

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES
HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION

Friday May 6, 2005 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Room 1, Brookens Administrative Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cowart, Bensyl, Carter, Feinen, Gross, Jay,
Langenheim, O'Connor, Weibel

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue, Tracy Wingler, Barb Wysocki,
John Cooper, Debby Wagner, Sheriff Walsh,

Call to order

Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Declaring a quorum present, the chair proceeded with the meeting.

Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Bensyl to approve the agenda; seconded by Weibel. There was no addendum for the meeting. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes – April 8, 2005

MOTION by Jay to approve the minutes of April 8, 2005 as presented; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Monthly Reports

County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims- April 2005

MOTION by Jay to receive and place on file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax claims for April 2005; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

County Engineer

Resolution for funding fringe roads

Jeff Blue explained that after the last Highway meeting he had a conversation with County Administrator Deb Busey where they discussed looking at increasing the MFT allocation level by a certain percentage per year. She reviewed her files and found that on average the fund experiences a 4% increase although from 2001 to 2004 it had gone down or held steady. He stated he is concerned about increasing the numbers but decided to do so in the spreadsheets at the same rate he increased construction costs, 3% per year.

The first spreadsheet he presented to the committee shows Champaign County with a 2.8 million MFT, a 3% increase per year and a new highway building in 2006. Assuming the 7 million dollars will come to Curtis Road and meeting all of our current obligations with no money allocated in the future for urban construction, we spend down our balance until 2012 when we go into the red and stay there. The second spreadsheet shows the County meeting its current obligations and after that imposing a 1 million dollar urban cap. He used the same numbers for MFT allocations, included the 7 million dollars and capping everything beyond the Curtis Road project. This option will take us farther into the hole by 2016. The last spreadsheet includes a 1 million dollar urban cap right away with everything else staying the same. With this option, it would take us years to pay off our current obligations, it spreads our commitment out for a longer period of time and we will end up in the hole in 2016.

He explained that the million dollar cap will roll over if we do not spend that amount each year. Most of the projects we are involved in are spaced out and he believes 1 million dollars per year is a feasible solution that the Cities and Village of Savoy could work with.

He prepared the same 3 spreadsheets including a million dollar increase due to a motor fuel tax. He explained by meeting our current obligations only, with a million dollar increase, in 2012 we are down to 1 million dollars in the bank and after that we will start to exceed our obligations on our rural construction. Meeting our current obligations with a million dollar increase and a future million dollar cap we don't fall below zero; farther out in 2015 and 2016 the obligations almost match the MFT allocation if we have 1 million coming in from a local tax. He stressed that by the out years we need to secure some kind of revenue source if we are going to continue contributing to urban projects.

Mr. Jay stated his experience leads him to believe it is not wise to challenge Ms. Busey's figures but he is not as optimistic about an increase in MFT.

Ms. Feinen stated she doesn't have an issue with the million dollar cap; her concern is the tone we take in enacting it. She questioned the last paragraph of the resolution which states we will not enter into any other fringe road agreements; she feels because we do not know where we will be in years to come we should reword that paragraph.

County Engineer Cont.

Mr. Jay stated he feels the wording which states we will not enter into any other agreements needs to be included in the resolution, it does not prevent us from doing anything in the future; it also does not obligate us to anything.

Committee discussion followed regarding the wording to be included in the last paragraph of the resolution for funding fringe roads.

MOTION by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution for funding fringe roads as presented; seconded by Bensyl.

A friendly amendment to the motion was offered by Feinen to replace the last paragraph with, "The County's primary responsibility remains the rural County roads and until such time as a County motor fuel tax is implemented or the County's financial picture changes and it is able to fully fund the County roads it will not enter into future individual agreements for funding of "urban fringe road projects." Friendly amendment accepted by mover and seconder. **Motion carried.**

Petition to State Legislature to include Champaign County in the County Motor Fuel Tax Law

Mr. Blue explained this Resolution is very straight forward asking that Champaign County be added to the list of Counties who are able to impose up to a 4% county motor fuel tax.

