



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

***MINUTES – Approved 4/10/2015***

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DATE: Friday, March 6, 2015  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.  
PLACE: Highway Building Conference Room  
1605 East Main, Urbana, IL

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**Committee Members**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Lorraine Cowart (Chair)	
Lloyd Carter (Vice Chair)	
Christopher Alix	
Shana Harrison	
John Jay	
Jim McGuire	
Diane Michaels	
Max Mitchell	

**County Staff:** Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Susan Chavarria (Planning & Zoning), Tracy Wingler (County Highway Department), Linda Lane (Recording Secretary)

**Others Present:** Patti Petrie (County Board Chair); members of the public

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***MINUTES***

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**II. Roll Call**

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

**III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum**

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

**IV. Public Participation**

None

**V. Approval of Minutes – February 6, 2015**

**MOTION** by Mr. Carter to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2015 meeting; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Mr. Blue noted one change to the minutes. Upon vote, the **MOTION to approve as amended CARRIED unanimously**.

**VI. County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – February 2015**

**MOTION** by Mr. Alix to receive and place on file the County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for February 2015; seconded by Mr. Carter. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

## **VII. Wilbur Heights Memo from Susan Chavarria**

Ms. Chavarria said they are at a point where they know cost estimates for making the improvements necessary to Wilbur Avenue as well as drainage improvements and provided a handout. She said Berns Clancy has completed its preliminary engineering report regarding the drainage and they have estimates by county highway and City of Champaign engineers regarding Wilbur Avenue. She said it is \$2.2 million over an extended period of time. She stated they are at a point where they need to work with IDOT to make sure they maintain the funding of \$634,200 they are offering. She reported the funding is only available to us if Somer Township and the City of Champaign accept a jurisdictional transfer of Wilbur Avenue from IDOT and will not be available at any other time. Ms. Chavarria noted there is an approximate \$200,000 gap in funding that needs to be discussed at the County Board level and with other agencies. She said \$634,000 is certain and a \$450,000 CDAP grant is uncertain but they will apply for it. Ms. Chavarria said the CDAP grant will pay for the first phase of drainage that goes along with Wilbur Avenue. She said the remaining funds need to be found locally as there are no other grants. Mr. Blue commented that IDOT did an estimate to "fix the road" but we don't believe it's fixable. He said IDOT is not coming off their stance regarding their estimate for patch and overlay. He said we believe the whole road needs to be replaced, which is where the funding gap comes in.

Mr. Alix asked who all the entities involved were. Ms. Chavarria replied IDOT, Somer Township, the City of Champaign, County Highway, and County Board Committees. Mr. Alix commented that the long term solution is to annex it into the city but acknowledged that Champaign doesn't want it. He asked if the decision about taking over the road could be put off until they know if they get the grant. Ms. Chavarria noted they have to time this carefully with IDOT. She said if they tell them this year they are good to go, the earliest IDOT will give funding is next year. She said they have to keep IDOT in the loop. Mr. Alix felt IDOT is dumping their responsibilities on us. Mr. Blue said the state is not going to fix the problem beyond filling the holes. Ms. Chavarria commented that the Eastern Prairie fire chief said the condition of Wilbur Avenue isn't safe to drive any vehicle on, including emergency traffic, which slows down response time. Mr. Alix suggested sending a copy of the fire chief's comments to state legislators. Ms. Michaels agreed with Mr. Alix and said she doesn't mind helping here and there, but felt the push should be towards who actually owns the road.

Mr. Alix wondered how to work this from a standpoint of the state. Mr. Blue felt the reason the county is involved is to bring all the parties together. He felt the county has no financial responsibility, but they have offered engineering services. Mr. Alix asked if they can take the money and not fix the road. Mr. Blue replied that theoretically they could. Mr. Alix asked noted Ms. Chavarria mentioned the sanitary district in the memo but wasn't sure UCSD would be in a position to help with drainage issues. Ms. Chavarria said the responsibility would come if Wilbur Heights were annexed into the municipality. Mr. Alix said they only provide sewer service but don't do anything with storm drains.

