

**Champaign County Board
Committee Minutes**

**Highway & Transportation Committee
Friday, April 17, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.
Highway Department Building Meeting Room**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cowart, Beckett, Carter, Jay, Kurtz, O'Connor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bensyl, Knott, Langenheim

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue, John Cooper, Debby Wagner, Pius Weibel,
Susan McGrath

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 Carter to approve the agenda; seconded by Beckett. There was no addendum. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes – March 6, 2009

MOTION by Jay to approve the minutes of March 6, 2009 as presented; seconded by Kurtz. **Motion carried.**

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Monthly Reports

County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – March 2009

MOTION by Beckett to receive and place on file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for March 2009; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

County Engineer

Petition – Compromise Road District

Mr. Blue explained these are simple culverts in need of replacement, the estimated cost is \$8,400 and we would pay for half out of the County Bridge Fund.

MOTION by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Petition for Compromise Road District; seconded by Beckett.

When asked if this is just replacing the tube itself Mr. Blue explained it is just the culvert and the township will actually be doing the work.

Motion carried.

Resolution Appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for County Engineer's Salary and Expenses for 2009

MOTION by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution Appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for County Engineer's Salary and Expenses for 2009; seconded by Beckett. **Motion carried.**

Resolution Authorizing the County Board Chair to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with Mahomet Road District for the Snow Removal and Ice Control of County Highways 50 and 54 in Champaign County

Mr. Blue explained the roads in question are local roads in the Mahomet area around the Lake of the Woods. The township has been taking care of them for ten years through an old agreement that has run out and he wanted a new agreement so everything is up to date and legal. These roads are removed from any other type of snow route we have and they are difficult for his guys to get to.

MOTION by Beckett to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution Authorizing the County Board Chair to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with Mahomet Road District for the Snow Removal and Ice Control of County Highways 50 and 54 in Champaign County; seconded by Kurtz.

Mr. Blue explained the county orders and stores for the township 200 tons of rock salt per year. They use 300-400 tons per year so this is a little over half for all their roadways. There is no actual money exchanged, this is our only payment to them for their man hours and equipment so it is a good deal for everyone.

Motion carried.

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Resolution Awarding of contract for the 2009 Bituminous Materials for Various Townships – Section #09-00000-00-GM

Mr. Blue explained this is the seal coat they use to maintain their roadways and every year they have the townships decide how much liquid asphalt they need and they combine those together to have one big letting for all the townships. This year the volume was lower because the prices are higher and this year's low bid was \$2.22 per gallon where it was \$1.59 last year. It did go up although the \$2.22 is consistent with bids that are happening around the state and is actually better than most have received; their estimate was \$2.60 per gallon.

When asked how this works, he explained they go to the asphalt plant with a tanker that is filled up and taken out to the roadway where the distributor draws it out and sprays it on the roadway before the aggregate material. The \$2.22 includes everything until the asphalt hits the ground; it pays for the shipping and spreading of the material. Illiana is the local company and even though it is higher than last year, it is still good.

MOTION by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution Awarding of contract for the 2009 Bituminous Materials for Various Townships – Section #09-00000-00-GM; seconded by Carter.

Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5) for the purpose of considering the purchase or lease of real property for the use of Champaign County

MOTION by Beckett to enter into closed session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (5) for the purpose of considering the purchase or lease of real property for the use of Champaign County with the County Engineer, legal council and recording secretary remaining present; seconded by

Kurtz. Motion carried with a 6/0 roll call vote. Voting yes was Cowart, Beckett, Carter, Jay, Kurtz and O'Connor.

The committee entered into closed session at 9:13 a.m.

The committee returned to open session at 9:42 a.m.

Resolution Authorizing Negotiations for Certain Property by Purchase related to the Improvement Project of County Highway 18

MOTION by Beckett to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution Authorizing Negotiations for Certain Property by Purchase related to the Improvement Project of County Highway 18; seconded by Kurtz. **Motion carried** with O'Connor abstaining.

