



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

***MINUTES – APPROVED MARCH 8, 2019***

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DATE: Friday, February 8, 2019  
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), John Clifford, Giraldo Rosales, Chris Stohr

**Absent:** Brad Clemmons, Jim McGuire, Pranjal Vachaspati

**County Staff:** Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Michelle Carter (Recording Secretary)

**Others Present:**

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***MINUTES***

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:08 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. Rosales to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Stohr.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**IV. Approval of Minutes – January 4, 2019**

**MOTION** by Mr. Clifford to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2019 meeting; seconded by Mr. Rosales.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**V. Public Participation**

None

**VI. Communications**

Mr. Rosales stated he attended the funeral of former County Board Member, Linda Cross.

**VII. County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – January 2019**

**MOTION** by Mr. Rosales to receive and place on file the County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for January 2019; seconded by Mr. Stohr.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**VIII. 2018 Final Bridge Report**

Mr. Blue discussed the 2018 Final Bridge Report. He stated that when resolutions are passed for bridge projects, we are required to report the final cost after completion. The first page of the report listed four large bridges that were completed in 2018. The second page outlined the total cost for various culvert projects completed in 2018. The report was for information only.

**IX. Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Transfer of Legal Representation Agreement and Engagement Letter**

Mr. Blue stated attorney Sheryl Churney has represented Champaign County regarding the California Ridge Wind Farm. The County has paid no fees for her services. All fees have been billed to California Ridge. Effective January 1, 2019, Sheryl Churney will be employed as an attorney with the law firm of Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins, Ltd. Mr. Blue explained that for Sheryl Churney to continue to represent Champaign County in connection with the wind farm road use agreement a resolution authorizing the transfer of legal representation must be completed. Mr. Stohr asked about the cost of copying per page. Mr. Blue said he would find out the cost for copying per page before the next board meeting. **MOTION** by Mr. Stohr to approve the resolution; seconded by Mr. Clifford. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**X. Transportation Funding Discussion**

Mr. Blue informed the committee on January 24, 2019 he met with Illinois representatives from Champaign County and twenty Highway Commissioners regarding transportation funding. Mr. Blue discussed the 2019 transportation needs throughout the state of Illinois. Mr. Blue discussed the handouts explaining the Motor Fuel Tax formula and how the money flows. Mr. Blue said we need the funding to be sustainable and long lasting. The current formula works well and is a good way to distribute funds. Mr. Blue discussed the 2017 MFT distributions for the County and townships. He said the problem is that MFT funds have not increased in almost 30 years however, the expense for bridge projects and the price of asphalt have almost tripled. Mr. Stohr asked about the recent report on the pavement condition index. Mr. Blue said the pavement condition measures the top of the roadways. He said the PCI does not address safety issues. Many roadways have narrow pavement and narrow shoulders. Mr. Blue asked the committee to consider attending the 2019 Transportation Lobby Day on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> in Springfield. Lobby Day attendees will visit with state legislators to discuss the importance of transportation funding.

**XI. Other Business**

Mr. Blue informed the committee that Josh Reifsteck was promoted to the Road Foreman position.

**XII. Chair's Report**

None

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

Ms. Cowart stated that item IX be placed on the consent agenda.

**XIV. Adjournment**

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

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