

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

Highway & Transportation Committee
Friday, September 8, 2006 – 9:00 a.m.
Lyle Shields Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center

MEMBER PRESENT: Bensyl, Carter, Jones, Gross, Jay, Langenheim, O'Connor, Weibel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cowart

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue, John Cooper, Debby Wagner, Barb Wysocki, Susan McGrath

Call to Order

Vice Chair Jay called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Weibel to approve the agenda and addendum as presented; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes – June 9, 2006

MOTION by Carter to approve the minutes of June 9, 2006 as presented; seconded by Bensyl. **Motion carried.**

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Monthly Reports

County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – September 2006

MOTION by Carter to receive and place on file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for September 2006; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

Final Bridge Reports

MOTION by Langenheim to receive the place on file the final bridge reports; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

County Engineer

Resolution awarding of contract for the replacement of a bridge located in East Bend Road District – Section #05-10911-00-BR.

Mr. Blue explained that on August 31st, they had five bid openings for bridge projects in 5 different townships to be constructed this fall, winter and next spring. He explained this resolution is for a bridge located in East Bend Road District, on a township road. Newell Construction, out of Danville, was the low bidder at \$212,643 which was 2% below the Engineers estimate of \$216,674.

Ms. Gross pointed out that all of this award of contracts are going to Newell Construction and she asked Mr. Blue if he felt they have the capacity to do all five of these bridges. Mr. Blue stated he spoke with the Township Highway Commissioners and they understand they will not all be completed by this fall. He stated Newell Construction does a good job and they are very good to work with.

MOTION by Bensyl to recommend County Board approval of the resolution awarding of contract for the replacement of a bridge located in East Bend Road District – Section #05-10911-00-BR; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Resolution awarding of contract for the replacement of a bridge located in Pesotum Road District – Section #05-18910-00-BR

Mr. Blue explained that Newell Construction was the low bidder at \$114,651 which was 3% below the Engineers estimate.

MOTION by Carter to recommend County Board approval of the resolution awarding of contract for the replacement of a bridge located in Pesotum Road District – Section #05-18910-00-BR; seconded by Jones. **Motion carried** with O'Connor abstaining.

Resolution awarding of contract for the replacement of a bridge located in Rantoul Road District – Section #05-20912-00-BR.

Mr. Blue explained this bridge is just to the east of Thomasboro and Newell Construction was the lowest bidder at \$109,000, which was 8% below the Engineers estimate.

MOTION by Carter to recommend County Board approval of the resolution awarding of contract for the replacement of a bridge located in Rantoul Road District – Section #05-20912-00-BR; seconded by Bensyl. **Motion carried.**

Resolution awarding of contract for the replacement of a bridge located on the line between Somer & Stanton Road Districts – Section #05-25913-00-BR

Mr. Blue explained Newell Construction was again the lowest bidder at \$137,000 which was 6% over the engineers estimate; he reminded the committee that as long as the bid is within 10% of the estimate, it is fine to award the contract.

MOTION by Bensyl to recommend County Board approval of the resolution awarding of contract for the replacement of a bridge located on the line between Somer & Stanton Road Districts – Section #05-25913-00-BR; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Resolution awarding of contract for the replacement of a bridge located in Urbana Road District – Section #05-30916-00-BR

Mr. Blue explained this bridge is located north of I-74 and Newell Construction was the lowest bidder at \$145,000, which was 1.5% under the Engineers estimate. When asked why all the bidders are from out of town, Mr. Blue explained that Champaign Asphalt chose not to bid but he feels having four bidders on small bridges like this is a good turnout.

MOTION by Weibel to recommend County Board approval of the resolution awarding of contract for the replacement of a bridge located in Urbana Road District – Section #05-30916-00-BR; seconded by Jones. **Motion carried.**

Budget 2007

Mr. Blue stated he wanted to make sure everyone received a copy of the budget book from the budget hearings and reminded the committee he is available if there are any questions.

Building Update

Mr. Blue explained that the general contractor contract was awarded to English Brother, and the special use permit will go to the Urbana City Council meeting on September 18th. He reported they are still moving dirt with their own forces and they hope to be done in the next few weeks because the concrete contractor will want to move in soon.

Other Business

Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

Ms. McGrath stated she has reviewed the minutes and determined that it is now appropriate to open the closed session minutes of May 24, 2004. She recommends keeping the remaining minutes closed.

MOTION by Weibel to concur with the recommendation of the Assistant State's Attorney and open the closed session minutes of May 24, 2004 while keeping all remaining closed session minutes closed; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

ADDENDUM

County Engineer

Resolution appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax for underdrains for County Highway 9

Mr. Blue explained this is the County Highway 9 Project and the reconstruction of the roadway surface is a federal aid project to be built in 2007. When they do projects such as this, they come with a suggestion from IDOT, to put in underdrains, so they will be putting in 4 inch tile the entire length of the roadway. The cost will be \$280,000 and will come from the MFT fund.

MOTION by Carter to recommend County Board approval of the resolution appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax for underdrains for County Highway 9; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried.**

Approval of direction and action by County Board for Fringe Road Agreement

Mr. Blue reported that he met with Ms. McGrath, Ms. Wysocki and Ms. Busey to discuss the Urbana Mayor's decision to withhold County money. The State's Attorney's office has sent a letter to the Mayor requesting that the money be paid by September 22, 2006 otherwise there will be action taken by the County Board to try and get those funds. After the last Highway meeting it was very clear that we were not going to change our position on the million dollar resolution and now they need to talk about what action we need to take if Urbana does not make the payment.

Ms. McGrath explained the letter sent, to the Mayor of Urbana as well as all Urbana City Council members, stated we need to take some action to resolve the dispute. They have had several informal discussions with the city to try and work out an agreement and the basis of the dispute appears to be the city believing that, in the future, the County is not going to abide by the terms of the fringe annexation agreement, which was entered into between the county and cities in 1990.

That agreement also included language saying the cities were obligated to pay for 10 years of sales tax from any business that was annexed into the city. The \$140,000 is a payment due to us, pursuant to the terms of the agreement, which states if there is a problem with anything, having to do with a payment, between the parties, a demand letter must be sent saying here is what we think was done wrong, which is why they sent the letter. At this point, the County has a few options if the money is not paid: the first would be to say to the city that we agree that the agreement has run its course and we are not interested in being a part of the agreement anymore. Tell them to keep the money but state that we will not enter into any future agreements on cooperating in fringe road development, aside from the ones we are already doing. The other option would be to enforce the contract through court action. She explained that there are 8 years left on the Farm N Fleet annexation, which is where the majority of this money is coming from. County participation in that road project, on North Cunningham was heavily tied to the County being promised the sales tax from Farm N Fleet.

Ms. Wysocki stated that Urbana is two years behind with a \$250,000 responsibility for the street scape around the Courthouse. They also owe us \$700,000 for Lierman Avenue work.

Mr. Bensyl stated we have not breached our agreement; we just have a budget we have to work within. We will pay for everything we have obligated to pay, we are operating in good faith but they owe us the money so if we go to Court, that is what we do. When asked about court costs, Ms. McGrath stated as long as we keep it in-house it will only cost her time.

Determination of Consent Agenda Items

Committee consensus to include items 6 A, C, D, E and Addendum item H on the County Board consent agenda.

Adjournment

Vice-Chair Jay declared the meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary