



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

MINUTES – Approved 8/5/2016

DATE: Friday, June 3, 2016
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Highway Building Conference Room
1605 East Main, Urbana, IL

Committee Members

Present: Lorraine Cowart (Chair), Chris Alix, John Jay, Jim McGuire, Diane Michaels, Max Mitchell
Absent: Lloyd Carter (Vice Chair), Shana Harrison,

County Staff: Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Rick Snider (County Administrator), Tracy Wingler (County Highway Department), Linda Lane (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: Pattsy Petrie (County Board Chair)

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 Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Ms. Michaels to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Alix. Ms. Cowart stated on the addendum the wrong resolution was attached and the correct one would be handed out by Mr. Blue. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

IV. Approval of Minutes – May 6, 2016

MOTION by Mr. Jay to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2016 meeting; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

V. Public Participation

None

VI. Communications

None

VII. County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – May 2016

MOTION by Mr. Alix to receive and place on file the County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for May 2016; seconded by Mr. Jay. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Mr. Mitchell entered at 9:03 a.m.

VIII. Petition & Resolution for Mahomet Township #16-15032-00-BR

Mr. Blue pointed out there is a bridge on Spring Lake Road where the pre-cast superstructure, or deck, from the 70s has a number of cracks and needs to be replaced. He said this will be a Township Bridge Program project, meaning 80% Township Bridge Program funds, 10% County funds, and 10% Township funds with the cost of the engineering being split between the County and Township.

Ms. Cowart asked who is paying the 80%. Mr. Blue replied the Township Bridge Program, which is a State program that comes off the top of the Motor Fuel Tax. He said the estimated cost is \$250,000 with \$25,000 being the County's share, plus half of the engineering costs.

MOTION by Mr. Jay to approve; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Mr. Alix wondered how that worked when they built the lake. He asked if the Township put the bridge in gratis. Mr. Blue replied he doesn't know the full history of the bridge, but thought the current bridge is probably the second one. Ms. Cowart asked how long these bridges usually last. Mr. Blue answered 60-70 years the way they are built now. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

IX. Resolution Appropriating Funds for County Highway 23, Section #14-00438-00-RS

Mr. Blue noted this is a project for next year. He said the road runs from Dewey to the County Line, is in very poor shape, has very steep slopes along a few miles, and has steep and deep ditches. He explained they will do some widening of the roadway, make the ditches safer, do cold-in-place recycling of the surface, and put a new surface on top of that. Mr. Blue said they are doing the design in-house, but due to the load of work on his engineers, they are unable to finish it in time to get the project bid this winter. He explained this is similar to Cardinal and Rising road where they are hiring an engineering firm. Mr. Blue said the engineering firm is estimating \$50,000 in total cost, so he put in \$60,000 to make sure there was enough. **MOTION** by Mr. McGuire to approve; seconded by Mr. Alix.

Ms. Michaels asked if the road went into Elliot. Mr. Blue answered yes. Mr. Michaels mentioned a large curvy area with a lot of gravel where 1000 and 3100 meet and wanted to know if they were cleaning it up. She said that is a very dangerous curve. Mr. Alix thought the gravel was a Township stockpile. Mr. Blue agreed that it was said fixing it isn't in the project plan.

Mr. Alix asked how the ditches are fixed. Mr. Blue replied they will fill them in and widen the right-of-way. Ms. Petrie asked if land was borrowed for other projects to cause the ditches to be so deep. Mr. Blue responded that this is a road acquired from the State and it was in that condition when they got it.

Ms. Petrie asked how much more the engineering is costing by going outside. Mr. Blue answered that the computer applications the engineering firm is using the County doesn't have. He said the County has a very rudimentary CAD program and noted there isn't enough work to keep a full-time hire busy. He commented that it's hard for him to estimate the cost because they don't have the appropriate tools. Ms. Michaels asked if they would see this more often. Mr. Blue replied this is what they will be going towards because they don't have the expertise. Ms. Michaels asked if this would save the County money in the end. Mr. Blue felt it would. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

X. Resolution Appropriating Funds for County Highway 18, Section #16-00033-00-BR

Mr. Blue said this is preliminary engineering for a bridge built around 1900. He stated they didn't receive notification until two weeks ago the bridge needed replaced. He explained the State did an inspection in 2013, without the County knowing, and determined it could hold legal loads only. He stated this needs to be replaced before the State does another inspection and decides the bridge should be posted. Mr. Blue said this one, along with the next item on the agenda, are both bridges on CH18. **MOTION** by Mr. Alix to approve; seconded by Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. Alix commented that it would have been nice to know this when the road was rebuilt. Mr. Blue said they only paved up to the bridge but didn't go over it. Ms. Cowart asked if State or Federal is going to help with the replacement. Mr. Blue answered no. Mr. Alix asked the total cost of both bridges. Mr. Blue replied about \$1 million. Ms. Michaels commented that she knows the County keeps up with replacing bridges when needed, but stated she didn't want to see them run out of money and have a bridge not get done that would have taken precedence over another. Mr. Blue explained that ever since the Minnesota bridge collapse the Feds are re-examining how bridges are evaluated as far as loads. He noted the State sent an email a month ago that said based on the new criteria coming out of Washington D.C., they have to re-rate X number of bridges. Mr. Blue said there are thousands of bridges and they can no longer use engineering judgement to rate the bridges. Mr. McGuire asked if they were

pushing down any money with this. Mr. Blue replied no. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

