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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
June 1, 2017**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, June 1, 2017, 6:00pm in the Conference Room of the DeKalb County Highway Department, located at 1826 Barber Greene Road, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

Chairman John Frieders called the meeting to order at 6:08pm. Roll call was held and Committee members present were Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Stoddard and Vice Chair Willis. Mr. Bunge was absent. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz, Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager and Mr. Josh Merchant, Operations Manager, were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Vice Chair Willis and seconded by Ms. Polanco to approve the minutes of the regular May 4, 2017 meeting and the special May 17, 2017 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Stoddard moved and Mr. Plote seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

MFT RESOLUTION #R2017-87: SOMONAUK ROAD RESURFACE PROJECT

The County will be utilizing MFT funds during the resurfacing of Somonauk Road from North Avenue in the Town of Cortland to Conlin Avenue in the City of Sycamore. The County is required to pass a resolution appropriating MFT funds and IDOT must approve the expenditure prior to funds being expended. This resolution will satisfy that requirement. Mr. Schwartz recommended the approval of the resolution in the amount of \$15,000.00. **Mr. Stoddard moved and Vice Chair Willis seconded the motion to forward the MFT resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously**

RESOLUTION #R2017-88: TARP AGREEMENT FOR SOMONAUK ROAD

Mr. Schwartz informed the Committee that the Somonauk Road resurface project was selected for the use of Truck Access Route Program (TARP) funds. By agreeing to these funds the County is required to post the designated route as a truck route (80,000 pound road-no postings in the spring). This agreement commits the County to do that. TARP funds have been approved in the amount of \$273,600.00 for this project. The Committee inquired if the Town of Cortland and the City of Sycamore were going to make their portion of the road 80,000 pounds as well after this project is completed. Mr. Schwartz stated that Somonauk Road through the Town of Cortland to Illinois Route 38 is already an 80,000 pound truck route and the City of Sycamore is in agreement that their section from Bethany Road to Conlin Avenue will also be designated as an 80,000 pound truck route. **Vice Chair Willis moved and Mr. Osland seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2017-89: DESIGNATION OF SOMONAUK ROAD AS A CLASS III TRUCK ROUTE

As Mr. Schwartz indicated earlier as part of the agreement to utilize TARP funds when resurfacing a road, that section of roadway must be designated as an 80,000 pound truck route. This resolution satisfies that portion of the agreement. The County portion of Somonauk Road from North Avenue to Bethany Road will be the portion of roadway so designated. Mr. Schwartz recommended the County approve the resolution. **Mr. Stoddard moved and Mr. Plote seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2017-90: AWARD OF SOMONAUK ROAD RESURFACE PROJECT

The County received bids for the hot-mix resurfacing of Somonauk Road from North Avenue in the Town of Cortland to Conlin Avenue in the City of Sycamore May 31, 2017. Three bids were received with Curran Contracting Company from Crystal Lake, Illinois submitting the low bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$747,151.34. This project will be funded with the TARP funds discussed earlier along with \$450,000 of construction bond proceeds and approximately \$15,000 in County MFT funds and \$11,000 in County Matching funds. The Construction Bond was redeemed when the contractor failed to construct required roadway improvements to Somonauk Road when granted a building permit for the construction of Richland Trails subdivision in the Town of Cortland. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this award. **Ms. Polanco moved and Vice Chair Willis seconded the motion to forward the award resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion Passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2017-91: ENGINEERING AGREEMENT FOR BARBER GREENE ROAD BRIDGE IN CORTLAND ROAD DISTRICT .5 MILES EAST OF AIRPORT ROAD

Mr. Schwartz indicated the bridge deck on this subject bridge receives a heavy amount of truck traffic from the Vulcan Quarry and is in need of repair. The Highway Commissioner has requested that the deck be repaired this year and an engineering agreement is the first step in this process. The agreement is with Wendler Engineering Services from Dixon, Illinois for the design of the repairs and it is not to exceed \$16,500.00. Mr. Schwartz recommended the County enter into this agreement. **Mr. Plote moved and Mr. Osland seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIR'S COMMENTS: Chairman Frieders stated he had nothing at this time.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee. The Highway Department Complex Storage Facility is 80% through the preliminary engineering stage. The Highway Department will be doing the dirt work for this project and the plan is still to have the building completed by the end of the year.

The East County Line Road Bridge, which is a Kane County project, will be scheduled for a January 19, 2018 letting. Mr. Schwartz was not sure if Kane County had acquired all of the right-of-way needed for this project but is confident that would be accomplished prior to the letting. All the right-of-way on DeKalb County's side of the bridge has been acquired.

McNeal Road Bridge was not selected again this year for Major Bridge Funds. The bridge is a costly one and it carries a low amount of traffic. It would appear this bridge will be built using the County's normal allocation of bridge funds.

The Safety Assessment Team from IDOT completed their study of the Peace Road intersection with Illinois Route 64 and provided a briefing on their recommendations. The County will receive a formal report which is being completed now and the County Engineer will respond either agreeing with their recommendations or providing additional information to consider. Some of the recommendations can be implemented now as the County awaits funding to become available for the planned safety updates.

The preconstruction meeting for the Somonauk Road Bridge project was held on May 30, 2017 now that INDR has signed off on the project and construction can begin. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin on June 12, 2017. During the preconstruction meeting ComEd informed the Department that due to OSHA requirements a 15 foot horizontal clearance would be required when working on the east side of the bridge installing the piles. The current clearance is only 13 feet and this would require ComEd

to schedule a power outage for the line closest to the roadway when the piles are being installed. ComEd does not normally schedule power outages between May-September due to the high demand for electricity. The contingency plan if ComEd will not schedule an outage would be to begin construction the day after the Sandwich Fair. If the weather cooperates the bridge can still be completed by the end of the year. The Committee voiced their displeasure over yet the possibility of another delay. Mr. Schwartz explained the Department moved forward as soon as INDR granted approval to begin construction and is continuing to work with ComEd in hopes of getting a scheduled power outage during the month of June.

The Somonauk Road paving project was reviewed by the Committee tonight and recommended award to Curran Construction Company.

The Somonauk Road culvert installation at Union Ditch # 1 has the preliminary engineering at 90% completed and the design engineering stands at 50%. Final plans should be available in a week or so.

Continuing the discussion of the replacement of the Department's aerial lift truck, Mr. Schwartz reviewed with the Committee a breakdown of the vehicles found during a search of local vendors and internet auction sites, including both used and new vehicles that was presented during the May Committee meeting. Since the May meeting, the Department advertised for bids for a new vehicle as directed by the Committee. Bids were received and opened on May 31, 2017 at 10:00am at the Highway Department. Only one bid was received and that was from Runnion Equipment Company from Lyons, Illinois in the amount of \$97,262.00, with a trade value of \$5,000.00 for our current aerial lift truck. After reviewing all of the Departments needs and requirements for this vehicle and comparing and reviewing all viable options, the Department is still of the opinion that the purchase of a new vehicle would be the best option for the Department. The vehicle would remain in the fleet for at least the next 20 years and purchasing a used vehicle would require extensive maintenance and upkeep. Discussion followed and it was the consensus of the Committee that the Department should consider the purchasing of a new vehicle with the option of a fiber glass box instead of a steel box. The fiber glass box would allow the box to be transferred to other vehicles if the need arose as it would remain rust free much longer than a steel box. A special Highway Committee Meeting will be schedule for June 21, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Freedom Road of the Legislative Center to formally act on this recommendation.

As a legislative update, Lawmakers adjourned on May 31st without a budget yet again. The Prevailing Wage, which had not been updated since 2015, was finally posted at the Illinois Department of Labor website. The updated rates show an average of 1% – 2% increase over the last two years. The rates for truck drivers, 4-6 axle trucks, however, have increased over 10%. These rates might have some effect on contract prices next year as the County is required to pay prevailing wage for all public works projects.

DSATS – the Active Transit Subcommittee (bike/walking trails) is in the process of reviewing the bike/trail routes and facilities and prioritizing to best fit the needs of the community. The Transit Subcommittee (bus routes) will be holding their public hearings to gather input concerning planned bus routes that best serve the citizens of the community.

The Committee was provided the Department's five year plan for both construction projects and equipment replacement. These plans are the building stones for the Department's budget. Mr. Schwartz explained to the Committee the process he goes through to determine which roads receive what maintenance process during a particular year. After reviewing all the roads, considering traffic, year built, funding available, etc., it was determined that all roads need to be on a 25 year resurfacing schedule. Roads were broken down or combined into an average of 8 mile segments. In between resurfacing cycles, rejuvenator, crack filling and seal coat maintenance functions would be performed. The Committee inquired if the County ever milled their roads or just kept putting on more and more hot-mix thereby raising the roads. Mr. Schwartz stated the County's goal is to get all roads up to 80,000 pounds. Until that goal is realized it is unlikely any milling would take place. One to two paving cycles should bring most roads up to the 80,000 pound requirement, but as explained that could be anywhere from 25 to 50 years with the current available funding. As the roads are resurfaced, the Department is adding the three foot hot-mix asphalt safety shoulders to provide a safer area on the edge of the road as well as slow down the breaking up of the edge of the road. The Committee requested that the total for local dollars be indicated on this five year report as well.

Next Mr. Schwartz reviewed his process of determining which bridges are scheduled for replacement. All 186 bridges in the County (including road district bridges) are inspected bi-annually and rated using the federal rating system. Bridges that receive a rating of 50% or less qualify for Surface Transportation Program Bridge Funds, which is our annual allocation from the State. Those would be the bridges programmed for replacement. To replace bridges with a current rating of 50% or below would require approximately \$45,000,000. Funding will continue to be a problem in this area as well as across the state. The Committee inquired what TBP was and Mr. Schwartz indicated that was the Township Bridge Program. This program provides funding when township bridges are replaced but the funding is very low, approximately \$160,000 per year. Township bridges usually last 60-70 years and State/County bridges usually last 60 years.

The equipment schedule was reviewed. This is the schedule the Department utilizes to keep equipment in good working order. Some equipment may be kept longer or shorter than the schedule depending on their performance over the years it is in service.

Mr. Schwartz stated if any of the Committee members were to have any questions regarding these parts of the budget to please contact him.

The County Engineer provided the Committee with the process utilized by the Department to select vendors for engineering and professional services. These services are selected on a qualification based selection or QBS. The objective of the QBS is to allow the County to locate a qualified consultant to undertake a project; then through negotiations, engage the consultant to provide the creative and technical work required at a fair and reasonable cost. The QBS procedures for public notice, evaluation, selection and contract negotiations shall be used whenever a project requiring architectural, engineering or land surveying services are proposed by the County. The County may also waive the requirements of public notice, evaluation and selection if the total cost of the services from a consultant is estimated to be less than \$25,000. Mr. Schwartz stated most of services that the County deal with would fall under the less than \$25,000 threshold. Chairman Frieders requested Mr. Schwartz put this item back on the August agenda when Mr. Bunge could be present. Chairman Frieders would like his comments as well on this process.

OTHER BUSINESS: Chairman Frieders requested the Peace Road Safety Study be placed on the monthly Transportation Improvement Progress Report. Mr. Schwartz stated that would be accomplished. As an update to that project, currently all traffic signal timings are being evaluated to ensure they are set to the proper specifications

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Frieders 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. Stoddard and seconded by Ms. Polanco and the motion passed unanimously.** The May 4, 2017 meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Frieders
Chairman