Ms. Chavarria said there are other possible funding sources in terms of Somer Townships or the county developing user fees similar to the Scottswood project. She said Wilbur Heights is part of the Beaver Lake Drainage District, but said they can separate from the district and put the money some other way that it could benefit this project. Mr. Carter asked about the relationship between the township and county highway and wanted to know how a township raises funds. Mr. Blue said they have property taxes and they get a small amount of MFT funds.

Mr. Jay noted that even if the road was fixed it isn't going to be a long term solution if they if don't fix the drainage issue. Mr. Blue said the CDAP grant is for fixing the drainage issue along Wilbur Avenue. Ms. Chavarria said Berns Clancy believes they can work with the railroad to get the culvert cleaned up. She stated that there are another three phases of drainage improvements for the entire subdivision to find more local funding for. She acknowledged the railroad is going to be difficult. She also said they have an alternate where they might be able to go through an adjacent property. Mr. Alix asked if that was a drainage district pipe or City of Champaign. Mr. Blue was unsure. Ms. Chavarria said Berns Clancy identified this system as something that everyone forgot about that was supposed to drain out the Market Place Mall area.

Ms. Michaels said the money would take care of Phase 1, but more money would be need for additional phases. Ms. Chavarria said if they would have a successful CDAP grant for Phase 1, the likelihood of getting four in a row, three more for the additional three phases, is low. Mr. Blue asked if the money is grants with no payback or loans. Ms. Chavarria said they are grants. Mr. Alix asked who would approach Wilbur residents door to door for a special assessment. Ms. Busey answered all governing entities which have jurisdiction. Mr. Alix asked if it had to be all or could it be just some. Ms. Busey said she didn't know. Mr. Alix asked who physically causes taxes to go up to pay for the project. Ms. Busey said the drainage district. Mr. Alix asked if this had been brought up. Ms. Chavarria said that at public meetings in the fall of 2013 there was a willingness to pay something, but she wasn't sure of the amount. Mr. Alix wondered if they should focus on the highway part and let the drainage district do their part. Ms. Chavarria pointed out that if they only do the road and not the drainage that they will lose the road again.

Mr. Mitchell commented that the net result amortized over the longest period will be enhanced property values. Mr. Jay asked what percentage is low cost housing compared to businesses. Ms. Chavarria replied that there are about 60 homes and 20 businesses and the majority of acreage is residential. Mr. McGuire asked how these were assessed. Ms. Busey said by property value. Mr. McGuire commented that businesses would be assessed higher.

Mr. Alix felt there isn't the ability to raise the full project cost with a special assessment, but thought they could raise \$200,000. He asked what the total cost of all phases is. Ms. Chavarria replied \$2.2 million. Mr. Alix said they are short \$1 million for the entire project and asked if that is what they would want to raise with a special assessment. Ms. Chavarria said ideally yes, but said if they can get the additional CDAP grants that will be a lot of money. Mr. Alix commented that isn't very much over 20 years. He said they should go to the drainage district and suggest other funding that could be spread over 30 years. Mr. Blue asked if the drainage districts had the ability to apply for low income loans. Ms. Chavarria replied yes. Mr. Alix commented that they don't want to be in a position to encourage taking the road from IDOT with the implication that all the problems will be fixed knowing they won't be fixed unless they are able to contribute some resources themselves.

Mr. McGuire commented on the steps for each phase and asked at what point we don't get IDOT funding if this is delayed. Ms. Chavarria said she can look at previous projects on how special assessments were put together. She said she will talk to the state and maybe pressure them to get more money. She noted the CDAP application cycle begins in May and closes in July. Ms. Petrie said some IDOT money could be leveraged as the local CDAP. She also said it is actually a \$400,000 shortage, not \$200,000. She stated they shouldn't do the road if they aren't going to do the drainage. She commented that the heavy equipment from the businesses do more damage than residential traffic. Ms. Chavarria stated that CDAP has a 25% local cost share. She said that for future CDAP grants they will need to come up with 25% for each of the remaining phases, which is how Ms. Petrie came up with \$400,000, and the IDOT funding will no longer be there.

