

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

Highway & Transportation Committee

Friday, August 11, 2006 – 9:00 a.m.

Lyle Shields Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue, John Cooper, Tracy Wingler, Debby Wagner, Barb Wysocki, Deb Busey, Susan McGrath, Steve Wegman (City of Champaign)

Call to Order

Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A roll call confirmed a quorum present.

Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Langenheim to approve the agenda and addendum; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Monthly Reports

County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – June, July 2006

MOTION by Langenheim to receive and place on file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for June & July, 2006; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

County Engineer

Resolution appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for County Road Maintenance for the period from January 1, 2006 thru December 31, 2006 – Section #06-00000-00-GM.

Mr. Blue explained this is the annual resolution appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax money for 2006.

MOTION by Gross to recommend County Board approval of the resolution appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for County Road maintenance for the period from January 1, 2006 thru December 31, 2006 – Section #06-00000-00-GM; seconded by Bensyl.

County Engineer cont.

When asked about renting equipment, Mr. Blue explained that we are renting our equipment to the Motor Fuel Tax Fund.

Motion carried.

CR22 EDP Application

Mr. Blue reminded the committee that there is a good chance we will be seeing an ethanol plant just north of Royal and he has talked with IDOT about the possibility of getting a program grant. He explained he was waiting on a letter from the ethanol group stating they have a commitment to come to Royal and build the plant, he received that letter and has included it with information he previously received regarding the number of jobs and anticipated opening date. They did a survey of County Highway 22 and worked with Applied Research and through the testing they have done, they were able to do some analysis to come up with what it would take to get CR 22 up to an 80 pound road. He explained it is pretty narrow for truck traffic like we will see so they felt like the road needed to be widened, then have a 2 inch overlay to hold the trucks on a regular basis. The estimate of the cost to do that is 1.5 million dollars, the economic fund would pay for half of that cost and we can also apply for money for upgrading roads. He stated they say if we get the first grant we should get the tart money in the form of \$60,000 per mile so between those two, we should secure about 1.2 to 1.3 million of the 1.5 million leaving the local cost share around \$200,000 that we would have from MFT. He stated they did a preliminary cost estimate for a right hand turn lane and that number was about \$38,000. There are also two structures that are not sufficient enough to hold 80,000 pound trucks and the estimate to fix those structures is \$700,000.

Mr. Jay arrived at 9:19 a.m.

Mr. Blue explained that he doesn't know if the funds will be available to pay for upgrading of the structures, and he is not sure if we could be granted that money. If the plant comes the grant is very likely. He explained this work would be done in the summer of 2007 and we already have a contract with a firm to do engineering for the bridges so we can get those going, hoping that the plant will open in 2008. He stated 80% of the ethanol will go out by rail and 20% out by truck.

MOTION by Feinen to approve the authority to receive funds and accept this grant if it is awarded; seconded by Bensyl.

Motion carried.

Maintenance Facility Bids

Mr. Blue explained they opened bids a few weeks ago. They had 5 different subcontractors bidding first then with that information, the general contractor knows who the subs are and what they bid and they go back and in the next four hours put bids together and those were then opened. The sum total of all those bids is the total project.

The estimate at the end of the construction document phase was 6.6 million, after opening the bids; they came in at 7.6 million. He reviewed the different subcontractor bids explaining that the plumbing bid estimate was \$587,000 and it came in at \$305,000. The electric bids were estimated at \$700,000 and they came in at \$800,000, he explained the reason for the cost difference was due to the increased cost of copper. Fire protection was estimated at \$138,000 and the low bid was \$87,000. The heating estimate was \$638,000 and the low bid was \$783,000 and the civil contract estimate was \$306,000 and came in at \$581,000.

When asked if we are required to take the lowest bid, Ms. McGrath explained we can say it is not responsible based on our experience with a particular contractor.

