



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

***MINUTES – Approved 1/8/2016***

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DATE: Friday, November 6, 2015  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.  
PLACE: Highway Building Conference Room  
1605 East Main, Urbana, IL

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**Committee Members**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Linda Lane (Recording Secretary)

**Others Present:** Patti Petrie (County Board Chair)

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***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. Mitchell to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**IV. Approval of Minutes October 2, 2015**

**MOTION** by Mr. Mitchell to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2015 meeting; seconded by Mr. Jay. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**V. Public Participation**

None

**VI. Communications**

None

**VII. County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – October 2015**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jay to receive and place on file the County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for October 2015; seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**VIII. Resolution Appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the salary and estimated expenses of the County Engineer for the period from December 1, 2015 thru November 30, 2016**

Mr. Blue began by providing a handout from the attorney for the Illinois Association of County Engineers regarding the legality of holding MFT funds. He said the attorney's opinion is that the funds are part of an annual appropriation, and without a budget, there will be no appropriations. He stated that the County Engineers Association is going to push legislation to move MFT into a continuing appropriation line when the budget is passed. He said there is nothing they can do legally to force them to pay. Mr. Blue referred to a News Gazette article that said MFT payments are \$181 million behind to local agencies. He said IDOT is in a similar state where they are buying gas, oil, salt, etc. using credit cards. He commented that the Deputy Director of Transportation said they are waiting for the day the WEX cards are denied, because WEX payments haven't been made since June. Mr. Blue noted that Champaign County still has \$3.7 million in MFT, with \$2.3 million already obligated, of which Dewey-Fisher is part of the obligation, even though a bill from the State hasn't been received. He felt that after winter they won't be able to do anything and have told the townships they won't be able to either.

Mr. Blue stated this is the annual resolution for the salary of the County Engineer's salary that transfers 50% of the county engineer's salary from the federal funds into County MFT. Ms. Petrie commented that she is hearing that action on the budget may happen in January and wanted to know if we were all right until then. Mr. Blue replied yes, but if it goes to June, they are in trouble. Ms. Michaels felt that because of the resolution and letter we will be all right, but that they are also banking on money to come in for the offset. She asked if federal will be status quo in regards to receiving. Mr. Blue said yes.

He noted that the State said the County and Townships should put their maintenance programs together so they will be on file if the money becomes available. Mr. Blue said they followed normal procedures, but won't do any projects until the money is available.

**MOTION** by Mr. McGuire to approve; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**IX. Resolution Appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for County Roads Maintenance for the period from January 1, 2016 thru December 31, 2016. Section #16-00000-00-GM**

Mr. Blue explained that this is the resolution for the annual maintenance appropriations and covers a list of normal maintenance costs. He said the appropriation needed for 2016 maintenance for MFT is \$747,300, but explained that they won't do anything until the money becomes available.

Ms. Michaels asked if the amount was the same as last year. Mr. Blue replied its close. He noted that they might go over due to salt and may have to send a revised estimate to IDOT. He said they are working as they normally would but that they are not planning any major road construction projects. Mr. Blue commented that there will be a lot of construction projects next year even without MFT due to the I-74 overlay and MCORE. He felt the major contractors would be fine, but the seal coat companies may suffer.

**MOTION** by Ms. Michaels to approve; seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**X. Petition and Resolution for Raymond Township, Section #15-21024-00-BR**

Mr. Blue stated that this resolution is to replace three round pipes with a box culvert. He said Highway will purchase the culvert and Raymond Township will put it in. He said this is a 50/50 cost-share project with an estimated cost of \$18,000 for total replacement.

**MOTION** by Mr. Jay to approve; seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**XI. Olympian Drive Update**

Mr. Blue said the deck on the bridge has been poured and the road will be open before the snow. He noted the total project will not be completed this year unless there is great weather in December and January. He said there is still a lot of asphalt work to do along the shoulders and concrete work to tie the roadway and bridge together.

**XII. Dewey Fisher Road Update**

Mr. Blue noted that this project is 99% complete and open to traffic. He said they had an issue with the subcontractor for the guardrails, but that a secondary subcontractor will replace them in December. He stated that there is still some punch list work to be done. Mr. Blue said the widened shoulders should help with farm traffic while the rumble strips should keep people between the lines. Mr. Blue said they have not yet received a bill from IDOT for this project.

Ms. Cowart asked about the condition of our bridges. Mr. Blue replied that new bridges are inspected every four years, bridges that are 10 years old are done every two years, and older ones near the end of their useful life are inspected every year. He said there are less than five bridges that are on one-year inspections, and said there is one bridge in the County that is posted at 15 tons. He noted that they have applied for funds for this bridge, but explained that major bridge fund applications take five years. He felt this would probably be about a \$1.5 million project to replace the bridge. Mr. Blue said there is a bridge with a lot of corrosion that is under contract with an engineer for the design work. He said that the County bridges are in good shape and most of the township bridges are as well. He stated some are too narrow to accommodate current agricultural traffic, but are structurally sufficient. He said that some language in the Federal Transportation Bill giving states the authority to allows 91,000-pound vehicles, but he didn't know how many of the County bridges could handle that. He said that all of the County bridges could handle the current 80,000 pounds.

Mr. McGuire asked if they could restrict those vehicles to certain roads in the county. Mr. Blue said they can post roadways but don't know how they can enforce it. He said that most people will pay attention to bridge postings, but no so much to road postings. Ms. Michaels felt that we have been very diligent keeping our roads up to date. Mr. Blue commented that we are lucky to have the tax base we do that many other counties don't have. He said the County Bridge, the County Highway Department, and the County Highway fund receive an appropriate share of the growth in the taxes, but said that could come to an end for a couple years. Ms. Busey said it will come to an end if legislation is passed, depending on how it's structured.

**XIII. Other Business**

Mr. Jay commented that the building appraisal said the salt dome needs to be replaced and asked if Mr. Blue was aware of this. Mr. Blue replied no. He said the roof had recently been replaced. Ms. Busey said she didn't know if it needed to be torn down but that there is a lot of corrosion. She said the roof was cited, but thought it's what's under the roof that's the problem. She said the salt dome does have a deferred maintenance budget line. Mr. Blue explained that it will need maintenance over the years and once the bond is paid off next year, they plan to use that money for maintenance of the highway facilities. Mr. Jay asked if that will be enough money. Ms. Busey answered not according to the report.

**XIV. Chair's Report**

None

**XV. Designation of Items to be placed on consent agenda**

Ms. Cowart stated that items VIII, IX, and X are to be placed on the consent agenda

**XVI. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. Cowart adjourned the meeting at 9:37 am.

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