

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

Highway & Transportation

Friday, September 9, 2005 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Room 1, Brookens Administrative Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cowart (Chair), Bensyl, Carter, Gross, Jay, O' Connor, Weibel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Feinen, Langenheim

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue, John Cooper, Tracy Wingler, Debby Wagner (Highway Department), Barb Wysocki (County Board Chair), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Susan McGrath (Assistant State's Attorney)

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

Approval of Minutes – August 5, 2005

MOTION by Bensyl to approve the minutes of August 5, 2005 as presented; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Monthly Reports

County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – August 2005

MOTION by O'Connor to receive and place on file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for August 2005; seconded by Jay. **Motion carried.**

County Engineer

Resolution appropriating \$1,750.00 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Champaign County's share of the CUUATS Greenways Plan Implementation – Section #05-00000-01-ES.

Mr. Blue stated this is our portion of a study done to lay out a trail system throughout the County. This was implemented last year through CUUATS so we are paying for work already done.

MOTION by Bensyl to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution appropriating \$1,750.00 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Champaign County's share of the CUUATS Greenways Plan Implementation – Section #05-00000-01-ES; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

Highway Maintenance Facility Discussion

Mr. Blue presented the committee with an update stating they have been through the process of developing a footprint for the size of the new building. The square footage estimates determined by the A/E firm are very similar to those he first developed when discussion of this project began. He stated we still have to go back to the cities and discuss options, hoping they will also bring a space needs study to the table. He anticipates an October meeting with Facilities and if we can get approval by the County Board in October he believes construction will begin in the spring.

Towing Ordinance

Ms. McGrath explained this Ordinance is the result of 3 months of work with the Sheriff, Township Officials, the Highway Superintendent and others who wanted to be involved. The County and Townships have faced problems trying to keep roads safe while protecting the rights of people whose cars have been towed. This Ordinance only takes care of our County roads and gives the Sheriff legal authority to deal with cars that are impeding traffic or cars that are obstructing plows. This also gives the vehicle owners the right to ask questions about the procedure, this ordinance also has notice requirements so we can ensure the public is aware of the new procedures. She explained the goal is to do this in a unified way; we will try to contact the person before and after the tow realizing sometimes people walk away from vehicles because they are not properly registered in which case we cannot make the call to the owner.

She explained we do not have the authority to tow off of private property or village streets. If the Township adopts this, the Sheriff could work with them to take care of those streets not in our jurisdiction.

County Engineer Cont.

MOTION by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Towing Ordinance; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Project Update

Mr. Blue presented the committee with a project update stating the County Road 9 project is complete and the 9 mile stretch of road is now open. They are still waiting for better weather to complete the seeding which will complete the Staley Road project. He is still anticipating a 2006 bid and construction for the Curtis Road project with the City of Champaign. The County is a financial agent for this project while the City is the lead.

Other Business

November & December Highway Committee meeting dates

Mr. Blue stated because they will have bid lettings in November and December for townships, and to avoid having meetings before the full board, he would like to move the December meeting from the 9th to the 16th. Because the scheduled November meeting date is a holiday that meeting should be moved to Thursday, November 10th at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Blue also informed the committee he is available to answer questions about his budget presentation.

Determination of Consent Agenda Items

Committee consensus to include items 6 A & C on the County Board consent agenda.

Adjournment

Chair Cowart declared the meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary