meeting room 1, and a special meeting on November 18th at 6:00, before the County Board Meeting, to approve the resolution.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Determination of Consent Agenda Items

Committee consensus to include items 6 a, b, & c on the November 18th County Board Consent Agenda.

Adjournment

Chair Cowart declared the meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tiffany Talbott

Minutes amended December 23, 2004 per December 16, 2004 Committee Meeting. Changes appear in italics.

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