

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

March 11, 2005 - 9:00 a.m.
Meeting Room 1
Brookens Administrative Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cowart (Chair), Bensyl, Carter, Feinen,
Gross, Jay, O'Connor, Weibel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Langenheim

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue, Denny Inman, Debby Wagner, Tracy
Wingler, Marvin Johnson, Chris Doenitz,
Bill Derges, Roger Woodworth, Gary Carmein,
Greg Frerichs, Kenneth Schmidt, Rick Wolken

Call to Order

Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:02 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 Weibel;
There was no addendum for the meeting. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes - February 11, 2005

MOTION by Jay to approve the minutes of February 11, 2005 as presented;
seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Monthly Reports

County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims - February 2005

Mr. O'Connor arrived.

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

Final Bridge Reports

MOTION by Jay to receive and place on file the final bridge reports; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

County Engineer

Ordinance for the establishment of an altered speed zone on Robin Road in Mahomet Road District

Mr. Blue explained that the Township Commissioner asked the County to conduct a speed study on this piece of roadway in Mahomet Township. As a result, they determined that the maximum speed limit should be posted at 25 MPH.

MOTION by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Ordinance for the establishment of an altered speed zone on Robin Road in Mahomet Road District; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

Resolution awarding of contract for Bituminous Materials for 2005 Township Maintenance.

Mr. Blue provided each committee member with a copy of the Resolution as well as information showing the different materials and unit prices bid with a comparison from 2004 to 2005. He explained that fuel prices have gone up over the last year and because asphalt is a by-product, one would expect liquid asphalt prices to go up as well.

MOTION by Gross to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution awarding of contract for Bituminous Materials for 2005 Township Maintenance; seconded by O'Connor. **Motion carried.**

Highway Maintenance/Fleet Maintenance Facility

Mr. Blue explained that County representatives have met with different entities regarding the possibility of sharing space. At the most recent meeting, they discussed space needs study's and realized that the City of Urbana completed a space needs study in 2001, the City of Champaign has done a similar study in a similar time frame and the village of Savoy is currently completing one. He went to the Urbana City Engineer and received a copy of their space needs study and using the same method, he completed a study for the County highway department geared toward having a highway maintenance facility in conjunction with doing the County fleet maintenance. He concluded that the total office space needs, including everything we need to have an engineering department in the same building as the maintenance department, is 7868 square feet. The mechanic and shop space needs for the highway department as well as the fleet maintenance department total 14,790 square feet. The assessment for vehicle & equipment storage needs totals 26,600 square feet, outside space needs total 40,750 square feet with another 15,000 square feet for a landscaped area with grass and trees.

County Engineer Cont.

He explained that these numbers are drawn from the amount of space that they utilized when they built his shop in Minnesota and how much space he thinks we need to operate here. He also included equipment needs for this building stating there is not much to be saved from the current shop, the total estimate for all new equipment is \$597,000. Including a 4% inflation in the square feet totals, he used the cost of \$100.00 per square foot for the office space, \$90.00 per square foot for the shop space and \$80.00 per square foot for the vehicle storage with a rough total cost estimate of \$5 million dollars. He stated that we cannot put this building into a small space; we need to make sure the area we choose is large enough to accommodate any future expansion; he believes a 5 acre piece of ground is appropriate for this building.

MOTION by Jay to support the County Facilities Committee motion by also directing the County Highway Engineer and the County Administrator to jointly craft an RFP for Professional Services to design a Fleet Maintenance and Highway Department Facility; seconded by Bensyl.

Mr. Blue stated the next step is to take the space needs study and incorporate that into a document to get an architectural engineering firm hired to design the building.

Mr. Jay stated he has never liked the way the RFP process works, he knows that those in charge have investigated it and he understands it is the law we have to abide by. Reluctantly, he will go along with it because he believes we need this facility. He is also concerned that we could owe \$100,000 to get our own property back from the Park District; if that is the case he believes we can find another place to put this building.