MOTION by Langenheim to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution Petitioning the Illinois General Assembly to add Champaign County to the County Motor Fuel Tax Law; seconded by Gross. **Motion carried** with O'Connor and Feinen voting no.

Mr. Blue explained that this tax will be for our County only. If we are successful in getting our name added the money will come to us and the County Board will decide how to spend it.

Highway Maintenance/Fleet Maintenance Facility

Mr. Blue explained that after the A/E presentations on Tuesday May 3rd, the County Board chose BLDD as the firm to negotiate with. Those negotiations are scheduled to begin on May 16.

Mr. Langenheim stated he would like to see the sums of all ratings, category by category, made public. He wants to know what criteria was involved in making the final decision, and how the winning firm was rated.

Ms. Feinen stated she was informed that the numerical difference between the first and second ranked firms was only 10 points and the decision was solely based upon the numerical results.

County Engineer Cont.

Referring to the fleet maintenance business plan, Ms. Feinen stated she is very concerned because all of the discussion about a new building and/or fleet maintenance has related to the County highway department being the department in charge. She stressed we have just hired the best County Engineer we have ever had and now we have this proposal to create a new County department to do something that Mr. Blue is already doing, and he will not be a part of it.

Mr. Jay stated he is also concerned about the fleet maintenance business plan that was placed on the County Facilities agenda; he agrees that there are a lot of reasons why we shouldn't be involved in this plan. He stressed that Mr. Blue has done an outstanding job and he questioned why we should create another bureaucratic department we don't need.

Mr. Bensyl stated he feels there are a lot of things wrong with this, he does not know who wrote this but he does not like it. This document does not reflect the intent of the building and it is changing the scope of what the committee started.

Ms. Cowart stated that Mr. Inman prepared this document not at the request or direction of anyone on this committee or the County Board.

Sheriff Walsh stated he is the biggest fleet holder in the County, he did not ask for this plan nor did anyone ever discuss this with him. He feels we don't need extra bureaucracy; he does not want to combine with the Cities on any fleet maintenance and is happy with the way things are working now.

Mr. Blue stated the committee knew about this plan before he did.

Ms. Feinen stated the committee is dealing with 2 issues here, creating a fleet maintenance department, which she does not support, and the issue of intergovernmental cooperating within our building. She suggested we send an inter-committee memo to the County Facilities and Policy committees telling them our committee is opposed to this plan and we believe any fleet maintenance needs to be handled under our existing department head and if any additional staff needs to be hired it will be at his request.

Mr. Langenheim reminded the committee this is not a part of their agenda and he believes we should create a memo directed to administrative services, stating that these matters need come to this committee and we object to the proposal in this plan.

MOTION by Feinen to send a memo to the County Facilities and Policy committees stating the Highway committee does not support the fleet maintenance business plan although they do support fleet maintenance within the County but that should be done under the direction of our existing County Engineer and any additional staff relating to that be hired at his request; seconded by Jay.

County Engineer Cont.

A friendly amendment was offered to forward a copy of the memo to the Administrative Services department also. Mover and seconder concur. **Motion carried.**

Resolution giving County Engineer authority to award County Highway 9 Project

Mr. Blue explained this is a project to rebuild County Highway 9, from Ludlow to 1 mile west of the Vermillion County line, that they have been working on all winter and that needs to be bid. There are 2 resolutions before the committee; the first is a standard IDOT requesting funds through MFT for the improvement of the highway. Because there is a time issue on this project, they would like to let it this month and waiting until the June board meeting will create problems getting it constructed. The County board may give the County Engineer authority to award the contract as long as it is within 10% of the estimate, the second resolution before the committee would allow him the authority to do that. He pointed out that the date in the first paragraph of the second resolution should read May 31, 2005 and that will be changed.

MOTION by Gross to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution for the improvement of County Highway 9 (Ludlow Road) Section #05-00398-00-RS & the Resolution for contract award authority; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

Other Business

There was no other business.

Determination of Consent Agenda Items

Committee consensus to include item 6 D on the County Board consent agenda.

Adjournment

MOTION by Carter to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary