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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes  
March 2, 2017**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, March 2, 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 6:10pm. Roll call was held and Committee members present were Mr. Bunge, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Stoddard and Vice Chair Willis. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz, Mr. Josh Merchant, Operations Manager and Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager were also present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion made by Mr. Bunge and seconded by Mr. Stoddard to approve the minutes of the regular February 2, 2017 meeting.** Vice Chair Willis stated she was in New Jersey and not Pennsylvania as stated in the minutes. **The motion passed to approve the minutes with stated correction.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Ms. Polanco moved and Mr. Plote seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented.** Discussion followed to delete items 4 and 10 from the agenda. No authorized bids were received concerning item 4 and the Highway Commissioner will award the project listed in item 10 as a locally let project not involving the County Board. **A motion was made by Vice Chair Willis and seconded by Mr. Stoddard to amend the agenda as stated. Motion passed unanimously. Motion made by Ms. Polanco and seconded by Mr. Plote to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.

**RESOLUTION #2017-60: AWARD RESOLUTION FOR NEW WHEEL LOADER AND NEW SNOW PLOW, FRAME, HYDRAULIC SYSTEM, DUMP BODY, UNDERBELLY SCRAPER, SPREADER AND PRE-WET TANK SYSTEM**

Mr. Schwartz stated bids were received on March 1, 2017, for the new snow plow, frame and other stated equipment to be placed on the 2018 Peterbilt chassis approved

by the County Board during February 2017. Two bids were received for this equipment with the low bid submitted by Monroe Truck Equipment, Inc. from Monroe, Wisconsin in the amount of \$106,996.00. Mr. Schwartz stated Monroe is a very competent company and they have outfitted all of our snow removal trucks since he has been the County Engineer with no problems arising. Five bids from four vendors were received for the wheel loader. Mr. Josh Merchant, Operations Manager, went over the equipment specifications as bid with the Committee and provided photos of the Case 821C loader to be traded. Although no vendor met all specifications as written and published, Miller Bradford & Risberg's from Rockford, Illinois exceptions were considered minor in nature and were accomplished in another manner. Casey Equipment Company from Cherry Valley, Illinois could not meet one major specification of dual differential lock for the front and rear axles. This specification adds an additional \$4,000.00 to bids submitted by vendors who met that specification. If the County were to decide not to include this option, then \$4,000.00 could be deducted from Miller Bradford & Risberg's bid and comparing both machines with the same options, Miller Bradford & Risberg would have the low bid submitted. However, the County does feel the dual differential lock front and rear axles is important to the use capacity of the wheel loader. The cost of one new Case 821G loader was bid at \$230,000.00 with a trade value of \$48,000.00 for a net cost of \$182,000.00. Leasing of this equipment was discussed and Mr. Schwartz stated at one time leasing of plow trucks was discussed, but the Highway Department has not reviewed the option of leasing construction equipment. That is something he will review in the future. Due to the fact that Casey Equipment could not meet the specifications as published, Mr. Merchant and Mr. Schwartz recommended award to Miller Bradford. **A motion was made by Mr. Osland and seconded by Vice Chair Willis to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **AWARD RESOLUTION #R2017-61: 2017 GENERAL COUNTY LETTING**

Mr. Schwartz informed the Committee that bids are requested every year for maintenance materials utilized by the County and Road Districts. These bids cover aggregate, patching material and hot-mix, and liquid calcium chloride. By accepting these bids, prices are set for the year and will not increase. All bids are awarded and the lowest cost is calculated by taking the bid price of a product and adding in the cost of travel from the quarry to the job site. The County Engineer recommended approval of this resolution. **Mr. Stoddard moved and Mr. Plote seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **AWARD RESOLUTION #R2017-62: 2017 REJUVENATOR PROJECT**

The County places a rejuvenator/sealer over newly resurfaced sections of roadway a year after they have been resurfaced. This allows the County to extend the life of the road by sealing any cracks before they become a problem. Last year the County resurfaced Stone Quarry, Glidden, Shabbona and Plank Roads and those roads are

scheduled to receive the rejuvenator this year. In addition to the County roads, DeKalb and Mayfield Road District, as well as the City of Sycamore will be applying rejuvenator-reclamite and rejuvenator-CFR to their roads/streets as well. One bid was received meeting specifications and was the only bid received for this project. It was submitted by Corrective Asphalt Materials from South Roxana, Illinois in the amount of \$301,619.90. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this award. **Vice Chair Willis moved and Mr. Plote seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval.** Discussion followed to correct the funding table at the bottom of the resolution to read R2017-62 instead of 2017-61. **Motion passed unanimously with correction noted.**