Mr. Blue explained the package included all asphalt work on lots and roadways, sewer and water outside, all concrete flat work exterior and retaining walls around the retention ponds. He stated the retaining walls were \$214,000 which he feels is a silly cost to make a pond look nice and there is a better way for our own guys to do it. The asphalt was \$224,000 which is extremely high and they feel the civil contractor was asking people to bid out two years so the numbers are extremely inflated. They have decided not to accept the civil contract; we can do the asphalt work in our own department bidding it at that time instead of two years in advance. They kept all subcontractors, threw out the civil package and rolled the sewer and water and concrete back into the general contractor's package. We are going back out for bids on August 22nd.

Ms. Feinen asked if we can let Otto Baum know, up front, that they are not likely to receive a contract and asked if that presents any legal problems. Ms. McGrath explained that it does not. Because of pending litigation and the County's experience it is appropriate for us to tell them our position.

Mr. Blue continued stating that the general contract estimate was 3 million and the lowest bid was over 4 million and he stated there were a few things they feel contributed to that. They have taken that package out and will bid it on its own hoping to get more bids, they will open those bids on August 22nd and the general bids on the 22nd. The total bid package will go before the Facilities committee on the 22nd.

Chair Cowart stated that Facilities meeting should be joint with Highway, all members concur.

Curtis Road Right of Way

Mr. Blue explained he will have another agreement come before the committee in September.

Addendum

Fringe Road Funding

Mr. Blue reported that they had a meeting with the City of Urbana about the funding of fringe roads and some money the city is withholding from the county. He explained the City believes that we violated part of the fringe development agreement when we passed the million dollar cap so they are withholding tax revenue money, that comes from the agreement, saying unless we change the way we do business with our million dollar cap we will not get the money. They asked us to soften the language in the resolution and the State's Attorney's office thought we should review it and make any changes.

Ms. McGrath stated she would recommend that we first try to work this out with the City. We could look at some re-wording of the resolution if that would solve the issue, although she is not sure it would, she still feels we should consider that option.

Ms. Feinen stated since that resolution has passed, staff has been meeting with the city to talk about making this work and she feels like Urbana, taking this action, is not an act of good faith. Mr. Jay stated he will not be party to this because the million dollar cap is with a purpose, which was not to penalize the cities but to save the county in the future and he doesn't feel we should consider this kind of negotiation from the city.

When asked about the money being with held, Ms. Busey explained it is \$140,000 per year and they owe the county about 8 more years. Mr. Langenheim stated the argument he has heard from the city is that the overwhelming proportion of gas tax money goes into the cities and the county is not entitled to the money we are spending on rural roads and he feels they will continue to argue that way. Mr. Blue stated they argue that 2/3 of the MFT receipts come from the cities and they don't get that back from the county, they also argue that there were not preliminary discussions before we passed the resolution. Mr. Jay stated this is not city money. MFT is split up and the cities get a share of their own that has nothing to do with the County, now they want our share.

Mr. Bensyl asked what the amount of our sharing agreement is with the city of Urbana. Mr. Blue stated our current commitment to them, on Windsor, totals 2.5 million over 5 years and the total of tax revenue is about 1 million. He reminded the committee that there is a Lierman road agreement with the city where they currently owe us about \$800,000 currently.

Ms. Wysocki stated we have made a case that we are not backing off of our commitments on fringe road but she is wondering if there should be some language in the resolution that, in more detail, states what we are doing. Mr. Jay stated he is concerned with changing the wording because what we have in place is working.

Ms. Wysocki stated twice a year she and Deb Busey sit down with the City of Champaign to discuss what is going on and when they construct the agenda for that meeting they do put the fringe road issue on the table; Champaign is not unhappy with this resolution and they are accepting it. With Urbana, when Mayor Prussing first took office she made her aware of these meetings and she suggested Urbana and the County could benefit from something similar, to date that has not happened.

Other Business

When asked where we stand on the pavement report, Mr. Blue explained that all information has been collected and they are taking all raw data and putting it into the software.

Determination of Consent Agenda Items

Committee consensus to include items 5 A and B on the County Board consent agenda.

Adjournment

Chair Cowart declared the meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary