



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

***MINUTES – SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL***

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**DATE:** Friday, August 5, 2016  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.  
**PLACE:** Highway Building Conference Room  
1605 East Main, Urbana, IL

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**Committee Members**

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

**Absent:** John Jay

**County Staff:** Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Rick Snider (County Administrator), Barb Mann (State's Attorney's Office), Linda Lane (Recording Secretary)

**Others Present:** Pattsy Petrie (County Board Chair)

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***MINUTES***

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:01 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. McGuire. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**IV. Approval of Minutes – June 3, 2016**

**MOTION** by Mr. Carter to approve the minutes of the June 3, 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 – June and July 2016**

**MOTION** by Mr. Alix to pay as presented the County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for June and July 2016; seconded by Mr. Carter. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

Mr. Alix stated he noticed some land acquisition on the report. Mr. Blue replied the remaining acquisition had to go into condemnation and the City of Urbana is handling it. He said the banks and the landowner couldn't come to an agreement on who was getting what. Mr. Blue said the courts will settle this but we still plan to bid it this winter for construction next spring.

**VIII. Petition & Resolution for Crittenden Township #16-00031-00-BR**

Mr. Blue handed out a revised petition and resolution stating that since this project is on the County line, the township doesn't end up paying any portion of the total project cost. He said the original petition and

resolution had Crittenden Township contributing costs. He explained the bridge was built without any erosion protection under it and riprap needs to be added. He said it is a quite labor-intensive job, and will cost about \$36,500 to do both sides of the bridge.

**MOTION** by Ms. Michaels to approve; seconded by Ms. Harrison. Ms. Cowart asked if the MFT fund will pay for this. Mr. Blue replied that it will come out of the County Bridge Fund. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**IX. Resolution Reappointing County Engineer**

Mr. Blue noted that this Committee already approved the renewal of his contract. He noted they sent a resolution to IDOT for approval of reappointment, which they signed and sent back. Mr. Blue said the actual resolution reappointing has to be within 100 days of the vacancy. He said they had to wait until now to send the resolution to IDOT officially reappointing him.

**MOTION** by Mr. Alix to approve; seconded by Mr. McGuire. Ms. Michaels commented that it looks standard from what it was in years past and asked if it is a year-to-year or four-year contract. Mr. Blue responded that it is a six (6) year contract. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

Mr. Mitchell entered at 9:10 am.

**X. Resolution for Contract Award Authority CR 20 #16-00035-00-BR**

Mr. Blue stated that a resolution had already been passed to appropriate the funds to replace the deck on the bridge on CR 20. He noted that it's been posted due to the re-rating of bridges by IDOT. He explained that the timeliness to get this bridge fixed is very important. He said they never know when IDOT will send the plans and he doesn't want to have to wait until the next Committee meeting in case the bid didn't fit the time schedule with the meeting schedule. He pointed out that this is the standard resolution they've used in the past giving him authority to award the contract if the bid is within 10% of the engineer's estimated cost.

**MOTION** by Mr. McGuire to approve; seconded by Mr. Carter. Mr. Alix commented that the sooner this bridge is done the better. Mr. Blue said he didn't know if they would get it done this year, but noted that this is only a deck replacement. Mr. Alix asked if the bridge will be closed or go to one lane. Mr. Blue replied it will be closed and they can't do it in the winter because it's an asphalt roadway. Mr. Alix asked if a detour will be posted. Mr. Blue said there will be a road closed sign at I-57. Ms. Michaels asked how long the project will take. Mr. Blue answered a couple months. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**XI. CUUATS MFT Resolution**

Mr. Blue explained that the formula for each CUUATS member's share has been in place for a long time. He said the County's share is \$30,427 this year. **MOTION** by Mr. Alix to approve; seconded by Ms. Michaels.

Ms. Petrie asked what the share is for the other entities and asked if it should be revisited. Mr. Blue replied that they've tried several times without any luck. He pointed out that CUUATS does a lot of work for the County and cities, and is the model agency for the State.

Ms. Michaels asked what projects they had coming up. Mr. Blue replied there is a kick-off meeting next week about extending Curtis Road from First Street to IL 130. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

Mr. Alix reported that the CUUATS 2016 budget, in response to Ms. Petrie's earlier question, is \$29,000 from Champaign County; \$29,000 from the City of Champaign; \$29,000 from the City of Urbana; \$15,000 from the U of I; \$5,000 from Savoy; and \$107,000 from Federal.

**XII. MACK Truck Lease Resolutions**

Mr. Blue said there are lease-purchase and sales agreements attached to the agenda and noted that Barb Mann from the State's Attorney's office is here to answer questions. He stated a cacophony of errors took place during the entire process of financing. Mr. Blue summarized the history of trying to obtain these

vehicles. He said they have gone through many iterations and the draft in the packet is the end result of that effort. He commented that after it was done Mr. Fletcher from the State's Attorney's office had reservations because the trucks weren't re-bid and the wording in the lease agreement said the County had followed proper bidding procedures. He said Mr. Fletcher felt that language wasn't appropriate in the lease based on the way the trucks were awarded.

