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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
March 1, 2018**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, March 1, 2018, 6:00pm in the Conference Room of the DeKalb County Highway Department, located at 1826 Barber Greene Road, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

Chairman Roy Plote called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Committee members present were Mr. Bunge, Mr. Frieders, Mr. Osland, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Stoddard and Vice Chair Willis. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz and Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager as well as other guests were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mr. Stoddard and seconded by Mr. Osland to approve the minutes of the regular February 1, 2018 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

RESOLUTION #R2018-12: AWARD RESOLUTION FOR A NEW BOX, PLOW, WING, SPREADER, PRE-WET TANK AND ONE NEW UTILITY TRACTOR

Mr. Schwartz informed the Committee that bids were requested for a new utility tractor and for the dump box, plow, wing, spreader and pre-wet tank to be mounted on the new cab and chassis approved by the County Board during February. Two bids were received for both items with Monroe Truck Equipment, Inc. from Monroe, Wisconsin submitting the low bid meeting specification in the amount of \$105,092.00 for the plow truck equipment and Johnson Tractor, Inc. from Rochelle, Illinois submitting the low bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$40,590.00 for the new utility tractor. Both vendors have been awarded the sale of similar equipment in the past and the County has been pleased with the equipment and service. Mr. Schwartz recommended the

resolution be forwarded to the full Board recommending approval. **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 #R2018-13: AWARD RESOLUTION FOR THE 2018 SEAL COAT PROJECT, 2018 REJUVENATOR PROJECT AND THE 2018 CRACK ROUTING AND FILL PROJECT

The County received three bids for the County's seal coat project with Steffens 3-D Construction from Toluca, Illinois submitting the low bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$839,661.94. The sole bid received for the 2018 Rejuvenator project was submitted by Corrective Asphalt Materials from South Roxana, Illinois in the amount of \$109,147.92. Seven bids were received for this years' crack routing and filling project for the Road Districts and Villages with Behm Pavement Maintenance, Inc. submitting the low bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$84,808.60. All Contractors have been pre-qualified by IDOT and have performed work for the County in the past with the exception of Behm Pavement Maintenance. Mr. Schwartz has no concerns with awarding to the low bidders for these three projects and recommended approval of this resolution. **Mr. Stoddard moved and Vice Chair Willis seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2018-14: AWARD RESOLUTION FOR THE 2018 COUNTY AND ROAD DISTRICT BRIDGE DECK SEALING

Mr. Schwartz explained to the Committee the Department in the past has performed this maintenance activity in-house. Due to the labor involved in this sealing process and drying time of the sealant, the County Engineer felt this operation could be contracted out and allow the county forces to concentrate on other pressing issues. By contracting this operation out it would also allow the Road Districts the opportunity to be a part of this contract providing savings to all. Eighteen county bridges and 36 road district bridges will have their bridge decks sealed under this deliver and install proposal. The sole bid was received from M & M Concrete, Inc. from Stockton, Illinois in the amount of \$44,217.90. They are also IDOT prequalified and Mr. Schwartz is familiar with their work and satisfied they will perform this task satisfactorily. **Vice Chair Willis moved and Mr. Bunge seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2018-15: AWARD RESOLUTION FOR 2018 PAVEMENT MARKINGS

The County requested bids for the striping of all County Roads and specified Road District Roads as well as Municipalities and Villages that wished to participate. Four bids were received this year with Preform Traffic Control System submitting the low bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$193,239.83. The proposal includes centerline

and edge line striping as well as some handwork being requested by Road Districts and Villages to include marking of parking spaces, railroad crossings, stop bars and turn lanes with arrows. This Contractor has worked in the County before and does a nice job and Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this resolution. **Mr. Osland moved and Vice Chair Willis seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2018-16: AWARD OF ROAD DISTRICT HOT-MIX ASPHALT PROJECTS FOR 2018

The County received bids for six Road District hot-mix resurface projects for the coming year. Four bids were received for Cortland Road District resurfacing of 1.11 miles of Mt. Hunger and Hinckley Roads with Curran Contracting Company submitting the low bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$123,350.18; Five bids were received for DeKalb Road District resurfacing of .64 miles of Gurler Road with Curran Contracting Company submitting the low bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$100,096.45; Four bids were received for Genoa Road District resurfacing 0.41 miles of Oakview Lane with Curran Contracting Company submitting the low bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$35,945.12; Four bids were received for Sandwich Road District resurfacing 0.61 miles of River Ridge Lane with Curran Contracting Company submitting the low bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$89,987.92; Three bids were received for Squaw Grove Road District resurfacing 1.3 miles of Pritchard Road with Curran Contracting Company submitting the low bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$55,759.61; and five bids were received for Sycamore Road District resurfacing of 1.79 miles of Brickville Road and the Twin Oak Subdivision with Curran Contracting Company submitting the low bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$177,407.74. Curran Contracting Company was the low bidder on all of these projects and the County Board will award to all but DeKalb and Sycamore Road Districts. The highway commissioners will award those two due to the fact that only local funds are being used and no township MFT funds are being spent for the DeKalb and Sycamore projects. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of the four township MFT projects to Curran Contracting Company. **Mr. Bunge moved and Mr. Stoddard seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2018-17: AWARD FOR SOMONAUK ROAD DISTRICT AGGREGATE SHOULDERS PROJECT