#### **AWARD RESOLUTION #R2017-64: 2017 COUNTY SEAL COAT PROEJCT**

Bids were received and opened for the County's Seal Coat Project. This project involves single sealing of 11.17 miles of County roads, 40.5 miles of Road District roads and double seal coating of 5.8 miles of Road District roads. Mr. Schwartz explained that a single seal is resealing an existing hard surface road and a double seal is where you take a current aggregate (gravel) road and turn it into a hard surface road. Two bids were received with the low bid meeting specifications being submitted by Civil Constructors, Inc. from Freeport, Illinois in the amount of \$881,184.75. All bidders have performed well in DeKalb County and Civil was the contractor that was awarded last year's project. Mr. Schwartz recommended award to Civil Constructors. **Mr. Plote moved and Mr. Osland seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **AWARD RESOLUTION #R2017-65: 2017 CRACK ROUTING AND FILL PROJECT**

Mr. Schwartz informed the Committee that the County prepares contracts for the Road Districts who desire to have their hard surface roads which are showing cracks routed and filled to extend the life of their roads. This year four Road Districts requested this service. Three bids were received with SKC Construction, Inc from West Dundee, Illinois submitting the low bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$56,742.90. Although this Company has never worked for the Highway Department, they are prequalified by IDOT and Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this award. The Committee inquired about flame burning cracks to dry them out before filling them. Mr. Schwartz stated he is not in favor of that procedure as overheating could destroy the oil and cause further damage to the road. When cracks are wet, the County does not fill cracks and they wait for the moisture to dry up. **Mr. Stoddard moved and Mr. Osland seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **MFT RESOLUTION #R2017-66: 2017 PAVEMENT MARKING PROJECT**

Mr. Schwartz explained the County will be re-striping centerlines and edge lines on all County and selected Road District roads and City streets as in years past. Striping is done every year to ensure markings stay as visible as possible throughout the year. Of the two bids received, America's Parking Remarketing was the low bid at \$231,127.57 and they have done the work for the past few years. Mr. Schwartz recommended their approval. **Mr. Plote moved and Mr. Stoddard seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **AWARD RESOLUTION #R2017-67: 2017 ROAD DISTRICT AGGREGATE PROJECTS**

The County received three bids for aggregate projects requested by the Road Districts for the upcoming year. Two projects were bid with Macklin, Inc. from Rochelle, Illinois submitting the low bid meeting specification for the Victor Road District project in the amount of \$97,443.00 for 8,020 tons of aggregate spread on road (SOR) for Huff and Graham Roads. Vulcan Materials submitted the low bid meeting specifications for the Squaw Grove Road District project in the amount of \$35,370.00 for 3,000 tons of aggregate to be SOR for Shabbona Grove Road. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of these awards. **Vice Chair Willis moved and Ms. Polanco seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **AWARD RESOLUTION #R2017-68: 2017 HOT-MIX RESURFACING PROJECTS**

Mr. Schwartz stated nine hot-mix resurface projects were also bid on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. This year's projects saw seven different contractors submitting bids for these projects. Curran Contracting Company of Crystal Lake, Illinois submitted the low bid meeting specifications for the following five projects: (1) in the amount of \$153,645.70 for the hot-mix resurfacing of 2.5 miles of Shabbona Grove Road, under Section 17-02000-00-GM in Clinton Road District; (2) in the amount of \$490,158.95 for the hot-mix resurfacing of a total of 2.42 miles of Rich, Twombly, John Huber Parkway and Nelson Roads, under Section 17-04000-00-GM in DeKalb Road District; (3) in the amount of \$198,930.02 for the hot-mix resurfacing of 2.14 miles of Gletty and East Sandwich Roads, under Section 17-13000-02-GM in Sandwich Road District; (4) in the amount of \$96,471.92 for the hot-mix resurfacing of 1.05 miles of Hiawatha Lane and Fawn Drive, under Section 17-15000-01-GM in Somonauk Road District; and (5) in the amount of \$140,236.28 for the hot-mix resurfacing of 1.16 miles of Howison Road, under section 17-17000-03-GM in Squaw Grove Road District. Peter Baker and Son Company from Lake Bluff, Illinois submitted the low bid meeting specifications for one project in the amount of \$30,865.72 for the hot mix resurfacing of 0.48 miles of Willow Lane, under Section 17-06000-00-GM in Genoa Road District. Three other projects let on Wednesday for Mayfield, Pierce and Sycamore Road Districts will be locally let by

the Highway Commissioners, as no Township MFT funds are being expended. The Committee inquired if the Highway Department kept a list of contractors who have performed on projects in the past to see if they do an adequate job. Mr. Schwartz stated all contractors have to be pre-qualified by IDOT (performance wise and financially). Each contractor is rated at the completion of each project and that evaluation is provided to IDOT to ensure the contractor is performing up to the pre-qualification standards. If they are not, they are removed from the pre-qualified list and would not be able to bid on projects. The best answer to that question would be IDOT keeps the list of qualified contractors for the Counties. **Mr. Plote moved and Mr. Bunge seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS:** Chairman Frieders has requested the County Engineer to schedule a meeting of the stakeholders for the new storage building being built at the Highway Department. The meeting would be to gather or update information as to the size of the building, when the project is scheduled to begin, the cost involved, and any anticipated problems that might arise. After that meeting, the Committee will be updated during our April Committee meeting on the outcome so all members are informed of the progress and what is expected of this particular construction project.

**COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:**

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee. One new project, the Highway Department Campus Storage Facility was added and the Committee will be updated during the April meeting. Currently the plan is to build the biggest facility allowed by our financial means, property size and building zoning regulations. There are set backs and easements currently in place through the City of DeKalb zoning regulations that will need to be followed as well. The Barber Greene Road resurfacing/widening project is now in the preliminary Engineering stage. The Plank Road shoulder project is moving forwarded with the County Engineer meeting with IDOT to request that portion of the funding removed from this project be reinstated. The Somonauk Road Bridge project is scheduled for an April Local letting and the East County Line Road Bridge is scheduled for an April State letting. The Somonauk Road paving project from North Street to Bethany Road stands at 20% of the preliminary engineering being completed. Once done, this section of roadway will be an all-weather 80,000 pound truck route. Waterman Road reconstruction is on track for this year and is anticipated to begin in late June or early July.

The Committee inquired into the fatality recently on Somonauk Road. Mr. Schwartz stated he had not been made aware of all the facts concerning that accident but is confident the roadway and shoulders were in satisfactory condition. Operations inspects fatal accident sites regularly to insure maintenance issues did not contribute to a particular incident. He has not been informed of any such issues.

The Committee inquired about vehicle fires doing damage to roads and does the County receive any reimbursement for damage. Mr. Schwartz stated that if damage is done to the roadway, the Highway Department does request consideration from the proper insurance company for damages. However, such situations are sometimes considered acts of God and insurance Companies will not consider our claims. This has been staffed through the State's Attorney's office with little satisfaction being provided to the Department. The State's Attorney's office has agreed with the insurance Company in the past that the insurance company would not be liable for damages caused by such situation.

Somonauk Road shoulders continue to be a concern of the Committee at certain areas. It was commented that some of the ditches are steep and dangerous. Mr. Schwartz stated the Department is aware of these situations and is preparing the process to correct them. It is a slow process to acquire additional right-of-way, extending drainage pipes, and reshaping ditches to fully correct these situation.

As a legislative update, all new bills have been introduced at this point and a few of concern that the County Engineers are monitoring their progress are: If County's receive a certain amount of MFT funding then the requirements of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program would come into effect. That would mean the County would need to find DBE companies to perform a certain percentage of work on construction projects. This would be difficult in most cases as the scope of construction is very small. Some additional bills being monitored are the Citizen Empowerment Act where local residents can vote to abolish units of local government; the PTELL Freeze which would further restrict local governments from raising property taxes; de-annexation of roads which would allow a municipality to return a road taken over by annexation to a road district to maintain; size and weight limitations not applying to emergency responder equipment on current roads.

Mr. Schwartz explained to the Committee that the County Engineers were looking into the incorrect information pertaining to the county which vehicles are registered in. As was explained at prior Committee meetings, municipalities receive their MFT funds based on a population formula, Townships on a mileage formula, and Counties on a vehicle registration formula. The County's situation will be looked at in Springfield to see if maybe a Zip Code plus Four on vehicle registration would not be a solution to the problem of vehicles being registered in a county other than where the vehicle is owned. In the meantime the County Engineer will speak with the County Treasurer to see if some educational news with the County's property tax notice alerting residence of this potential problem would be a good option.

## **DISCUSSION OF RE-APPOINTMENT OF THE COUNTY ENGINEER FOR A SIX YEAR TERM**

Chairman Frieders informed the Committee that Mr. Schwartz's six year term will expire on June 25, 2017. As such the County needs to decide either to re-appoint Mr.

Schwartz or pursue other candidates for the position of County Engineer. He requested Mr. Schwartz provide an overview of the process to the Committee.

Mr. Schwartz stated his current appointment with the County will expire on June 24, 2017. As such the County can re-appoint him within 100 days prior to that date or 100 days after that date. The first step in reappointment is the County Board would request from IDOT their concurrence to reappoint. This is to verify that Mr. Schwartz is still qualified to be a County Engineer and is performing his duties in a satisfactory manner. After IDOT concurrence is received then the County Board would be authorized to reappoint Mr. Schwartz. The concurrence by IDOT does not require the County Board to reappoint the incumbent and they would still have the option of advertising and offering the position to another qualified candidate.

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Willis and seconded by Mr. Stoddard to enter into executive session per Chapter 5 ILCS Act 120 Section 2(c)(1), the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employee of the public body. Roll call vote was taken with seven yes votes and zero no votes. The committee entered executive session at 8:10pm.**

The Committee returned to regular session at 8:28pm.

**RESOLUTION #R2017-70: REQUESTING CONSENT OF IDOT TO REAPPOINT INCUMBENT AS COUNTY ENGINEER**

Chairman Frieders asked if there was any further discussion concerning the resolution to request consent to reappoint Mr. Schwartz as County Engineer. Hearing none a **motion was made by Vice Chair Willis and seconded by Mr. Stoddard to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval and the motion passed unanimously.**

**OTHER BUSINESS:** "Don't you think that was enough?"

**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 March 2, 2017 meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Frieders  
Chairman