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Mr. Blue explained he has an additional item he received from the Illinois Association of County Board Members. It is a resolution being passed through all counties to urge passage of a program in the State of Illinois concerning MFT taxes and how they have only gone up 10% over the last 8 years while construction costs have gone up 90%. Basically it is saying if there is a capital program we need to make sure that bill has a piece included for local government and not just for projects they pick and choose but it needs to be put in the MFT formula so everyone receives a share. This cannot be voted on because it is not on the agenda but it will be on the County Board agenda.

Mr. Blue also informed the committee they have a 1995 crew cab, double door truck with 221,000 miles on it they use for the replacement of signs that needs to be replaced. It is on the budget for 2009 and off of the state bid it will cost \$25,087. He doesn't need formal passage by the committee but wanted to provide it for information.

He also reported he had a meeting with the wind farm developer for Champaign County and their land developer and construction people to start the conversations about the road use agreement. We have hired an attorney and will be negotiating with them to get something finalized over the next few months. Although he doesn't foresee any problems with that, he will continue reporting to the committee.

Mr. Kurtz asked for an update on the Curtis Road Project. Mr. Blue explained there is a three quarter chunk in the middle still in the county under township jurisdiction. Five days before construction the township

said they knew nothing about the process, which has been going on for years and there have been more than 10 meetings about this which they have been noticed on. They are using this as a chip in their negotiation for the annexation issues they are having with the city. There was a meeting last week with the City of Champaign, the County, Savoy and IDOT to discuss our options and at this time the city and village are pursuing annexing that property immediately because if we don't get a resolution to this problem it could hold up construction. There is still work that can be done at this point but if this doesn't get resolved by May the project could be suspended or terminated. There is only one land owner along this corridor and that is the Lo family, the village says negotiations are going good and by statute if the city annexes property on either side the township is out of the picture. There are agreements that can be done where the township can agree to give up jurisdiction to the county, we have offered that to the township as well as them being a party to the original agreement but they have rejected both offers. This is not about money because they get only \$1,300 per mile to maintain the roadway; this is about their turf wars with Champaign. He is trying to stay neutral but they have approached Susan McGrath about the county forcibly taking jurisdiction of the road and we are looking into that.

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Ms. McGrath stated she has spoke with the city about the process of negotiations with the Lo family and it all appears to be going well. They are hopeful this will conclude in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Blue explained it could have been worked out if there hadn't been a change in Road Commissioners. The only work currently being done is in Savoy limits and they are proceeding in a manner that the project would but that can only go on for about another month then at that time the project could get terminated or suspended. If it is suspended the contractor has to be moved off the job and we will be charged for it. The good thing is that the money appropriated to this project by the Federal Highway Administration is earmarked so it cannot be put on another project.

Other Business

Review of Closed Session Minutes

MOTION by Beckett to defer this item; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Determination of Consent Agenda Items

Items 6A, B and D will be on the consent agenda.

Adjournment

Chair Cowart declared the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Approved 8/20/99

Highway & Transportation Committee
Lyle Shields Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center

April 17, 2009 – 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cowart, Beckett, Carter, Jay, Kurtz, O'Connor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bensyl, Knott, Langenheim

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue, Legal Counsel, Recording Secretary

MOTION by Beckett to enter into Closed Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (5) for the purpose of considering the purchase or lease of real property for the use of Champaign County; seconded by Kurtz. Motion carried with a 6/0 roll call vote. Voting yes was Cowart, Beckett, Carter, Jay, Kurtz and O'Connor

The Committee entered into closed session at 9:13 a.m.

