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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
May 5, 2016**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 6:00pm in the Conference Room of the DeKalb County Highway Department, located at 1826 Barber Greene Road, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

Chairman John Gudmunson called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. Committee members present were Mr. Luebke, Vice Chair, Mr. Bunge, Mr. Frieders, Mr. Pietrowski, Mr. Metzger and Ms. Willis. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz, Vice Chair County Board, Mr. Tracy Jones and Mr. Jim Quinn, Operations Manager were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mr. Pietrowski and seconded by Ms. Willis to approve the minutes of the regular April 7, 2016 meeting. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Vice Chair Luebke moved and Ms. Willis seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Quinn announced to the Committee that after 38 years and 26 days with the Department he is retiring. His last day with the County will be May 27, 2016. Committee members thanked Mr. Quinn for his service to the County. Mr. Schwartz emphasized the tremendous dedication and sacrifices Mr. Quinn has made since being with the Department. He thanked him for all his many hours of hard work and wishes him all the best in retirement.

Resolution #R2016-36 for Local Agency Agreements for Federal Participation for Plank Road Paving Project and the Shabbona Road Paving Project

Mr. Schwartz presented two agreements to be entered into between the County and the State of Illinois for two paving projects. These projects involve the expenditure of Federal funds, with the contracts being administered by IDOT. Mr. Schwartz stated these agreements are similar to all the past agreements when Federal funds are used. These projects will be paid for utilizing 80% Federal funds and 20% local funds for the

cost of these projects. The Committee inquired how far out does the County have to plan to obtain Federal funding for projects. Mr. Schwartz stated he typically applies for funding five years in advance and schedules projects with IDOT's five year planning cycle for approval. In some rare incidents projects can be fast tracked so they are completed sooner, but the normal procedure is five years out for planning purposes. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of these agreements. **Vice Chair Luebke moved and Mr. Metzger seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval of the two agreements. Motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIR'S COMMENTS: Chairman Gudmunson again thanked Mr. Quinn for his service to the County.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS: Mr. Schwartz provided an update of current projects underway throughout the County since last month's report. The construction of the Coltonville Road Bridge stands at 78% completed. The percent complete is based on the value of the work to date and not the time spent on the project. Work on the approaches continue. Weather is still a big factor as the contractor works to complete this project. The Glidden Road paving project will begin and be completed in the second half of May. No word from IDOT on funding for the McNeal Road Bridge. The County should be hearing something on this shortly. The Melms Road Bridge is scheduled to begin during 2016 and be completed by November. The Somonauk Road Bridge over Somonauk Creek has been postponed until 2017 due to an environmental impact study needing to be completed for federally protected mussels found in the stream within a mile of this project. That study will not be completed until later this year. Plank Road paving project should begin during July and last approximately three weeks. Peter Baker submitted the low bid of \$276,563.00 and the estimate was \$329,884.60. The Shabbona Road paving project does not have a start date as of this meeting. The low bid was submitted by Rock Road Companies for \$1,749,172.43 and the estimate was \$2,247,520.90. Stone Quarry Road paving project is being handled by Boone County and they will also pave DeKalb County's portion of this road. The low bid for the project was \$758,272.66 with DeKalb County's portion being \$43,614.10. Peter Baker & Son will be the contractor for this project. The Department is planning a June letting for Waterman Road improvements and the approval of that bid process will require a special Committee meeting on June 15, 2016 prior to the regular County Board meeting.

Mr. Schwartz stated that although he is not overseeing the jail expansion project if any of the Committee members have any questions concerning the project he will get answers, so feel free to contact him.

The Department is working with a couple of consultants who are doing some pro bono work in an attempt to secure safety funding for two projects for the County. One project is the Illinois Route 64/Peace Road intersection improvements. The other project deals with Plank Road to provide safety shoulders, signage upgrade and safe

places for the Sheriff to park along Plank Road to monitor traffic. The goal is to make roads as easy as possible for drivers to maneuver.

Mr. Schwartz requested the Committee's input regarding the replacement of the Department's small service truck that is scheduled for replacement this year. That replacement cost is estimated to be \$45,000.00-\$50,000.00. This truck is basically a pick-up truck with a small box for storing tools. With the increase in our equipment and their location on any given day throughout the County, it is felt a more versatile truck should be obtained during this replacement cycle. The big shop truck is equipped with several pieces of equipment that allow for almost any repair function to be completed in the field if needed. The Department is requesting the small shop truck be equipped with a crane and air compressor to allow the operator to complete basic service calls with this vehicle in the field as well. Tire problems are the most common in the summer months with crews miles apart in the north and south part of the County. In addition, regular crews experiencing problems would have to wait for the big shop truck to clear from a prior assignment depending on the problem. By having both shop trucks equipped and capable of doing 70 to 80 percent of the repairs in the field will improve the efficiency of the assigned mechanics and reduce wait time for crews. The estimated cost to equip a new one-ton with a crane and air compressor along with a steel box for storage is \$70,000.00 to \$75,000.00. The increased cost of the improved truck may be offset by a longer life cycle of the vehicle. The Committee stated this was a sound idea and agreed as long as the Department stayed within its original equipment budget.

Mr. Schwartz reviewed a few pieces of current legislation with the Committee that is currently before the legislature. They were that Road Districts being required to take over subdivision roads; all vehicles must yield to bicycle riders; must publish 10 days in advance if you are going to establish a road detour for any reason; and the recommendation for a constitutional amendment that would require all highway user fees collected to go toward highway projects only.

OTHER BUSINESS: The Committee suggested having a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Coltonville Road Bridge once it is ready to be opened to traffic. Mr. Schwartz will put something together for that.

Mr. Frieders voiced concern over the pulling of shoulders allowing for softer shoulders and placing excess gravel over the white edge line. Mr. Schwartz stated he will review the operation and see if improvements could be made. The pulling of the shoulders is a necessary operation to reclaim aggregate and place it back on the edge of the road to protect the edge of pavement.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Gudmunson asked if there was any additional items that needed to be presented tonight and hearing none asked for a motion to adjourn. **A motion was made by Mr. Metzger and seconded by Mr. Pietrowski and the motion passed unanimously.** The May 5, 2016 meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Gudmunson
Chairman