Mr. Inman stated he shares the same frustrations as Mr. Jay, in this RFP we are asking for specific contracts that these people have done with agencies on the same size facilities so we know what they have charged, we are also going to ask for their public rates. He feels we will be much better prepared going into this.

When asked for the amount of savings that will result from the County doing our own fleet maintenance work, Mr. Blue stated the charges for using outside agencies are usually 50% cost and 50% labor with shop rates right now at about \$60.00 per hour. He added up what the mechanic positions will cost us per hour and found it is about \$30.00 so we could almost cut the total in half; the parts we have to have but the labor is where we will save. At the committee's request he will review old invoices to determine a more specific amount that we can expect in savings and present that information to the committee in April.

Motion carried.

Resolution appropriating \$583,469.46 from County Highway Funds for the improvements to Prospect Avenue from 500 feet south of Meijer Drive to Interstate Drive - Section #04-00346-01-PV.

Mr. Blue stated he went back to the City Engineer asking him to come up with an amount the City feels is the County's share, they noted that we have not included any lighting or sidewalks in our amount and on projects in the past we had included those items. After discussing the additional items, they came to a compromise of \$583,469.46 with the City stating if we can get this through the County Board they will accept that number. He feels this is a good compromise and will get us past phase I. We are paying for this from the highway fund and although there are possible different ways we can pay and the pieces we are paying for are not yet complete, he would like to pay once and be done with it.

MOTION by Feinen to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution appropriating \$583,469.46 from County Highway funds for the improvements to Prospect Avenue from 500 feet south of Meijer Drive to Interstate Drive - Section #04-00346-01-PV; seconded by Bensyl. **Motion carried.**

Highway Funding Discussion

Mr. Blue explained that the shortfall over the next 15 years on our rural roads totals \$1.5 million, he provided the committee with this information along with information showing what urban projects we are tied to. To elaborate on the urban funding issue, he has talked to 4 different counties to get input on how others help in urbanized projects in their area. They all answered the same stating they only help if it is a county highway; if the roadway is a township or city road they do not give any money. The committee has talked about putting a cap on urbanized projects but he stressed that regardless of whether we are helping others or not, there is not enough money to fund the rural roads and we need to do something about it. He stated there is one avenue we have briefly talked about when discussing what we need to do to maintain our rural roads and that is a County motor fuel tax. He explained that the county motor fuel tax law was passed in the late 1980's and states that a County can impose a tax up to 4 cents per gallon of gas sold in their county, all of the money generated goes back to the county and it is up to them to figure out how they will divide that up. The city of Danville has a city gas tax and the Cities in our county could do the same. He has discussed this with Senator Winkel who stated if we could get officials together he would be willing to talk to us about it. If you do the numbers, based on our percentage of the population, he estimates the tax could raise \$900,000 to \$1 million per penny; if we raise 3 million dollars we could use 2 million for county roads and divide the remaining with the townships. He understands that there are other ways we could raise money but this is the idea he wanted to discuss with the committee, he stressed that he doesn't want to pursue this option if the County Board has no support for it.

County Engineer Cont.

Mr. Jay stated this building is a vital part of the highway system and we need it. He feels we could cap the fringe road agreement and possibly spread it out over a longer period of time, he also stressed that we need to stop making fringe road agreements on anything except County roads. He would like to add discussion about capping the fringe road agreements and also the possibility of limiting them only to County roads to the April agenda.

Other Business

Mr. Blue stated they are going to have 5 bridges bid on March 23rd and they would like to have those awarded at the County Board meeting on March 24th. Committee consensus to have a special highway meeting on March 24th at 6:15 p.m.

Ms. Cowart appointed herself along with Mr. Jay and Mr. Blue to the RFP response team to review the A & E firms for the highway fleet maintenance building.

Determination of Consent Agenda Items

Committee consensus to include items 6 A, B, & D on the March 24th County Board consent agenda.

Adjournment

Chair Cowart declared the meeting adjourned 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary