



**Champaign County Board
Highway & Transportation Committee
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois**

MINUTES – Approved 11/06/2015

DATE: Friday, October 2, 2015
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Highway Building Conference Room
1605 East Main, Urbana, IL

Committee Members

Present	Absent
Lorraine Cowart (Chair)	
	Lloyd Carter (Vice Chair)
Christopher Alix	
Shana Harrison	
	John Jay
Jim McGuire	
Diane Michaels	
	Max Mitchell

County Staff: Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Linda Lane (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: Patti Petrie (County Board Chair)

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. Roll Call

A verbal roll call was taken and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Mr. Alix to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Harrison. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

IV. Approval of Minutes September 4, 2015

MOTION by Mr. Alix to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2015 meeting; seconded by Mr. McGuire. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

V. Public Participation

None

VI. Communications

None

VII. County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – September 2015

MOTION by Ms. Michaels to receive and place on file the County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for September 2015; seconded by Ms. Harrison. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

VIII. Ogden Township #14-17016-00-BR – Bid Review

Mr. Blue reminded everyone that he was given authority to award a contract for the bridge project in Ogden Township, about a mile east of Royal. He stated the engineer's estimate is \$472,000 and said all the bids were tight, with Newell Construction being the low bidder at \$465,323.45. Mr. Blue said the job will start in April of 2016, and should be completed before harvest. He said it will take the majority of the summer to do the project.

Mr. Maxwell asked where exactly this is located. Mr. Blue replied that it is on old County Road 20 out of Royal to the east, about ¼ mile from the county line.

IX. Other Business

Mr. Blue passed out an invitation to an IDOT public outreach meeting. He said it has nothing to do with Highway's program for next year, but they will probably talk about the I57/I74 interchange and other projects coming up in the next five years. He thought this would be more of a question and answer type meeting.

Mr. Blue said that as a county engineer in Champaign County, and being a county engineer in the state of Illinois, he is a member of the National Association of County Engineers. He said the Illinois delegation has nominated him to be the North-Central Regional Vice-President of the National Association of County Engineers for the next two years. He stated that if it was alright with the Committee he would like to accept that nomination. Mr. Blue said the position would be representing Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. He stated it would require more travel, which NAC would pay for. He explained that it is a time commitment but is something that he would like to run for. Mr. Maxwell thought it was a great idea and would be a value to Mr. Blue and the County. Mr. McGuire thanked Mr. Blue for putting his time into these extra things to represent the County. Ms. Petrie asked the time frame. Mr. Blue said it would begin immediately and go to April 2017.

Ms. Harrison asked Mr. Blue how many people weren't working because of the State budget issue. Mr. Blue replied they are still doing everything they planned to do. He commented that the Townships and the County usually set up their programs for next year about this time of year. He explained that all the seal coating work and maintenance work on the Township and County Roads would have a plan that would be sent to IDOT for approval so they could have lettings in November for the aggregate hauling. He stated that in April they usually have their oil letting. Mr. Blue said the major seal coat contractor in town won't have much, if any, work next year, affecting about a dozen employees. Mr. Blue said they aren't putting together a road construction plan for next year due to the uncertainty of how much money they will have. He felt it would be about \$5-6 million worth of work that contractors and employees won't have next year. Mr. Blue said they have no plans for layoffs because our employees are funded through the highway fund instead of the MFT fund. He stated that if the money comes in January or February it will be too late to put a program together, meaning they will skip a year of construction and maintenance, which is never good. Ms. Harrison asked about the program for 2017. Mr. Blue answered that presumably it would be larger if they get all the money they should, but it will be affected by supply and demand.

Ms. Petrie commented that they could pool funds to make sure there is work next year so the price variability doesn't come into play. She said there would need to be an intergovernmental agreement to do it, but would be a way to counter what Mr. Blue described. Mr. Blue said there will be a significant amount of construction work in Champaign because of the MFCORE project. Ms. Petrie said she was thinking of the price factor the various governmental entities are going to have to eat. Mr. Alix asked how much of a price drop they could expect to see for next year in terms of contractors. Ms. Petrie asked if he was thinking of borrowing. Mr. Alix answered yes. Ms. Michaels asked if they meant bonding for the short term. Mr. Alix said he meant bonding. Mr. Maxwell stated that counties have been able to bond on MFT but felt people won't buy the bonds due to the uncertainty of the MFT receipts. He thinks it's a serious concern because they've swept funds before. Mr. McGuire felt they would keep that money and say you've done so fine without it, and use it to pay the \$3 billion they haven't had to borrow. Ms. Harrison suggested that county engineers at the national level could influence legislators. Ms. Petrie asked if this

was worth having a more serious conversation about and getting more information on these possibilities. Mr. Alix said he will look into it and has to talk with our bond council next week. Ms. Petrie said this is an exploratory conversation but if they could figure a way to level the 2016-2017 years it might save money in the end. Mr. McGuire said the only other possibility is to sue them for it. Mr. Alix stated that is another option. Mr. Blue wondered if they could force us to pay our bills. He said that Dewey-Fisher is state-funded, where the State sends us a bill for our portion. Mr. Alix said they've discussed doing that with Health Alliance for the money they owe us for the Nursing Home and said it isn't outside the realm of possibility.

Mr. Blue briefly explained the route they would be taking for the tour of current and future projects. He said the engineer for the East Olympian Drive project will meet them. He said they are paving Dewey-Fisher today. Mr. Blue said the engineer will be at the West Olympian Drive project as well. He said they will also go by the intersection project at Cardinal and Rising that will be done next year.

X. Chair's Report

None

XI. Designation of Items to be placed on consent agenda

None

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Cowart adjourned the meeting at 9:28 am.

***Please note the minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.*