



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

MINUTES – Approved as Amended 2/7/14

DATE: Friday, December 6, 2013
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Highway Building Conference Room
1605 East Main, Urbana, IL

Committee Members

Present	Absent
Lorraine Cowart (Chair)	
Lloyd Carter (Vice Chair)	
Christopher Alix	
John Jay	
Jim McGuire	
Diane Michaels	
Max Mitchell	
Michael Richards	

County Staff: Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Van Anderson (Deputy County Administrator of Finance), Tracy Wingle (Highway Maintenance Supervisor), Beth Brunk (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: Al Kurtz (Champaign Co Board), Rita Morocoima-Black, Eileen Sierra-Brown, Tina Ansong (Regional Planning Commission- RPC)

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Highway & Transportation Committee Meeting – November 8, 2013

MOTION by Mr. Carter to approve the November 8, 2013 Highway & Transportation meeting minutes as distributed; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Approval of Agenda/Addendum

V. Mr. Blue asked if the Addendum item could be discussed after Public Participation. The Committee agreed with this request.

MOTION by Mr. Carter to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

VI. Public Participation

Mr. Kurtz commended the Highway Department and Township Road Commissioners for their quick and efficient response regarding the tornado damage in Gifford. Mr. Blue noted that Tracy Wingler did an outstanding job directing the cleanup of public right-of-ways in Gifford.

VII. Resolution for Downstate Transit Improvement Fund (DTIF) Vehicle and Office Equipment Grant Application

Ms. Black explained that RPC is submitting a grant application to purchase 7 vehicles to continue providing transit service in rural Champaign County. County Board approval is needed to submit the application. CRIS Rural Transit has not decided if they will continue to provide this service after their contract expires on June 30, 2014. Ms. Black is meeting with other transit providers to assess interest if CRIS decides to terminate their service. The vehicles are owned by the County.

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has changed their rules on 1/1/14 so that any county receiving funds for rural transportation must have a dedicated county person oversee the operation. Tina Ansong of RPC will assume this role on behalf of Champaign County.

Mr. Alix asked if the level of state funding to operate this program will continue. He was worried that the County will own the vehicles and have no funds to operate them in the future. Ms. Black responded that the program is mostly federally funded and its future ultimately depends on the Federal Transportation Bill. The local match comes from the fees for service. Ms. Black noted that the need for this service to rural county residents is increasing.

MOTION by Mr. Carter to recommend for approval the resolution for the Downstate Transit Improvement Fund Vehicle and Office Equipment Grant application; seconded by Mr. Richards. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

VIII. County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – November 2013

MOTION by Mr. Jay to receive and place on file the County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for November 2013; seconded by Mr. Richards. Upon vote, **the MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IX. Petition – Newcomb Road District Box Culvert #13-16000-00-BR

Mr. Blue received petitions from Brett Cox, Commissioner of Newcomb Road District to replace two pipe culverts to alleviate standing water on the road. The estimated replacement cost is \$15,000

MOTION by Mr. Jay to recommend approval to appropriate money from the County Bridge Fund to replace a box culvert in Newcomb Road District; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

X. Petition – Newcomb Road District Box Culvert #13-16999-00-BR

Similar to the previous petition, the box culvert is located on the same road in Newcomb Road District, and the replacement cost is \$10,000.

MOTION by Mr. Jay to recommend approval to appropriate money from the County Bridge Fund to replace a box culvert in Newcomb Road District; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

XI. Property Sale on Dewey-Fisher Road

The transaction discussed at the previous County Board meeting in closed session to sell County property on the Dewey-Fisher Road is on hold. The proposed buyers are having difficulty securing financing.

Mr. Jay wondered if the contractor on the Dewey-Fisher Road Improvement project may want to use the property as a staging area. Mr. Blue noted that there is no obligation by the County to provide any

storage space on a road project and there may be EPA issues if millings or aggregate are piled up on the property. The waterway portion that is maintained by the County is on County right-of-way (ROW) will be not be sold.

The prospective buyer is a County employee but not an elected official and has no insider knowledge. If the purchase has stalled, Mr. Alix wondered if the buyers would be interested in a long-term lease as the land was going to be used for pastureland. The County would maintain ownership, and a 20-year lease at market rates may save the buyers money. The deed for this property purchased by the County in 1971 and was not recorded. This situation has been rectified, and the deed recorded. Mr. Alix asked if there was a way to check and see if there were other parcels owned by the County and not recorded. Ms. Cowart stated that this scenario has happened in the past where the County was unaware of some of the property it owns. Mr. Carter intends to bring a list of properties he believes are owned by the County to check on the ownership. Mr. Blue noted that the Highway Department only purchases property if the curves of a road are changed.

XII. Review of Township Rock Letting Results

Mr. Blue reviewed the bid results and noted approximately 6-8% cost increase for the aggregate. Mr. Kurtz inquired why there were cost differences for the same rock to different townships. Mr. Blue thought the differences were due to the increased cost of rock and the distance involved in transporting it to the various townships. These bid costs may fluctuate due to backhauls where the truckers are hauling something back from their destination. All of the rock is from local quarries. Mr. Kurtz would like to know the total cost for Township aggregate material in 2013.

XIII. Dewey-Fisher Road Open House

Mr. Blue summarized the open house on 11/20/13. Fifty people attended which was a large turnout for a project this size. Notices were sent to all landowners, and all local media outlets were notified. There were very few negative comments about the project.

The project is in the preliminary engineering stage to see where the ROW takings could be reduced but still build a safe road. The road currently has 30' of ROW from each side of the centerline. The maximum taking is 40' or 10' extra feet on each side. Mr. Blue anticipates negotiations for ROW with 70-80 landowners will begin in spring after state clearance from surveying the area for articles of historic significance.

Mr. Alix asked what structures along the route would be impacted. Mr. Blue responded that some fences but no homes would be involved. Rumble strips would be placed in the middle and along the shoulder of the road.

XIV. Other Business

Mr. Blue thought that the January Highway Committee meeting would probably be canceled as he did not have any action items and will be out of town.

Mr. Richards inquired about the status of the ICC hearings about the Olympian Drive Project. Mr. Blue replied the November 4th Bench Session with ICC was canceled. The December 4th meeting was also canceled as the ICC needed more time to examine the interlocutory appeal. Another Bench Session has been scheduled for January 9th. IDOT has requested to speak in public participation to push for a resolution of this matter.

XV. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

VII, VIII, XII A.

XVI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Cowart adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.