



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

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MINUTES – APPROVED 4/11/14

DATE: Friday, March 7, 2014
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), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Tracy Wingler (Highway Maintenance Supervisor), Linda Lane (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: Al Kurtz (County Board)

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum

A. Highway & Transportation Committee Meeting – January 7, 2014

MOTION by Mr. Jay to approve the January 7, 2014 Highway & Transportation meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Richards. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Public Participation

None

V. Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Mr. Jay to approve the February 7, 2014 Highway & Transportation meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. McGuire. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

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VI. County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – February 2014

MOTION by Mr. Alix to receive and place on file the County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for February 2014; seconded by Mr. Jay. Ms. Cowart asked about reimbursements. Mr. Blue stated they have no credit card so he pays and gets reimbursed. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

VII. Resolution Awarding of Contract for CH22 Bridge Replacement – Section #12-00990-00-BR

Mr. Blue stated that bids had been opened February 19 and that O’Neill Bros. was the low bidder at \$775,665. He stated the engineers estimate was \$836,370. Mr. Blue recommended awarding the bid to O’Neill Bros.

MOTION by Mr. Jay to approve Resolution Awarding of Contract for CH22; seconded by Mr. Alix. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

VIII. Resolution Awarding of Contract for CH11 – Section #13-00996-00-BR

Mr. Blue stated that this bid was also opened on February 19 and that O’Neill Bros. was again the low bidder for this project at \$650,898. He noted the engineers estimate was \$679,480. Mr. Blue recommended award of the contract to O’Neill Bros.

MOTION by Mr. Alix to approve Resolution Awarding of Contract for CH11; seconded by Mr. Jay. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

Mr. Blue noted that the CH11 project will go first and that the road will be closed before school lets out for the summer. The plan is for it to be re-opened before school starts in the fall.

IX. Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) Final Order on Olympian Drive

Mr. Blue stated that ICC issued and approved a final order on February 20, 2013 for the Olympian Drive project. He noted it was the same as the preliminary order that the judge gave to the ICC, ending the 2-1/2 year process. Everything is now in line to be put on the IDOT April letting. Paperwork needs to be to IDOT by March 22, 2014 for that to happen, which means they are looking at July 1 for a start date on the project. Mr. Blue said that once the Olympian Drive project is approved they will move on to the Lincoln Avenue and West Olympian Drive projects to obtain right-of-way and approvals. He noted that Olympian Drive construction should take two years from Apollo to Lincoln Avenue and should be opened in the fall of 2015. Mr. Alix asked what paperwork needs to be sent to IDOT. Mr. Blue answered the plans, right-of-way documents, and joint agreements.

Mr. Mitchell entered at 9:09 am

Mr. Richards clarified that they would not have to worry about ICC for the Lincoln Avenue project. Mr. Blue stated that is correct. He explained that once the project is awarded IDOT manages the funds, noting there is no local money in the joint agreement between the City of Urbana and IDOT. He noted that the City of Urbana will be the lead agency, providing the project engineer, and that County Highway is trying to have an engineer on the project as well.

Mr. Kurtz asked what the timeline was for Lincoln Avenue to connect to this project. Mr. Blue responded they will begin immediately after Olympian Drive is complete. Mr. Kurtz asked how long the Lincoln Avenue project would take. Mr. Blue answered one year. Mr. Kurtz noted that Mr. Cope is adamantly opposed to the project. Mr. Blue stated he could make them go thru condemnation. Mr. Kurtz asked if it could be an issue of eminent domain. Mr. Blue answered yes.

Ms. Michaels entered at 9:14 am.

Mr. Kurtz asked how many acres were involved. Mr. Blue replied 1-1/2 out of about 20. Mr. Kurtz asked how long he could delay in an eminent domain situation. Mr. Blue said six months to one year from the time the case starts in the courts. Mr. Blue stated the Mr. Cope knew an extension was in the future when he bought the property and that it is well documented. Mr. Alix asked that this topic not be openly discussed at this time.

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x. Other Business

Mr. Blue reported he is working with the City of Urbana for a 50% share of the Philo Road project. Wording will include that the County will pay their 50% share after the project is completed, but by January 1, 2015. Mr. Blue noted that it doesn't affect cash flow no matter which fiscal year it is paid out of because they will be at the end of MFT funds in 2016. Mr. Jay asked what the dollar amount is. Mr. Blue said \$387,000. Ms. Cowart asked if part of the money is already set aside. Mr. Blue stated it is part of the fringe roads and can now come out of MFT per an October 2013 IDOT procedural memo.

Mr. Kurtz commented that the fringe road agreement is not still in place. Mr. Blue answered that they will meet obligations under the old fringe road agreement of specific projects outlined; Philo Road, Lincoln Avenue, part of Prospect Avenue, and Curtis Road over to First Street. Ms. Michaels asked if that included Prospect Avenue north of Olympian. Mr. Alix thought it was approved to Interstate Drive, with a possible part from Interstate to Olympian that still needs to be done. Mr. Kurtz asked if the committee needed to approve each new agreement once these are completed. Mr. Blue answered yes. Mr. Alix commented that it will be a moot point by 2017 because the MFT money will be gone. Mr. Jay said he thought they were done with fringe roads and was glad to hear the scope is being limited. He commented that he doesn't think people are hearing and understanding that the MFT fund is going to be gone. Mr. Blue stated that the Curtis Road project is going to be a gigantic number because that will also involve ICC due to an overpass over a railroad.

Mr. Blue reported that he is still working with Chris Doenitz about a maintenance agreement for the Lake of the Woods area. He noted that both Piatt and Douglas counties have their townships maintaining their roads and he is trying to get copies of their agreements for reference.

Mr. Blue also reported that they borrowed 300-400 tons of salt from the City of Urbana. The final 200 tons will be here within two weeks and they will be a little in debt to the City of Urbana but will make it up going in to next year. He stated that with overtime and fuel the budget has taken a hit. Mr. Blue said they will have to bid 4,000 tons of salt this year, as opposed to 1,000 last year because of a stockpile they had, at a cost of about \$70/ton. Mr. Wingler felt it would be closer to \$100/ton. Ms. Cowart asked if they buy the liquid or make their own. Mr. Blue answered that they mix their own but do buy calcium chloride. They try to limit the use since it is more expensive to use. Mr. Jay commented that he had heard in the news that salt mining in the Great Lakes is close to being hand-to-mouth for the first time ever. He asked if the county purchased salt for the townships also. Mr. Blue answered they had ordered on behalf of the townships in the past but that he is negotiating with the townships for them to purchase their own. Ms. Michaels asked if that will affect their price. Mr. Blue said no because it is part of a state contract. Mr. Jay asked how much salt the dome will hold. Mr. Blue said they can get 5,000 tons with a conveyor. The conveyor would be about \$50,000. Mr. Blue said they have talked about doing some sort of hoop building and sharing it with the cities and townships. Mr. Alix stated that there is no shortage of vacant industrial buildings. Mr. Blue stated that salt and metal isn't a good combination. Mr. Alix asked if they could use some sort of membrane to protect from rust. Mr. Wingler stated that wouldn't help because salt attracts moisture. Mr. Blue said that is why they are looking at a hoop building. Ms. Michaels asked who owns the dome. Mr. Blue answered the county. He noted that there is an intergovernmental agreement in place where the City of Urbana paid for some of the construction and the roof replacement. He commented they currently have a very good working relationship and share more than just salt.

Mr. McGuire asked how the 74/57 interchange was progressing. Mr. Kurtz answered that it is progressing. Mr. McGuire inquired if there was a coalition in place. Mr. Kurtz answered that they have all the District 5 chairs, the Chamber of Commerce, and almost every agency in the county on board with a motion for support of reconstruction. Mr. Blue stated that construction of a project of this magnitude is outside the typical money. Mr. Richards commented that the study phase has been paid for. He said the problem is that it now needs to be in a special appropriations bill to get paid for. He stated the way to see that happen is to make sure local legislators vote for the capital bill. Mr. McGuire agreed that would take care of the state funding, but said this is a federal project through IDOT and asked how to get pressure on IDOT to fund it. Mr. Richards stated that IDOT will only do what is in the legislature in Springfield. He said they need to push the federal legislators. Mr. Blue stated that the federal bill is expiring. He stated they have done many 1-2 year continuing resolutions but there have been no additional funds for highways, either federal or state. He said there will need to be a new source of funding. Mr. Alix noted that the

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current federal transportation bill has expired and he heard not to expect a new bill in the near future. He commented that if they wait for federal monies it will be a long time.

Mr. Alix asked if the salt and overtime costs will be addressed in this year's budget or next year's. Mr. Blue said the salt comes out of MFT. For the overtime, if there is no money from any other source they will move money from another line item into personnel. Mr. Alix asked which fiscal year the new salt order would fall into. Mr. Wingler stated that they can't place an order for this year until August 1. Mr. Alix stated that would be this fiscal year so they would have to plan a budget amendment.

Mr. Mitchell commented that in the large scheme it would be smart to start talking about the 57/72 interchange since it has the same issues as the 57/74 interchange. Mr. Kurtz didn't feel they should start pressuring for another \$100 million. He said they should get the current issue taken care of first and put pressure on both federal and state legislators. He indicated that it's important to be ready with plans and engineering before submitting requests for money; the program needs to be shovel-ready.

Mr. Kurtz inquired as to how bad the pot holes are and how they will affect the budget. Mr. Blue said it won't be affected much. He said most of the pot holes are on city roads rather than county roads. He stated that county roads tend to be laid in a single layer with no joints, whereas city roads typically have joints. What they will see more of this year is transverse cracking instead of pot holes. He noted that they are going to put the money into crack-seal and sealcoat and felt the highway department is more proactive with maintenance to prevent such problems. Mr. Blue also noted that the contract for the pavement management system will be coming to the committee this year. Mr. Mitchell thought it might be a good idea for Mr. Blue to talk to the full board about what has taken place over the winter. Mr. Blue noted that there wouldn't be much to tell. He suggested instead that the pavement management company talk about how well their system works with the highway maintenance program. Mr. Alix agreed about talking to the board about how pot holes are mostly in the cities and the County roads are in good shape. Ms. Michaels stated that Mr. Blue always has very good maps that could be a good visual when talking to the full board. Ms. Cowart commented that Mr. Blue usually gives the committee a 5-year plan. Mr. Blue stated that he is currently working on that plan and should have it for them for the April Board meeting.

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

VII and VIII

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Cowart adjourned the meeting at 9:48a.m.