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2 Champaign County Board
3 Committee Minutes
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5 Highway & Transportation Committee
6 Friday, March 6, 2009 - 9:00 a.m.
7 Highway Department Building Meeting Room
8

9 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cowart, Beckett, Bensyl, Carter, Jay, Knott, Kurtz,
10 Langenheim, O'Connor
11

12 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** None
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14 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Jeff Blue, Debby Wagner
15

16 Agenda Item
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18 Call to Order
19

20 Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call confirmed a
21 quorum present.
22

23 Approval of Agenda/Addendum
24

25 **MOTION** by Carter to approve the agenda; seconded by Jay. There was no
26 addendum for the meeting. **Motion carried.**
27

28 Approval of Minutes - February 6, 2009
29

30 **MOTION** by Carter to approve the minutes of February 6, 2009 as presented;
31 seconded by Kurtz. **Motion carried.**
32

33 Public Participation
34

35 There was no public participation.
36

37 Monthly Reports

38 **County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims - February 2009**
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40 **MOTION** by Jay to receive and place on file the County & Township Motor Fuel
41 Tax Claims for February 2009; seconded by Beckett. **Motion carried.**
42

43 County Engineer

44 **Wind Farm Discussion**
45

46 Mr. Blue explained he has been working with John Hall to develop the ordinance
47 as well as the timing of the road use agreement in reference to the wind farms.
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56 A special use permit has to be signed prior to the road use agreements being
57 signed, if we allow them to get their permit the only thing holding them back is the road use
58 agreement so all their pushing will be directed toward him. He is working with
59 Compromise and Ogden Townships to ensure all of the road use agreements mirror each
60 other so we aren't doing anything different. The agreement will be large because of all the
61 equipment being brought in and once they get constructing they will almost have to have
62 someone on site from the County to make sure the roads are taken care of the entire time.
63 All of those costs are put into the road use agreements and paid for by the wind farm
64 developers.

65

66 Mr. Kurtz asked if other counties have similar types of agreements with the wind
67 farm developers. Mr. Blue explained they all have the agreement but they can differ on
68 how tight they are, we will develop our own but will pull parts from others we are using as
69 examples.

70

71 Mr. Blue explained that the agreement says that during construction all roadways
72 will turn into whatever they turn into but it is the developer's responsibility to make sure
73 the roads are open during the entire process. The public has the right to use the roads and
74 the wind farm people have to get out of the way. The attorney they are using has told them
75 that the wind farm people will threaten to leave if we try to be too strict but the resources
76 are here and another developer will develop the land if the first one walks away. This
77 development proposes 133 towers with 55 in Champaign County and 80 in Vermillion
78 County. They are looking at developing the road use agreement during late spring with
79 construction possibly starting in the fall.

80

81 They are going to go out and do an inventory of all roadways that will be impacted
82 by the wind farm including video scanning and strength tests and once construction is done
83 they will re-evaluate and the roads will have to be as good as or better than before. The
84 County roads are going to be ok; it is the Township roads and the Township officials who
85 are going to have issues on the roadways moving that heavy equipment.

86

87 Mr. Bensyl stated he has been working on the insurance for one of the contractors
88 who has done work for these wind farms and they do whatever they have to during
89 construction then at the end they ask what the County or Township wants and the roads
90 are in better shape than before the project began.

91

92 Mr. Blue explained these towers have to be maintained over their life so it's not like
93 that heavy equipment isn't going to have to be brought back in. It is a huge time
94 commitment for his office and not one he can take out of the regular staffing so he will put
95 those dollars into the agreement.

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107
108 **Resolution Appropriating \$50,000 from County Bridge Funds for Design Engineering -**
109 **Section #07-25932-00-BR**

110
111 Mr. Blue stated this project is in the middle to final range of engineering. This
112 bridge is almost in failure mode and they have federal dollars to replace it. It is a joint
113 project with 80% from the federal program, 20% from Urbana, 10% from the Township
114 Bridge Program. The Township Commissioner came to him because their bridge fund is
115 nearing being broke and they were set to split the preliminary engineering costs with
116 Urbana, in order to make sure the project gets built in a timely manner the Township has
117 signed an agreement that states we will front the remaining preliminary engineering costs on
118 their behalf and they will pay us back over 5 years, which will be \$10,000 per year.

119
120 **MOTION** by Beckett to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution
121 appropriating \$50,000 from County Bridge Funds for Design Engineering - Section #07-
122 25932-00-BR; seconded by Jay.

123
124 When asked if the stimulus package money could be used for this, Mr. Blue
125 explained since it is already federally funded they cannot use stimulus money to match that.

126
127 **Motion carried.**

128
129 **Resolution Appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax funds for engineering services for the**
130 **Pavement Management Contract with Applied Research Associates**

131
132 Mr. Blue explained this goes back to 2007 when they did the original contract with
133 Applied Research for the pavement management system. At that time they talked about
134 doing a long term contract and as a follow up we now have that contract and this money is
135 to be appropriated and used from 2009-2013. They will go out and run the roads and do
136 all the testing and come up with a value for the condition rating of all the roadways, the
137 system will be web based now and we will be saving money in the development and
138 maintenance of our roadways.

139
140 When asked if we own the data, Mr. Blue stated we do. This is the only firm with
141 the rolling weight deflectometer but not the only firm who does this analysis. When we had
142 the federal money we did an experimental project with them and we chose them because
143 they are the only one with the deflectometer technology, no one else can do exactly what
144 these people are doing.

145
146 Mr. Beckett stated it is always a concern when we engage in a contract whether or
147 not we should issue an RFP; we do have the right, if we have a history with a company, to
148 enter into a contract. The other competing firms probably can't do the computer aspect
149 that these folks can and if something happens to this company will we have access to the
150 data.

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159 Our attorney needs to look through this before it goes before the full board but
160 there is a savings because of the way they manage the data, if we had to have the technology
161 to store the data it would be an additional cost to us.

162
163 Mr. Blue pointed out that the \$80,000 per year is the same cost that it was in 2007.
164 When asked if this is necessary every other year, he explained it is; they need to come back
165 and re-evaluate our maintenance on the roads to make sure the longevity of those things is
166 meeting what it should. The money will be appropriated through the eyes of IDOT and
167 we will see this project in the budget; the money will be set aside to spend but it won't be
168 until we get the bills.

169
170 Mr. Beckett stated it might be a good idea to have Applied Research at the County
171 Board meeting to answer any questions.

172
173 **Motion carried.**

174
175 **Resolution appropriating \$125,000 from County Motor Fuel Tax funds for preliminary**
176 **Engineering Services for Maplewood Bridge - Section #09-00956-00-BR.**

177
178 Mr. Blue explained this is for Maplewood Bridge and handed a map out to the
179 committee. He applied for a program to replace this bridge, and although they haven't
180 published who will receive the money he has heard through IDOT this project will be in
181 the grant. This resolution is for the engineering fees to do the engineering to replace the
182 bridge; \$125,000, roughly 10% of the total cost of the bridge, the grant will be 80-90% and
183 will match when it comes through.

184
185 **MOTION** by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution
186 appropriating \$125,000 from County Motor Fuel Tax funds for preliminary engineering
187 services for Maplewood Bridge - Section #09-00956-00-BR; seconded by Kurtz. **Motion**
188 **carried.**

189
190 **Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes**

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192 Item deferred.

193
194 **Determination of Consent Agenda Item**

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196 Items 6 B and D will be on the County Board Consent Agenda.

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198 **Adjournment**

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200 Chair Cowart declared the meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

201
202 Respectfully Submitted,

203
204 Tiffany Talbott

205 Administrative Secretary