

**Champaign County Board  
Committee Minutes**

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**Highway & Transportation Committee**

**Friday, March 7, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Lyle Shields Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cowart, Carter, Jay, Langenheim, O'Connor

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Beckett, Bensyl, Knott, Melin

**OTHER PRESENT:** Jeff Blue, Susan McGrath, Pius Weibel

**Agenda Item**

**Call to Order**

Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A roll call confirmed a quorum present.

**Approval of Agenda/Addendum**

**MOTION** by Jay to approve the agenda and addendum as presented; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** by Langenheim to approve the minutes of February 8, 2008; seconded by Carter.

Mr. Langenheim provided the recording secretary with changes and corrections he would like made to the minutes of February 8, 2008.

**Motion carried as amended.**

**Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**Monthly Reports**

**County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – February 2008**

**MOTION** by Jay to receive and place on file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for February 2008; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

**County Engineer**  
**Bridge Petition – Condit Road District**

Mr. Blue explained this is a request to replace a small culvert which is in Condit Township between sections 28 and 29. The estimated cost is \$5,200 and this is a petition and resolution calling for half of the project cost to come out of the County Bridge Fund.

**MOTION** by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Petition Requesting and Resolution Approving Appropriation of Funds from the County Bridge Fund for Condit Road District; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

**Resolution awarding of contract for the replacement of a culvert located approximately 4 miles Southeast of Pesotum in Crittenden Road District – Section #06-08931-00-BR**

Mr. Blue provided bid tabs to the committee for this project explaining that bids were opened yesterday. The engineers estimate was \$215,110.00 and the low bidder was Newell construction for \$198,198.26.

**MOTION** by Jay recommend County Board approval of the Resolution awarding of contract for the replacement of a bridge located in Crittenden Road District Section #06-08931-00-BR; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried.**

**Resolution awarding of contract for the replacement of a bridge located approximately 1 mile East of Urbana in Urbana Road District – Section #06-30928-00-BR**

Mr. Blue explained this is on Cottonwood Road and was bid yesterday. The engineers estimate was \$170,503.00 the low bid came in high at \$194,516. He believes the low engineers estimate is a result of the consultant using some low numbers on concrete cost. If they had an estimate similar to what they had on the Crittenden Township bridge project with similar unit costs, the estimate would have been close to what the bid was. He asked for a letter to be written, by the consultant, which they have to do if the bid is more than 10% over the engineers estimate and they cite the costs of the pre-cast concrete deck beams and concrete structures as items that were over the estimate. Even though it is 14% over the engineers estimate he asks for its approval.

**MOTION** by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution awarding of contract for a bridge located approximately 1 mile East of Urbana in Urbana Road District Section #06-30928-00-BR; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

**Resolution awarding of contract for the installation of pipe drains along County Highway 17 from Ivesdale to Sadorus – Section #08-00420-00-DR**

Mr. Blue explained Central Illinois Tile Company out of Champaign was the only bidder. The engineers estimate was \$408,594 and the single bid was \$288,997 which is 29% under our estimate.

**MOTION** by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution awarding of contract for the installation of pipe drains along County Highway 17 from Ivesdale to Sadorus Section #08-00420-00-DR; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

**Resolution authorizing the County Board Chair to sign a Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation for County Highway 17 (from County highway 19 westerly to 1 mile South of Ivesdale) and appropriating \$400,000 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds – Section #08-00420-00-RS**

Mr. Blue stated this is the project between Ivesdale and Sadorus. The engineers estimate is around 2 million dollars, the Federal Aid Participation Agreement says the County will fund \$400,000 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds and federal aid will be in the amount of \$1.6 million dollars.

**MOTION** by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution authorizing the County Board Chair to sign a Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation for County Highway 17 (from County Highway 19 westerly to 1 mile South of Ivesdale) and appropriating \$400,000 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds – Section #08-00420-00-RS.

Mr. Weibel asked why there is Federal participation on this project.

Mr. Blue explained all of Champaign County's Highways are federal aid highways; at one time they were all on the state system and have been turned back over to the County so we can use federal dollars for their reconstruction.

Mr. O'Connor asked if an 80/20 split is normal.

Mr. Blue stated this it is normal and explained that IDOT came to him in January because they have a couple million dollars in appropriation for other projects which will not be ready and asked if we had anything that could be ready by April, and we did. He did not anticipate getting this money this year and put this on the fast track as a result.

**Motion carried.**

**Resolution appropriating \$400,000 from County Bridge Funds for the replacement of Structure #3013 located on County Highway 22 in Compromise Road District – Section #06-00924-00-BR**

Mr. Blue explained this is one of two structures between Penfield and Royal that was due to get the Economic Program Development Funds. He passed out a letter to the committee stating what he had mentioned at the last meeting, that due to the fact that Heartland Ethanol has made it known that the plant construction project is in jeopardy due to financing, IDOT has said they will not be funding the bridge work until they receive confirmation that the construction is moving forward. He tried to contact Heartland Ethanol to get such a letter from them but he hasn't been able to get in touch with anyone. IDOT wants a letter by March 11<sup>th</sup> stating their intentions for the construction of the plant. The bridges are currently being reconstructed and we have to have money to do that. This item along with the next resolution for approval are appropriating the money from the bridge fund to fill the gap the program funds were to be covering.

**MOTION** by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution appropriating \$400,000 from County Bridge Funds for the replacement of Structure #3013 located on County Highway 22 in Compromise Road District Section #06-00924-00-BR; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried.**

**Resolution appropriating \$250,000 from County Bridge Funds for the replacement of structure #3015 located on County Highway 22 in Ogden Road District – Section #06-00923-00-BR**

Mr. Blue stated this is the smaller of the structures and the resolution appropriates \$250,000 from the bridge fund for its replacement.

**MOTION** by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution Appropriating \$250,000 from County Bridge Funds for the replacement of structure #3015 located on County Highway 22 in Ogden Road District Section #06-00923-00-BR; seconded by Carter.

Mr. Jay asked if we have the money to do these bridges.

Mr. Blue explained they had a bridge on County Road 9 that was due for reconstruction this year which is in worse shape than the two in question here. These bridges were going to be replaced in the next three years but they moved them up before the other one which they have put off for a year. They will do monthly inspections on that bridge to make sure it doesn't become a hazard and unless it does, it will be held off until next construction season.

Mr. O'Connor asked if there is a time limit on this and if we were to receive a letter by March 11 stating the plant will be built but in the future, what would happen? Mr. Blue stated he doesn't believe they will get any money until they start building something, he is under the impression that if the plant comes, the money comes. Ms. McGrath stated the statute of limitations is usually three years.

### **Highway Maintenance Facility Open House**

Mr. Blue explained the office areas at the new facility are 99% done, carpet is in and they will start moving office furniture in next week. The maintenance and shop areas are still being worked on and he still anticipates completion of the interior before the exterior. If the weather doesn't cooperate in the near future he is not sure when we will get the asphalt work done. He agrees an open house is a great idea and he believes it will be May before everything looks good enough to do that. He is hesitant to pick a date this early.

Committee consensus to wait until April to get another update and go from there.

**ADDENDUM**

**Closed Session**

**MOTION** by Jay to enter into Closed Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 11 for the purpose of discussing pending litigation on behalf of the County Board; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried** with a 5/0 roll call vote. Voting yes were Cowart, Carter, Jay, Langenheim and O'Connor.

The committee entered into closed session at 9:25 a.m.

The committee entered back into open session at 9:49 a.m.

**Other Business**

**Approval of Closed Session Minutes – February 8, 2008**

**MOTION** by O'Connor to approve the closed session minutes of February 8, 2008 as presented; seconded by Jay. **Motion carried.**

**Determination of Consent Agenda Items**

Committee consensus that all items will be placed on the County Board consent agenda.

**Adjournment**

Chair Cowart declared the meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott  
Administrative Secretary

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**

Approved  
7/11/08

**Highway & Transportation Committee  
Lyle Shields Meeting Room  
Brookens Administrative Center**

**March 7, 2008 - 9:00 a.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cowart, Carter, Jay, Langenheim, O'Connor

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Beckett, Bensyl, Knott, Melin

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jeff Blue, Legal Council, Recording Secretary

**MOTION** by Jay to enter into Closed Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 11 for the purpose of discussing pending litigation on behalf of the County Board; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried** with a 5/0 roll call vote. Voting yes were Cowart, Carter, Jay, Langenheim and O'Connor.

The committee entered into closed session at 9:25 a.m.

Mr. Blue explained originally there was a resolution for Curtis Road phase two which appropriated \$500,000 for the property acquisition along Curtis. He provided the members with a spreadsheet showing all the different land owners on Curtis explaining what is important is the discussion they had regarding the costs to purchase this land based on negotiations. There are a number of parcels, ten of them, that have been paid to date for the land we have negotiated for. For parcel #42, the Luther Henderson parcel, we have an agreement for the \$49,000 payment to them and we are still discussing verbiage that goes into the documents for that property.

Ms. McGrath stated that regarding the Lowe property, our appraiser has estimated the value at \$560,000 for those three parcels; that is according to an appraisal he did in 2006. The Lowes have come back with different counter offers and \$852,000, while still too high, is more in line with where we will end up. At this point we have not responded to that offer because we are waiting for Champaign and Savoy to tell us where they would like to go with it. It is possible we will stay where we are but we may look at a small increase on top of that. She expects to hear back from Champaign & Savoy in the next couple of weeks.

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Mr. Jay asked if the appraisal of the Lowe property was fair.

Ms. McGrath stated the original estimate of \$560,000 was too low so we came back with a counter offer of \$705,000 knowing that would give us a little room for negotiation. They are at \$852,000 and we are at \$705,000, realistically we could go to \$760,000 and not be too high. The largest parcel, parcel 40, spreads almost the entire way and involves Champaign, Savoy and the County.

Mr. Blue stated the majority of projects he has been involved with there were people who have fought the right of way because they didn't want the project, in this case we have people that want the project to happen we are just arguing over money. People think their property is worth more than we think it is. The Lowe's have known this was coming, the road is not the problem it is simply a business proposition for them.

Mr. Jay stated he is opposed to eminent domain but he understands it has to be used at times. He wants to ensure we are being fair to the people involved and doing the right thing.

Ms. McGrath stated with Prospect Point we realized their appraisal was too low because we did not take some factors into account. We reviewed that and took into account that we need to accommodate them for what they are doing.

Mr. Blue referred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> sheet and the number at the top which is the County's piece of the pie to pay land owners for their property. The costs are for appraisals and for people at the city to do all the leg work so our total cost is \$731,000. In the original resolution where we appropriated money for acquisition we appropriated \$518,000 so we are short. If all these estimates are correct we will be coming back for additional money.

Ms. Cowart declared the meeting back in open session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott  
Administrative Secretary