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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes  
September 7, 2017**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, September 7, 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 6:00pm. 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. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager and one other guest were also present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion made by Vice Chair Willis and seconded by Mr. Osland to approve the minutes of the regular August 3, 2017 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Mr. Plote moved and Vice Chair Willis seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

**ORDINANCE 2017-18: ALTERED SPEED ZONE FOR ELVA ROAD**

A request was received by the Highway Department thru the Highway Commissioner of Afton Road District to review the speed limit on Elva Road going through unincorporated Elva in Afton Township. The current speed limit is a statutory 55 miles per hour. Due to the number of residences located within this area and information gathered through an engineering/speed study, the County Engineer is recommending an altered speed zone of 35 miles per hour be established beginning 590 feet east of Waterman Road and continuing west for 2,160 feet. This zone does qualify as a residence zone and Mr. Schwartz recommended the ordinance be forwarded to the full County Board recommending approval. **Mr. Bunge moved and Mr. Stoddard seconded the motion to forward Ordinance 2017-18 to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **ORDINANCE 2017-19: ALTERED SPEED ZONE FOR MCGIRR ROAD**

A request was also received by the Highway Department thru the Highway Commissioner of Afton Road District to review the speed limit on McGirr Road going through unincorporated McGirr in Afton Township. The current speed limit is a statutory 55 miles per hour. This zones does not qualify as a residence zone, however information gathered through an engineering/speed study does support the reduction of the current speed limit to 35 miles per hour. The zone would begin 530 feet east of Leland Road and proceed west for 1,320 feet. Mr. Schwartz recommended the ordinance be forwarded to the full County Board recommending approval. **Mr. Plote moved and Vice Chair Willis seconded the motion to forward Ordinance 2017-19 to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **AWARD RESOLUTION #R2017-112: BARBER GREENE ROAD BRIDGE DECK REPLACEMENT:**

Mr. Schwartz informed the Committee that bids were received by the Highway Department on September 6, 2017 for replacing the deck on the bridge over the East Branch of the Kishwaukee River on Barber Greene Road in Cortland Road District. This is the bridge to the east of Vulcan Quarry's main entrance. The deck will be hydro demolished using high pressure water to remove unsuitable material on the deck and a new layer of concrete poured. The bridge will be closed to traffic during this process and the contractor has 31 working days to complete this project. The project must also be completed by November 17, 2017. Two bids were received for this project with Civil Constructors, Inc. from Freeport, Illinois submitting the low bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$169,983.41. Mr. Schwartz recommended the resolution be forwarded to the full County Board recommending approval. **Mr. Osland moved and Vice Chair Willis seconded the motion to forward Resolution #R2017-112 to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS:** Chairman Frieders comments were budget related and are summarized within those discussions.

### **COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:**

Chairman Frieders stated the County's General Fund Budget is facing some serious challenges this year. He requested all committee member to discuss all concerns and remember that everything is on the table for discussion and consideration in closing the \$740,000.00 shortfall. Mr. Schwartz provided the Committee with scenarios that could affect the Highway Department and his recommendations to cover the revenue shortfalls. The Finance Committee published the 2018 Budget Narrative and within that narrative Departments were tasked with reducing their budgets by 2.2%. Due to the fact that the Highway Department operates off of property tax levies, the Department has been grouped with Public Health, Senior Services and Veterans' Assistance, who

also operate off of property tax levies, to recommend reductions of \$101,000. This reduction is in addition to the reduction required from our original budget submission and the decision by Finance to hold the Departments levies at 2017 levels. This will require a budget reduction of \$620,092.00 for the Department. Equipment needs were reviewed within the Department and it was determined that scheduled purchases of \$200,000.00 could be reassigned to out years. With this reassignment, an additional \$20,000.00 would be added back to the 3510 (Highway) budget for anticipated additional equipment repairs that would be required due to extending the time equipment stays within the Department. The Aid to Bridges revenue would be reduced by \$285,744.00 and the Federal Highway Matching revenue would be reduced by \$154,348.00 when looking at the 2.2% required reduction. Fund Balances within the Aid to Bridges and Federal Highway Matching will be reduced to cover this shortfall. This reduction will have minimal effect on scheduled projects for 2018 but may start to affect projects scheduled for 2019. Due to the 3510 (Highway) budget's current fund balance being near the minimum desired level for continuing current operations, it is recommended the additional \$94,700.00 in revenue shortfall for this budget be moved to the Aid to Bridge Budget. Mr. Schwartz reviewed with the Committee the purpose of each tax levy. The Highway levy is used for the day-to-day operations of the Department to include salaries, equipment purchases, building operations, repairs, etc. Some road maintenance is also performed out of this budget to include day labor projects and rejuvenator-reclamite applications. Aid to Bridge levy is primarily used for the construction of County and Township bridges and other drainage structures. One county employee is paid from this budget. Federal Highway Matching levy is used to leverage other funding sources, whether it be Motor Fuel Tax funds (1:1 match), Federal or State funds (4:1 match) or some special safety funds (9:1 match). However, there is only a set amount of Federal and State funds available for matching in any given year for the entire State. Chairman Frieders spoke of staff reductions in lieu of reducing fund balances. Mr. Schwartz explained the benefits of having staff to continue the day to day operations of the Department, to include snow removal. The Department is doing more with our current staffing level. Mr. Schwartz feels there is a benefit to having staff who are dependable, take pride in what they do and are familiar with routes and equipment as opposed to having to hire part-time seasonal employees. Chairman Frieders stated, unfortunately everyone is being required to accomplish more while reducing staff and taking on more responsibilities. Mr. Plote stated the County has an abundance of farmers who look for extra work during the winter months that would be excellent snow plow drivers. Chairman Frieders concluded the discussion with charging the Committee to continue to look at ways to reduce the Departments budget without having to take funds from the fund balance.

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee. The Highway Department Complex Storage Facility has not changed since last month. It was discussed if the building needs to be built now when the County is facing a budget shortfall. Mr. Stoddard stated the building is being built with funds from the sale of the County Farm property and use of these funds are restricted to capital projects and

cannot be utilized to assist the General Fund in operating shortfalls. The building is still currently scheduled to be built during 2017-2018. If construction is to start this year a bid letting would need to be held during October 2017.

A new project has been added to this report and that is the Coltonville/Rich/N. First Street/Bethany Road resurfacing project. This project was moved up on DSATS project funding list and will be completed during 2018 utilizing STU funds. This will be an estimated \$1.4 million project with the local County cost being estimated at \$212,200.00.

Peace Road Safety Study has had no action since our last report.

The Somonauk Road Bridge was opened at 6:00pm last Friday night, September 1, 2017 in time for the Sandwich Fair. The few touch-up items left will be completed under traffic.

The Somonauk Road paving project is 97% completed. Striping of this project is scheduled to begin this Saturday, September 9, 2017.

Phase one of our Waterman Road project is completed.

As a legislative update, the biggest item is that the State has a school funding budget now.

DSATS will be holding open houses for the opportunity for the public to review the Transit Development Plan which is currently in the public comment period. Mr. Schwartz will provide the link to the Committee if they desire to review the plan or attend any of the open houses.

The Committee was reminded of the Annual Highway Tour to be held on September 28<sup>th</sup>. This will be considered a special meeting and the times of the meeting will be from 9:00am to 2:30pm-3:00pm.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Vice Chair Willis inquired about the work currently being completed on Route 23. Mr. Schwartz stated that is a State project that requires milling of the surface and a new binder/surface course being laid. New pavement loops will be installed at traffic signal locations throughout this 4 ¼ mile long project. It starts around the Farm and Fleet building in Sycamore and goes west to Sycamore Road. There does seem to be concerns around Coltonville Road, for a mile stretch, where the open grading mix is causing problems with milling operations and the contractor cannot go forward with normal paving operations in that area. However, the contractor will have a suitable

surface on that stretch of road prior to winter setting in. Traffic lanes currently do not match up with traffic lights but that should be corrected when the final resurfacing is completed.

**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. Osland and seconded by Mr. Stoddard and the motion passed unanimously.** The September 7, 2017 meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Frieders  
Chairman