The Highway Commissioner for Somonauk Road District is replacing aggregate shoulders on Council Road, North Street and Governor Beveridge Highway in Somonauk Road District. Only one bid was received for the placement of 2,280 tons of aggregate on 6.87 miles of roadway. The Committee inquired if this was unusual to place shoulder stone along a roadway. Mr. Schwartz stated this is done to protect the edge of the roadway and is a common practice. The County does its own shoulders with in-house forces. Some Road Districts go together and place aggregate with their

own labor. Some Road Districts have the contractor place aggregate shoulders when they are repaving the road itself. The County does not see many requests to have this maintenance operation contracted but it is up to the Highway Commissioner as to how he wants to accomplish this. Curran Contracting was the sole bidder on this project and submitted a bid in the amount of \$79,800.00. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this recommendation. **Vice Chair Willis moved and Mr. Bunge seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2018-18: LOCAL AGENCY AGREEMENT FOR FEDERAL PARTICIPATION FOR RICH, COLTONVILLE, BETHANY ROADS AND NORTH FIRST STREET REPAVING PROJECT

Mr. Schwartz explained to the Committee that Rich Road from Glidden Road to North First Street, Coltonville Road from North First Street to Illinois Route 23, North First Street at the intersection of Coltonville Road; and Bethany Road from 0.3 miles west of Illinois Route 23 to Illinois Route 23 will be resurfaced during 2018. This project was selected to receive 80% funding through the Federal STU program. In order to receive funding IDOT requires a local agency agreement be in place between the County and IDOT. The resolution and agreement presented satisfies this requirement. The project is estimated to cost \$1,400,000.00 with the County's local share estimated to be \$213,082.00 and the City of Sycamore's estimated share being \$67,000. Mr. Schwartz recommended that the County enter into this agreement as presented. **Mr. Stoddard moved and Vice Chair Willis seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending the County enter into this agreement and authorize the County Board Chairman to sign the appropriate documents. Motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2018-19: AWARD FOR SECTION 16-00253-01-PK, HOT-MIX ASPHALT OVERLAY OF LOCUST STREET AND PARKING LOTS

Bids were received for the hot-mix overlay of Locust Street and two parking lots located at the NE and NW corner of Locust Street and Illinois Route 64. The County is doing Locust Street and the NE parking lot at the corner of Locust and Illinois Route 64. The City of Sycamore's Library parking lot was also included in this project and will be paid for by the Library. The parking lots are right next to each other and by combining these projects into one, better pricing can be realized. Three bids were received for this project with Curran Contracting submitting the low bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$53,466.57. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this recommendation. **Mr. Frieders moved and Mr. Stoddard seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Chairman Plote stated he is receiving phone calls concerning the spring postings of County Roads and excess gravel that was plowed into the ditches during snow removal operations. He has requested the County Engineer address these two items in his comments.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Schwartz explained to the Committee the reason County Roads are posted during the spring freeze/thaw cycle. Moisture that seeps through the road surface as rain/snow normally continues to drain away from the road bed. In the winter months, the ground under the road surface freezes and creates a barrier for that moisture that is trying to escape. As the surface thaws under the roadway water is trapped between the hot-mix, seal coat or other hard surface and the still frozen part of the earth under the road. As vehicles drive over roads pressure is put on these flexible surfaces and it pushes the trapped moisture back up through cracks in the surface, dislodging small pieces. As more and more vehicles travel over the roadway, more and more pieces of the surface is being forced away as the moisture continues to move between these two hard barriers and begin the formation of what is commonly called potholes. The heavier the vehicle, the more damage that is done during this time. That is why limits are placed on roads during the spring thaw in order to help prevent serious damage and prolong the life of a road. The postings go on the roads every year and it depends on Mother Nature as to just how long they stay. The maximum amount of time by law the spring postings can remain is 90 days for any calendar year. The Committee inquired if there was a number motorist could call if they hit a pothole. Mr. Schwartz stated they should contact the authority having jurisdiction over the roadway with the pothole concern. They can always call the County Highway Department and staff will get them to the appropriate person if they need assistance in reporting a pothole.

The gravel in ditches is a result of snow removal operations. When the County is doing clean-up after a storm it is common for Operations to have the trucks wing the snow back in order to have room to store the next round of snow. At times the ground will be thawed and as the wing rides along the road/ground, gravel will be removed and get placed in the ditch or even a person's yard depending on how close the yard is to the road. If anyone has concerns about excess gravel in their ditch that they maintain they can contact the Highway Department. Operations will look at the gravel and determine if they can assist in its removal without causing damage to the ditch.

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee. Mr. Schwartz stated the design of the proposed storage building is at 90% and will not be ready for the Committee to review tonight. Also, the Waterman Road stage two of reshaping the ditches will be postponed until 2019. The design work is being done in house and we are not able to use the new software as proficiently as we expected. Staff will be going to formal training March 20th through the 23rd to help them better understand the software. The reshaping of the ditches was to be completed over a two year period depending on funding. With this one year delay the Department should be

able to have the funding to complete the entire five-mile stretch of roadway during 2019. This would keep the completion of this reconstruction project on track to be completed over a five year period. There is fiber, gas, and phone lines that need to be relocated along Waterman Road prior to the reshaping of these ditches. The Committee inquired if driveway culverts could be installed this year while we are waiting for the design plans to be completed. Mr. Schwartz stated they would need to be installed when the reshaping is completed in order to line up the driveway culverts with the new ditch alignment.

Phase II of the Peace Road Safety Study is not completed as of yet. Mr. Schwartz apologized for the delay and he hopes to have that for the Committee's information in the near future.

The Barber Greene Road widening and resurfacing project is scheduled for a March 9th letting in Springfield. The Coltonville, Rich, Bethany Roads and North First Street project that the Committee recommended the Local Agency Agreement for tonight is also scheduled for March 9th letting in Springfield.

The Peace Road intersection improvements at Illinois Route 64 and the Plank Road safety shoulder project are in the QBS process to select a preliminary engineering firm to prepare plans for these two projects.

The Somonauk Road Bridge south of US Route 30 at Hinckley is in the preliminary engineering stage and is at 85% completed, with the bridge design at 65% completed and right-of-way acquisition at 75%. An April letting is being programmed for this project.

The Committee voiced their concern over the delays in the Waterman Road project, the proposed storage building and the Peace Road Safety study. They would like to see these projects moving forward. Mr. Schwartz thanked the committee for their direction and will focus on completing the stages of these projects that are causing the delay.

As a legislative update, there appears to be much of the same going on in Springfield as last year. There are several bills being introduced wanting to abolish Township Governments. There is also legislation that would allow golf carts on roadways with the proper lights and turn signals.

On the Federal side we do have a two year budget deal. The President has released his infrastructure plan with details for an additional \$200 billion in funding over the next ten years. This funding is to be matched by private funding. When you look at what is considered infrastructure, to include electrical power grids, communications, water, rivers & ports, roads, bridges, railway systems, etc. the \$200 billion would be obligated quickly nationwide.

Mr. Schwartz stated he was requested to share some comments from Ms. Bessie Chronopoulos concerning the utilization of TIP funds by the City of DeKalb. She is

concerned that the major source of funding for the maintenance of City streets is DSATS funding and TIF funding. The more TIF funds are being utilized on projects other than roads and bridges, the more strain it puts on the DSATS funding stream. Ms. Chronopoulos feels the TIP funding is best utilized for the intended purposes and not construction of a new City Hall.

DSATS has hired a Transit Consolidation Coordinator that will work on an interim basis to formulate plans to join the VAC public transportation with the NIU transit system. There are discussions to separate committee dealing with FHWA Transportation and FTA Transit within DSATS. This will free up a considerable amount of time for the County Engineer who would not be directly involved in the Transit matters for DSATS.

Mr. Schwartz requested the Committee's input regarding signs that are placed within the right-of-way and memorials. These placements can have an effect on safety of the traveling public as they do cause a distraction. Most signs are located at busy intersections where attention should be focused on traffic and not handmade or printed signs advertising certain products or services. The Committee suggested working with Community Development and speaking with the State's Attorney to develop a course of action for the County to adopt.

OTHER BUSINESS: Chairman Plote inquired if it was necessary to continue to mail agendas and meeting materials to members or would email be acceptable to everyone. Committee members were fine with information being emailed.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Plote 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 Vice Chair Willis and the motion passed unanimously.** The March 1, 2018 meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy Plote', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Roy Plote
Chairman