Mr. Blue reported they have gone through the design phase of the Monticello Road project which is County Highway 18 from Piatt County to Route 45. It includes the first 2 1/2 miles to route 57 from 45 and will be a micro-surfacing widening of the shoulders with curb and gutter being placed along the north side of the roadway. From 57 over to county highway 6 it will be an overlay widening and building of the shoulders as well as sloping of the ditches and from route 6 over to the Piatt County line it will be widening of shoulders, paving of both shoulders and sloping of the ditches. Because this road has been pieced together they are trying to get all surfaces of the roadways in relatively the same shape and on the same timeline. Once they have done 6 foot shoulders on each side 4 feet will be paved and they will have rumble strips on the center line as well as on the edge line. The estimated cost is in the 5 million dollar range and it is a highway safety improvement project. He made a petition to the Federal Highway Administration for some safety dollars because of the high crash rate on the roadway. The bid date is November of this year and there are a number of right of way parcels that need to be acquired along the roadway as well as temporary easements in order to make this project come to fruition.

He distributed information to the committee with all parcel numbers, their owners and what needs to be acquired. They have come to an estimated fair market value for the right of ways based on going to the Assessors office and looking at record of deed and sales of property in the area and the average value of an acre of land came out to be \$5,617.27. They have put a minimum dollar amount on all takings of right of way of \$500. The fair market value of the temporary easements was based on a full year of loss of crop plus some value for the farmer to re-work the ground the following year, valued at \$375.00 per each easement.

The right of way takings are all very small and the hope is because of the small amount of takings and because they are adjacent to the roadway they won't have any impact on any homes or trees, it is all basically farm ground. The total estimated fair market value of the right of way is \$33,139 and temporary easements are \$15,000. They need some wiggle room to negotiate so he is asking for a 15% buffer on top of the numbers to negotiate with the land owners. It will actually be cash to the land owner; if there is a tile or a tree that needs to be removed they will negotiate those outside of the cash value from us to them. He is asking for authority to negotiate fair market value with these land owners on behalf of the county. He hopes to have a public meeting on this project in the next month, they are doing everything by the book based on IDOT standards and the record keeping while doing these negotiations is substantial.

Ms. McGrath stated, unlike with Curtis Road, we are not looking at quick take authority for this project. She is not bringing an eminent domain authority request to the board at this point, if necessary she could later but now they are just looking for negotiation authority.

When asked who did previous negotiation for us, Mr. Blue explained it was Don Archer, working on behalf of the City of Champaign. Mr. Archer is now retired and has started his own business but they met with him because although they felt his negotiating skills were a little arm twisting he has been doing this for a number of years so he got them pointed in the right direction on how to document everything so that if we ever do get audited by IDOT, we would have the proper paperwork. Doing this on our own is going to save us money.

When asked about stimulus money for this project, Mr. Blue explained they asked that the \$597,000 received in stimulus money be applied to this project. He explained there is no Intergovernmental Agreement with Piatt County because we are stopping on that county line. This is our second highest traffic corridor after the Homer Sidney Road. The safety improvement is desperately needed and it is to be bid in November, construction would start next spring and be completed by next fall.

Mr. Blue stated if they find they cannot purchase the property for the land values plus the 15% they may have to come back. Mr. Beckett stated it appears that in light of the experience with Curtis Road he believes they have done their homework and it seems reasonable to him.

A straw poll showed all in favor of giving negotiation authority.

Mr. Blue stated the next project is County Highway 22 north of Penfield; it is a bridge over the Salt Fork which is another federal aid project to be bid later this year and constructed next year. The right of ways are low land close to the bridge, they are not even farmable but it is still property they need to obtain. There are no temporary easements but the proposed right of ways are still in the 10th of an acre range and they are looking at \$4,000 an acre. The estimate is 1.5 million and it is set for a fall letting through IDOT federal highway project. It is a high priority bridge project where you have to apply for it because the cost of the bridge is over 1 million dollars and these are awarded 4 to 5 years in advance of construction so you have time to get through everything. The bridge is about 250 feet long and is in terrible shape. It could be a winter construction project depending on the availability of workers. It isn't a heavily traveled road but it will be closed and there will be a detour around. He is asking for the same authority on this project with the same negotiating range.

Straw poll showed all in favor of giving negotiation authority.

Ms. Cowart declared the committee back into open session at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary