

## CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

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Highway & Transportation Committee  
Friday, January 12, 2007- 9:00 a.m.  
Lyle Shields Meeting Room  
Brookens Administrative Center

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cowart (Chair), Beckett, Bensyl, Carter,  
Jay, Knott, Langenheim, Melin, O'Connor

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jeff Blue, Debby Wagner, Deb Busey

### **Call to Order**

Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:00 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.**

**Approval of Minutes** – November 8, 2006, October 6, 2006 closed session

**MOTION** by Jay to approve the regular session minutes of November 8, 2006 and the closed session minutes of October 6, 2006 as presented; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Bensyl arrived at 9:02 a.m.

### **Public Participation**

There was no public participation

### **Monthly Reports**

**County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – November & December 2006**

**MOTION** by Jay to receive and place on file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for November & December 2006; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried**

**County Engineer**

**Resolution awarding of contract for replacement of a bridge located in Compromise Road District – Section #05-06915-00-BR.**

Mr. Blue explained that there was a bid opening on December 29, 2006 and provided each member with a tabulation of bids. He explained the Engineers estimate was \$113,000 and the lower of the two bidders, Champaign Asphalt, was over that estimate at \$124,101. The State of Illinois says if a bid is over the estimate by under 10% it can be awarded by the County Board; this bid was over by 9.6%.

**MOTION** by O'Connor to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution awarding of contract for replacement of a bridge located in Compromise Road District – Section #05-06915-00-BR; seconded by Carter.

When asked why the bids were over, Mr. Blue explained that Newell construction, which is the company who has won almost every bridge, is not on the bidders list. If Newell does not continue to be a viable construction company, this is what they can expect. It is a combination of materials going up and a lack of bidders.

**Motion carried.**

**Resolution authorizing the County Board Chair to sign an Economic Development/TARP Agreement for the improvement of CH. 22 and appropriating County MFT funds – Section #06-00410-00-WR.**

Mr. Blue stated that the ethanol plant in Royal is still on line to start construction in the first quarter of this year. We have applied for and have now received the authority to have these economic development funds put towards the strengthening of County Highway 22 which is a 20 foot wide black top roadway 8 ½ miles long. The minimum width on a roadway is now 22 feet therefore we will widen it to 22 feet from Penfield to Royal and put in a 2 inch structural overlay over the top. There are also two bridges that will be replaced. He explained we have a grant which is 50% of the total cost to upgrade the roadway, in conjunction; we have the TARP grant where they will give us a certain number of dollars per mile. The total cost of the project is 3.1 million, we are getting 2/3 funded through the state and we will be using MFT funds to cover our portion. He did state that if the plant goes belly up in 5 years some repayment must be made. They are looking at bidding this spring and construction by summer.

**MOTION** by Carter to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution authorizing the County Board Chair to sign an Economic Development/TARP Agreement for the improvement of CH 22 and appropriating County MFT funds – Section #06-00410-00-WR; seconded by Knott. **Motion carried.**

County Engineer cont.

Mr. Langenheim asked if we are sure the plant is still going to be built. Mr. Blue stated they are supposed to start building the first quarter of this year and he believes they will see that construction before any construction of the roadway. If for some reason we do not, we will question what is going on.

Mr. Bensyl reported they have already been doing some preliminary site work. He asked about a resolution that was discussed, regarding cost sharing with the plant which depends on what they are asking from us. Mr. Blue explained that on the ELUC agenda they are asking for an enterprise zone to be extended out to Royal and that is the first step. He anticipates asking them for participation on the right hand turn lane we are going to construct out of the plant.

When asked about our overall budget, Mr. Blue explained that this is going to be our 2007 major construction project for the MFT fund. Between the 20% we are spending on County Highway 9 and this project, we will be staying in budget. We have an agreement with the plant already signed so regardless if they come or not, something needs to be done to the roadway.

### **Resolution establishing a Class II designated Truck Route on County Highway 22**

Mr. Blue explained that in order to receive the money, they have to designate County Highway 22 as an 80,000 pound truckload route and this resolution will do that. They will not post it as a truck route until the construction is complete and this resolution will go in with the EDP grant form and resolution.

**MOTION** by Bensyl to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution establishing a Class II designated Truck Route on County Highway 22; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

### **Hiring of new personnel**

Mr. Blue updated the committee explaining they have hired 2 new personnel, replacing personnel.

### **Addendum**

**Resolution authorizing County Highway to enter into an agreement with Brown Township for reimbursement of payment for the improvement of a railroad crossing and appropriating \$8,058.32 from County Highway Funds to pay for the local share.**

Mr. Blue explained this was put on as an addendum because they didn't know we would have to do this. There is a road crossing in Brown Township that needs to be upgraded so we went ahead and did the work and the bill was \$8,058.32. He stated we have a signed agreement saying we will front the money and the township will pay us back.

**MOTION** by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution authorizing County Highway to enter into an agreement with Brown Township for reimbursement of payment for the improvement of a railroad crossing and appropriating \$8,058.32 from County Highway Funds to pay for the local share; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried.**

**Other Business**

There was no other business

**Determination of consent agenda items**

Agenda items 6 A, B, C and addendum item 6 E will all be included on the County Board consent agenda.

**Adjournment**

Chair Cowart declared the meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott  
Administrative Secretary