



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

***MINUTES – APPROVED AUGUST 11, 2023***

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**DATE:** Friday, May 5, 2023  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.  
**PLACE:** Lorraine Cowart Conference Room  
1605 East Main Street, Urbana, Illinois

**Committee Members**

**Present:** Lorraine Cowart, Samantha Carter, Diane Michaels, Brett Peugh, Tom “Ed” Sexton,  
Jennifer Straub, Leah Taylor

**Absent:**

**County Staff:** Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Michelle Carter (Office Manager/Accountant),  
Steve Summers (County Executive), John Cooper (Assistant County Engineer), Chris  
Stohr (County Board member)

**Others Present:** Jenny Putman (Retired County Board member), Kevan Stone (NACE Executive  
Director), family members of Lorraine Cowart

***MINUTES***

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

**II. Roll Call**

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

**III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum**

**MOTION** by Carter to approve the agenda; seconded by Straub.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**IV. Approval of Minutes – April 5, 2023**

**MOTION** by Michaels to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2023 meeting; seconded by Taylor.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**

**V. Public Participation**

None

**VI. Communications**

Carter expressed warm sentiments for Ms. Cowart and thanked her for her service to the community. Michaels stated this is a monumental day and said it has been a pleasure serving with Ms. Cowart. Ms. Cowart thanked God for putting her in this position and thanked Mr. Blue and Mr. Summers for suggesting that she be honored with the dedication of the Highway

Conference Room. Ms. Cowart thanked everyone who has supported her and thanked the voters for continuing to elect her.

**VII. County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims-April 2023**

**MOTION** by Michaels to receive and place on file the County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for April 2023; seconded by Straub.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**VIII. National Association of County Engineers Executive Director, Kevan Stone-NACE Overview**

Mr. Blue said he has been honored to move through the ranks of the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) the last several years. In April of this year, at the National Meeting in Alabama, Mr. Blue was moved to the rank of President of the Association. Mr. Blue introduced Mr. Kevan Stone, the Executive Director of the NACE. Mr. Stone congratulated Ms. Cowart and gave a quick overview of NACE. Mr. Stone thanked the County Board members for allowing Mr. Blue to serve the last several years. Mr. Stone offered his assistance to the County and said he looks forward to working with Mr. Blue this year. Mr. Blue thanked Mr. Stone and said NACE is a wonderful organization to be a part of and he looks forward to the year with Mr. Stone.

**IX. Petition Requesting and Resolution Approving Appropriation of Funds from the County Bridge Fund, Rantoul-Stanton Township, Section #23-28130-00-BR**

Mr. Blue stated there is a bridge located on County Road 2400N between Section 4 in Stanton Township and Section 32 in Rantoul Township that is in poor condition. The bridge deck replacement is estimated to cost \$600,000. The townships are prepared to pay their equalized share of 50% of the local cost for construction and 50% of the engineering.

**MOTION** by Michaels to approve the resolution; seconded by Carter.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**X. Petition Requesting and Resolution Approving Appropriation of Funds from the County Bridge Fund, Ayers Township, Section #23-01131-00-BR**

Mr. Blue said there is a bridge located on County Road 400N between Sections 8 and 17 in Ayers Township that is in poor condition. Ayers Road District is prepared to pay 50% of the local cost for construction and 50% of the engineering costs associated with the replacement of the structure. The estimated cost for replacement of the bridge deck is \$300,000.

**MOTION** by Carter to approve the resolution; seconded by Taylor.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**XI. Petition Requesting and Resolution Approving Appropriation of Funds from the County Bridge Fund, Ogden Township, Section #23-17132-00-BR**

**XII. Petition Requesting and Resolution Approving Appropriation of Funds from the County Bridge Fund, Ogden Township, Section #23-17133-00-BR**

Mr. Blue stated there are 2 bridges in Ogden Township that are in poor condition and need replaced. Each bridge deck replacement is estimated to cost \$300,000. Ogden Township is prepared to pay 50% of the local cost for construction and 50% of the engineering costs.

**OMNIBUS MOTION** by Straub to approve both resolutions for Ogden Township; seconded by Sexton.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**XIII. Petition Requesting and Resolution Approving Appropriation of Funds from the County Bridge**

**Fund, Ludlow Township, Section #23-14134-00-BR**

Mr. Blue discussed a bridge located on County Road 3400N in Ludlow Township that is in poor condition and needs replaced. The estimated cost of replacement is \$300,000. Ludlow township is prepared to pay 50% of the local cost for construction and 50% of the engineering costs associated with the bridge deck replacement.

**MOTION** by Michaels to approve the resolution; seconded by Sexton.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**XIV. Petition Requesting and Resolution Approving Appropriation of Funds from the County Bridge Fund, Somer-Urbana Township, Section #23-30135-00-BR**

Mr. Blue discussed a culvert located at the intersection of Airport Road and Highcross Road which is in poor condition. The culvert is located between Section 34 in Somer Township and Section 3 in Urbana Township on the township line. Each township is prepared to pay their equalized share of 50% of the cost of replacement. The estimated cost to replace the culvert is \$50,000.

**MOTION** by Carter to approve the resolution; seconded by Peugh.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**XV. Petition Requesting and Resolution Approving Appropriation of Funds from the County Bridge Fund, Crittenden Township, Section #23-08137-00-BR**

Mr. Blue stated there is a culvert located between section 12 and 13 in Crittenden Township that needs replaced. The estimated cost of replacement is \$27,500.00. Crittenden Township is prepared to pay one-half the cost of replacement.

**MOTION** by Michaels to approve the resolution; seconded by Carter.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**XVI. Resolution for Contract Award Authority, CH 6 Section #22-00121-00-BR**

Mr. Blue said that due to availability of materials for constructing steel bridges, it is in the best interest of Champaign County to award the contract as early as possible for the bridge repair on County Highway 6. Mr. Blue requested award authority which allows him to accept the low bid for construction on behalf of Champaign County if he believes the bid is in the best interest of the public. The letting is set for June 1, 2023.

**MOTION** by Straub to approve the resolution; seconded by Sexton.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**XVII. Other Business**

**XVIII. Chair's Report**

None

**XIX. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda**

Cowart stated that items IX thru XVI be placed on the consent agenda.

**XX. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Cowart adjourned the meeting at 9:55 AM.

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