Mr. Blue said that after multiple discussions with Ms. Mann they agreed it's in their best interest to purchase the vehicles outright and forget about a lease or loan. He said the total price for all four trucks is \$486,396. He said Highway currently has available \$136,396 in the FY16 budget and \$850,000 in reserves in the County Highway Fund. Mr. Blue stated they have budgeted \$350,000 for FY17 in capital for heavy equipment. He said they could borrow from the reserves, and won't purchase any heavy equipment in FY17 so they can put the \$350,000 back in reserves.

Ms. Michaels asked if they would make payments to themselves. Mr. Blue said he's not sure how that's handled with finance, but the money will get back into the reserves. He said he doesn't think he needs a formal vote from the Committee, but he would like some reassurance that this is the way to handle it. Ms. Mann stated there has already been a resolution to purchase the vehicles as well as one to finance them. Mr. Blue asked if the financing resolution needed to be rescinded or if it would just die. Discussion continued.

Mr. Alix said they could have a resolution to rescind the financing resolution at the next meeting. Mr. Blue said that Mr. Fletcher had started working on that and Ms. Mann said she'd look into that.

Ms. Petrie asked if purchasing wasn't one of the first thoughts in this process. Mr. Blue said they have a need for some heavy equipment next year, and said he wanted to spread out the cost so they could do that. He said he will forgo the equipment next year in order to get the trucks. Ms. Petrie asked if they could purchase one less truck to fulfill the equipment needs for next year. Mr. Blue replied that the trucks are already in production.

Mr. Snider asked if Mack is going to refit them or if Highway will do that. Mr. Blue answered that Mack has a company that does that for them.

Mr. Blue said they may have some money from the sale of the old trucks next year that they can use for some minor equipment purchases and they've talked about different websites to sell them. Someone mentioned Craigslist. Mr. Snider said publicsurplus.com is for governmental agencies and he's had good luck with that. Mr. Blue said there is a possibility of trading in the old trucks with Mack if Mack had a buyer.

Mr. Blue asked for a vote of support of the purchase. Mr. Alix felt they could do a straw poll and asked if there was any objection to this. All members agreed to purchase the vehicles outright.

### **XIII. Other Business**

Mr. Blue reported that the bid for the Cardinal and Rising Roads project was Friday. He said the IDOT engineer's estimate was \$850,000 and the bid came in at \$519,000. He noted that the County will only be paying 10% of this project and said they hope to get it done this fall. Mr. Mitchell pointed out that part of the road is under water quite often. Mr. Blue said they are putting in major box culverts and adding ditches to help with that. Mr. Alix asked if that is a County road. Mr. Blue replied that it's a Champaign Township and Hensley Township road. Mr. Alix asked if there was enough easement or if they had to purchase some. Mr. Blue responded they had to purchase some.

Mr. Blue reported there is a rumor that the Maplewood project funding has fallen apart. He said that isn't true, but work has temporarily stopped because the concrete isn't meeting IDOT specifications. He said the project should still be complete in September or October. Mr. Alix thought the rumor might have started when the State was having budget discussions and said all roadwork would shut down July 31.

Mr. McGuire said there's been some discussion about the Kirby bridge and asked if they are going to be able to do anything with that bridge to widen it. Mr. Blue said they put a lot of money into the bridge to

redo the deck a few years ago. He felt it's more likely they will put in a separate bridge for pedestrians. He said the City of Champaign will probably end up paying the major costs unless they can get an enhancement grant to build a trail system. He noted that grant money is very competitive right now. Mr. McGuire asked with the State funding issues if our IDOT district funding has improved. Mr. Blue replied the formula hasn't changed. He said after they talked to IDOT three or four years ago about all the needs in Champaign County, including 130, 150, 45, 57/74 interchange, 74 going to Mahomet, and 150 going to Mahomet, many of those projects have been taken care of. He felt they have done well for the community with the monies IDOT has and that a lot of the needs requested were fulfilled. He noted that when the needs were originally requested IDOT said most of those projects wouldn't happen. Mr. Alix asked if IDOT would let the City of Champaign build a pedestrian bridge. Mr. Blue answered yes. Mr. Alix asked what it might cost. Mr. Blue guessed at least \$1 million. Mr. McGuire said they have some idea because one is supposed to be going in at Curtis Road. Mr. Alix asked if there weren't already pedestrian/bike lanes on that bridge. Mr. McGuire said its part of the development with Carle and the northeast quadrant of Curtis. He said Carle has a plan of bike paths and walkways and the bridge was already in the plan for the Curtis Road exit when it was put in.

**XIV. Chair's Report**

None

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

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

**XVI. Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Ms. Michaels to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Harrison. There being no further business, Ms. Cowart adjourned the meeting at 9:50 am.

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