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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes  
May 3, 2018**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, May 3, 2018, at 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 6:07pm and called for the roll. Committee members present were Mr. Frieders, Mr. Osland, Mr. Stoddard and Vice Chair Willis. Mr. Bunge was absent and Ms. Polanco joined the meeting at 6:15pm. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz and Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager as well as one other guest were also present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion made by Mr. Stoddard and seconded by Vice Chair Willis to approve the minutes of the regular April 5, 2018 meeting and the special April 18, 2018 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

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

**ORDINANCE #2018-08: ALTERED SPEED ZONE – DOVETAIL POINT AND W. FORESTVIEW DRIVE IN MAYFIELD ROAD DISTRICT**

A request was received by the Highway Department thru the Highway Commissioner of Mayfield Road District to review the speed limit on Dovetail Point and W. Forestview Drive located in an unincorporated area of Mayfield 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 25 miles per hour be established for all of W. Forestview Drive as well as Dovetail Point. These zones do qualify as a residence district zone and Mr. Schwartz recommended the ordinance be forwarded to

the full County Board recommending approval. **Vice Chair Willis moved and Mr. Osland seconded the motion to forward Ordinance #2018-08 to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION #R2018-31: ENGINEERING AGREEMENT FOR SECTION 16-00258-00-RS, PLANK ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**

The County has been approved to receive \$1.9 Million in Federal Highway Safety Funds to improve traveling conditions on 2.56 miles of Plank Road from Lindgren Road to Lukens Road. Funds are scheduled to be released during the County's FY-2019. In order for this construction project to move ahead during 2019, Phase I and Phase II engineering must be complete. These phases will consist of surveys for roadway plans, soil surveys and profiles, acquire necessary right-of-way dedications, construction easements, completion of necessary environmental documentation, prepare the Project Development Report and detailed plans, special provisions, proposals and estimate of cost as appropriate. The project will consist of shoulder widening, Moose Range Road intersection profile adjustment, new signage, improved lighting, new pull out pads for law enforcement and new overlay of pavement. Twenty-two engineering firms submitted a letter of interest under the Qualification Base Selection Process and that group was narrowed down to three firms to be interviewed for this particular project. The firm being recommended as being the best qualified for this project was Chastain & Associates, LLC from Schaumburg, Illinois. Their cost for the engineering services was negotiated to not exceed \$211,964.10. Because the County had programmed Federal funds for this service and has now decided to utilize local funds for engineering services and utilize all Federal funding for the construction portion, the entire required funding is not in the appropriate budget line item at this time. After consulting with the Finance Director it was agreed that a budget amendment would be appropriate at the end of the year to transfer the appropriate funds from the fund balance if needed. Members inquired when Plank Road is realigned in the future, what would happen to the existing roadway. Mr. Schwartz stated it would be turned over to the City of Sycamore and/or Sycamore Road District as appropriate. Prior to turning over any portion of the roadway, the roadway would need to be overlaid by the County. This project will assist in that effort and doing safety upgrades on the roadway utilizing today's dollars will be more cost effective than doing it five years down the road. Mr. Schwartz recommended the resolution be forwarded to the full County Board recommending approval. **Mr. Osland moved and Ms. Polanco seconded the motion to forward Resolution #2018-31 to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION #R2018-32: ENGINEERING AGREEMENT FOR SECTION 16-00257-00-WR, PEACE ROAD & ILLINOIS ROUTE 64 INTERSECTION REALIGNMENT**

Mr. Schwartz stated this proposed agreement is similar to the agreement for Plank Road. The same procedures were followed to recommend Hutchison Engineering from

Shorewood, Illinois to perform Phase I and Phase II engineering services for this project and Federal funds are programmed for the County's FY-2019. These phases will consist of surveys for roadway plans, soil surveys and profiles, acquire necessary right-of-way dedications, construction easements, completion of necessary environmental documentation, prepare the Project Development Report and detailed plans, special provisions, proposals and estimate of cost as appropriate for the Peace Road safety improvements at the intersection with Illinois Route 64. These improvements include widening of Peace Road to provide two thru lanes and an offset left turn lane and a right turn lane in each direction as well as signal modifications, intersection lighting and minor drainage improvements. As with Plank Road improvements, Federal funds were being programmed for these engineering services but the decision to use local funds is deemed appropriate to allow all Federal funding to be utilized toward construction. As with Plank Road, a budget amendment will be prepared at year end to move any necessary additional funding to the appropriate budget line item for this agreement. Their cost for the engineering services was negotiated to not exceed \$210,762.45. The Committee inquired about right-of-way and Mr. Schwartz stated the County should have plenty of right-of-way for this project north of the intersection to not encounter problems with any wetland issues around the bridge. Mr. Schwartz recommended the resolution be forwarded to the full County Board recommending approval. **Mr. Stoddard moved and Vice Chair Willis seconded the motion to forward Resolution #2018-32 to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously**

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:** Chairman Plote stated he had no additional comments for the Committee at this time.

**COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:**

During the April Special meeting Chairman Plote inquired about the County Board Agenda published with blanks for certain information. As the Committee will recall the Highway Department held bid lettings for two bridge projects on the morning of the County Board meeting. Those results were published as well as the award resolution being completed that day. After consultation with the State's Attorney's Office it was determined no Open Meetings Act violation had occurred but the County might want to consider a more generic way to publish these type of resolutions in the future. Mr. Schwartz stated his Department will work with County Administration to provide such an agenda item in the future if the situations were to arise again.

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee. Mr. Schwartz stated he will be speaking with contractors in the industry to provide a better understanding of appropriate specifications for the storage building. Two proposals will be published – one for wood structures and one for steel structures. The plan is to re-advertise the building and open bids for the June meeting.

The Barber Greene Road widening and resurfacing project and the Coltonville, Rich, Bethany Roads and North First Street project, were both awarded to William Charles

Construction Company. The preconstruction meetings will be held on May 21, 2018, in Ottawa. Construction for the Coltonville, Rich, Bethany Roads and North First Street project will begin with Bethany Road and then move to Rich/Coltonville Roads. The Coltonville Road overlay will only transition over the ends of the new pavement at the Coltonville Bridge.

The East County Line Road Bridge being constructed under the supervision of Kane County will begin this month. The County's cost for this project is estimated to be \$56,268.00. Kane County will be overseeing this project.

The Qualification Based Selection process will begin in a month or so for the McNeal Road Bridge scheduled for construction during 2020.

Phase 2 of the Peace Road Safety Study was provided to the Committee for their information. The study shows most accidents are happening at intersections with most rear end accidents happening at signalized intersections and pull outs happening at non-signalized intersections. Freed Road and Brickville Road intersections are perceived as being the worst intersections on this Phase 2 study from Peace/Plank/23 to Illinois Route 64. Recommendations for improvements on this segment of roadway consist of modifying signal timings and adding turn lanes at these intersections. All recommendations are currently scheduled to be completed in the near future.

The Pearl Street Bridge will get underway with the Qualification Based Selection process during June or July. Only Phase I engineering services will be scheduled for this project as the Village of Kirkland will apply for additional Major Bridge Funding to replace the entire bridge. They have previously been approved for Major Bridge Funding to replace the bridge deck only.

The Somonauk Road Bridge south of US Route 30 at Hinckley and the Somonauk Road culvert replacement at Union Ditch #1 (Gurler Road) have been awarded and wait on the scheduling of the preconstruction meetings.

Illinois Route 23 construction in Sycamore will resume May 14<sup>th</sup> and is expected to continue for two months.

Other projects the Department is involved with is the bike path on Barber Greene Road just east of the Highway Department. Mr. David Castle has donated right-of-way to straighten out a portion of this path that needs to be relocated due to the widening of Barber Greene Road this year. The Department has been repairing Exchange Street in front of the new jail expansion project by breaking up crumbling concrete and replacing it. The jail contractor will overlay the road with asphalt Friday if the weather is appropriate to do so, if not that will happen on Monday. The road should be open to traffic shortly after that as soon as the road is appropriately striped.

The County has begun the site development for stockpiling clean fill on property located

east of Somonauk Road on Gurler Road, north side of the road for use at a later date. At this point, the use of the material has not been finalized. This clean fill is coming off the tollway project and is being provided at no charge.

As a legislative update, all current Class III Truck Routes look like they would become non-designated routes. This issue deals with the length of trucks and making sure they can successfully negotiate a turn at appropriate truck route intersections. There is very little opposition to this. Another bill would put IDOT in charge of all permitting throughout the State to include local roads and provide permits for divisible loads for agriculture products. The permit bill is facing some opposition especially from IDOT.

For DSATS, it appears all parties are considering that DSATS functions be transferred to the County from the City of DeKalb. This transfer would have to be approved by the full County Board if it were to happen. The Highway Committee might be the appropriate Committee where this recommendation would come from.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None presented

**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 Ms. Polanco and the motion passed unanimously.** The May 3, 2018 meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Plote". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roy Plote  
Chairman