XI. Resolution Appropriating Funds for County Highway 18, Section #16-00039-00-BR

MOTION by Mr. McGuire to approve; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Mr. Blue said this will be a third generation bridge and explained both the sub-structure and the super-structure need to be replaced because both are in poor shape. Mr. Blue noted this bridge isn't coming from the State rating system, but if they're going to close Monticello Road, he only wants to do it once and replace both bridges. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

XII. Resolution Appropriating Funds for County Highway 16, Section #15-00028-00-BR

Mr. Blue said the State's multi-year program came out, and included in that program is the replacement of the Pesotum bridge on St. Mary's Road. He noted the project is \$1.25 million and the bridge is already load rated down to 15 tons. He pointed out that when projects like this come up it's usually four to five years before the money is available. Mr. Blue stated this resolution is for money to do the engineering work. He said the project will be 80% funded by the Major Bridge Program Fund, with the County paying the remaining 20%. He commented that once they have the estimate back, he will come back to committee with a resolution to fund the County's 20% to replace the bridge. **MOTION** by Mr. Mitchell to approve; seconded by Mr. McGuire.

Mr. Alix asked if they had a commitment that they would receive the money. Mr. Blue said this is Federal money so it's just pass-through. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

XIII. Mack Truck Lease

Mr. Blue reminded everyone that they received the bids from First Bank and Busey and passed the resolution for a 2.45% loan rate. He said he told First Bank to get the paperwork going and the bank asked who has authority to sign the note. Mr. Blue said neither the Auditor nor Treasurer knew because this is new, so he sent an email to the State's Attorney. He explained the State's Attorney's office did some digging in the State statues and came back with the answer that the County doesn't have the authority to borrow money as a straight loan. Ms. Michaels commented that they couldn't have borrowed from Mack either then. Mr. Blue explained it has to be a lease, not a loan. He said he was told by First Bank that they have an outside leasing source they can use but the rate is 2.65%. Mr. Blue noted Mack was at 2.69%, so this is still the best rate. He stated he sent those lease documents to the State's Attorney's office and they said they think it will work, but a resolution rescinding the resolution for the 2.45% will have to be passed, and authority given for the lease at 2.65%. Mr. Blue said the trucks won't be delivered until August or September so he is going to let the State's Attorney work directly with the bank to figure everything out. He stated once that is done he will bring it back to committee so they can pass it to the Board.

Mr. Alix wondered what the difference between a vehicle loan and a lease is. Mr. Blue felt lease is a different way to say loan for a government. Ms. Michaels said its rent to own. Mr. Alix asked if there is a difference in the residual. Mr. Blue said that maybe that's where it comes in because the residual is how Mack does their lease. Mr. Alix asked if we have to buy the truck at the end of the lease. Mr. Blue answered the last payment is the buyout and the County will own the trucks.

XIV. Snowplowing Discussion

Mr. Blue said he originally put this on the agenda to talk about expectations, of the Board as well as the general public, of the County's snowplowing in Champaign County. He noted Vermilion County, Ford County, Piatt County, and Douglas County don't plow 24/7 or have a bare pavement policy. He said they get people where they want to be, but they don't plow 24/7 and some don't use salt at all except in extreme conditions. Mr. Blue explained this is coming up because of some of the discussions they've been having through negotiations with AFSCME for the contract that was up December 1, 2015. He suggested in order to have a more thorough conversation they go into closed session.

MOTION by Mr. Alix at 9:46 a.m. to move to enter into closed session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (2) to consider collective negotiating matters between Champaign County and its employees or their representatives. He further moved the following individuals remain present: the County Administrator, the Recording Secretary, the County Engineer, and the Road Foreman; seconded by Ms. Michaels. **MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote with Alix, Jay, McGuire, Michaels, Mitchell, and Cowart voting yes.**

The meeting returned to open session at 10:17 a.m. A roll call was taken with Alix, Jay, McGuire, Michaels, Mitchell, and Cowart present establishing a quorum.

XV. Other Business

A. Cancel July Highway Committee Meeting – **MOTION** by Mr. McGuire to cancel the July Highway Committee Meeting; seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Mr. Blue said there will be a few items but he will take them directly to the Board. Ms. Cowart said they usually cancel the July meeting. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

B. **Resolution Appropriating Funds for Rising Road and Cardinal Road, Section #15-03439-00-SP**

C. **Resolution Approving Joint Agreement with IDOT for Construction of the Intersection of Rising Road and Cardinal Road Section #15-03439-00-SP**

Mr. Blue noted this is an ongoing project and it will be on the July IDOT bid letting. He said they need to get the resolutions through to fund the local share and have the Chair sign a joint agreement with IDOT stating we passed resolutions to fund the local share. Mr. Blue explained the local share will be paid back to the County from Hensley and Champaign Townships. He said the first resolution is for \$100,000 from the County Highway Fund for the construction of the project, and the second resolution gives the Chair the authority to sign the joint agreement. **Omnibus MOTION** by Mr. Mitchell to approve appropriating the funds and have the Chair sign the IDOT joint agreement; seconded by Mr. Alix. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

XVI. Chair's Report

None

XVII. Designation of Items to be Placed on Consent Agenda

Ms. Cowart stated that items VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XV-B, and XV-C are to be placed on the consent agenda.

XVIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Cowart adjourned the meeting at 10:18 am.

***Please note the minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.*