Mr. Alix felt that this falls on the drainage district and they should be the one trying to find the money. Mr. Jay suggested they let Ms. Chavarria look into it some more. Ms. Chavarria said she would hate to turn down the IDOT funding because it won't be available again. Ms. Harrison commented that the governor signed an executive order eliminating all non-essential grants. Ms. Chavarria said they will need to talk to them again. Mr. Jay thanked Ms. Chavarria for her efforts to help the people in that neighborhood.

#### **VIII. 2015 Salt Bid – Award Authority**

Mr. Blue explained the resolution for award authority. He said there are bids out for salt for next year to be opened March 12. He said he's talked to multiple entities to come up with larger quantities of salt. He pointed out that they didn't go with CMS last year and ended up paying \$108 per ton. Mr. Blue stated he is trying to get a bid for salt before he has to sign the letter from CMS telling them to bid the salt for us. He said that he has been hearing that salt is around \$80 per ton, and if they can get a bid below \$80 they would probably award it, but if it's more they will probably try their luck with CMS. He said the CMS

contract has the ability to be extended for two more years. Mr. Blue indicated that this needs to be done by April 1 and asked for the ability to award on behalf of the county if the bid comes in at a reasonable price. **MOTION** by Ms. Michaels to approve award authority; seconded by Mr. Mitchell.

Ms. Michaels said they probably didn't use as much salt this year and wondered if they are looking to fill the dome. Mr. Blue said yes. Ms. Michaels asked if the price is guaranteed for three years or is it adjusted. Mr. Blue said it can be adjusted if both parties agree, or the contract could be ended. He noted that if they go with CMS they have to tell them by April 1 how many tons they want, but the bid isn't put out until August, leaving them not knowing the price until the beginning of September. Mr. Alix asked if they go with CMS do they have to take it. Mr. Blue replied yes.

Ms. Petrie noted they were judicious in ordering last year and asked if they were also judicious as to how the salt was used. Mr. Blue replied yes. Ms. Petrie asked if the dome is full would they still be judicious in the use. Mr. Wingler explained that each storm is different and said that they don't like using the salt. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**IX. Dewey-Fisher Road Update**

Mr. Blue reported that the state hasn't awarded the contract yet. He said they have about nine days left to do so. He stated that he hasn't been told the contract won't be awarded. Mr. Blue said they have been in daily communications to find out what is going on. He noted that once the contract is awarded it takes about a month to get all the paperwork signed before work can start.

**X. Olympian Drive Update**

Mr. Blue stated that all the right-of-ways for the west end near Clearview have been secured and the project will be let on April 24. He said they anticipate doing the project this summer. He reminded everyone that the county has no money in this project.

**XI. Other Business**

Mr. Blue passed out a graph from the pavement management system. He said that when they started this they anticipated a 14 year road life. He said the graph shows the life has been extended to 17-18 years, with the road being dead at 24 years. Mr. Blue said that the cold-in-place recycling projects are falling above that curve. He said they are doing a good job and that the pavement system is showing where the money needs to be spent. Mr. Alix asked what each dot on the graph is. Mr. Blue said they are test sections on the roadways.

**XII. Chair's Report**

None

**XIII. Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes**

Pursuant to the statutory requirement to conduct a semi-annual review of all closed meeting minutes, **Ms. Michaels moved** that the closed meeting minutes of the Highway Committee be maintained as closed to protect the public interest or the privacy of individuals, with the exception of the minutes from: November 22, 1996; June 14, 2004; June 21, 2004; November 9, 2007; February 8, 2008; March 7, 2008; June 6, 2008; April 17, 2009; October 2, 2012; February 8, 2013; March 8, 2013; October 3, 2014, 9:39 am; and October 3, 2014, 9:49 am which may now be determined as open session minutes. Seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**XIV. Designation of Items to be placed on consent agenda**

Ms. Cowart stated that item VIII is to be placed on the consent agenda.

**XV. Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jay to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Alix. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**. There being no further business, Ms. Cowart adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.