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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
August 2, 2018**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, August 2, 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 6:03pm and called for the roll. Committee members present were Mr. Bunge, Mr. Frieders, Mr. Stoddard and Vice Chair Willis. Mr. Osland and Ms. Polanco were absent. 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. Bunge to approve the minutes of the regular June 7, 2018 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

AWARD RESOLUTION #R2018-42: HIGHWAY CAMPUS STORAGE BUILDING

Mr. Schwartz stated bids were opened on August 1st for the new proposed storage building to be built on the Highway Campus. Three bids were received and all three were around the \$900,000 range. Discussion followed on ways to reduce this cost to the funds available for this project. Mr. Schwartz will meet with the stake holders again and come up with a plan for an alternative building. Building size could be reduced and maybe relocated closer to the Sheriff's Department and FMO operations. The bidders Mr. Schwartz spoke to after the bid opening stated they were interested in rebidding this project. They indicated they would be happy to provide comments outlining where the County could cut costs and still have a useful building satisfying the most urgent needs of the County. **Mr. Frieders moved and Mr. Stoddard seconded a motion to reject all bids and have the County Engineer redesign the specifications for a smaller building. Motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2018-43: ENGINEERING AGREEMENT FOR BASELINE ROAD BRIDGE (GENOA ROAD DISTRICT) SECTION # 14-06122-00-BR

Mr. Schwartz indicated that the Engineering Firm had not been selected yet for this project and therefore the agreement is not ready for action at this time. This item will be moved to the September meeting for review by the Committee. No action taken on this item at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Chairman Plote stated he had addressed concerns over the number of recent accidents along Illinois Route 23 with County Roads with the County Engineer. These concerns will be addressed by Mr. Schwartz during his comments.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee. The proposed storage building was addressed earlier.

The Coltonville, Rich, Bethany Roads and North First Street project has been completed. The final quantities have yet to be agreed to. Once they are the final cost will be shared with the Committee.

The Barber Greene Road widening and resurfacing project is underway and stands at 14% complete. Construction is moving along with a bit of a delay in scheduling the installation of a 5 foot diameter concrete pipe at the intersection of Barber Greene Road and County Farm Road. The Contractor is working with their subcontractors to get this scheduled and installed. It has been postponed twice now.

The East County Line Road Bridge being constructed under the supervision of Kane County stands at 85% complete. This bridge is to be completed by fall and appears to be ahead of schedule. This road could be opened by as early as the end of August.

The Qualification Based Selection process is underway for the McNeal Road Bridge scheduled for construction during 2020 as well as the Pearl Street Bridge in the Village of Kirkland. The Committee should see agreements for their review during the September Committee meeting.

The Peace Road intersection with State Route 64 preliminary engineering is 75% complete and design of the intersection has begun.

The preliminary engineering for Plank Road Safety project stands at 50% complete and design work has begun for this project as well.

The Somonauk Road Bridge, south of US Route 30 at Hinckley, is 76% complete. The deck has been poured and is curing to the required strength. This project is on schedule to be completed and the road opened prior to the Sandwich Fair.

Somonauk Road culvert replacement at Union Ditch #1 (Gurler Road) is scheduled to begin on Monday, August 6th. Gurler Road will be closed first and should be closed for approximately ten days. Then Somonauk Road will be closed. The headwalls will be formed and poured in place.

The update to the Tollway construction project was provided to the Committee. Tower Road and Shabbona Road are scheduled to have all lanes opened on August 13th. University Road will be closed at that time and is expected to be reopened on August 30th. The north bound lane on Somonauk Road overpass will be back under construction on August 4th and is scheduled to be completed during early September. Hinckley Road will be the last overpass in DeKalb County to be repaired and that is scheduled for early September and be completed during early November of this year.

The Contractor is still hauling fill to the stockpile located on Gurler Road but at a slower pace. They are working around Illinois Route 47 now so the closure of Somonauk/Gurler Roads for the culvert replacement should not interfere with that process. The contractor will not be hauling to the Gurler Road site until they move back west. Mr. Schwartz stated he will be submitting the special use permit for this site in the coming weeks.

As part of the jail expansion project, Abbey Paving will be redoing portions of Exchange Street that need to have some manholes readjusted as well as the pitch of the road corrected. The remaining portion of Exchange Street to Walnut Street will be resurfaced in conjunction with the resurfacing of the Library parking lot as well as the new parking lot along Illinois Route 64 adjacent to the Library parking lot.

As a legislative update, nothing is happening at the State level. At the Federal level Washington is talking about trying to fix the Highway Trust Fund. This is the fund the County receives funding for Federal highway and bridge projects. Some ideas being presented is taxes on bicycle tires, electric vehicles and a hike in the gas tax (maybe 15 cents). These measures are needed to keep the Highway Trust Fund from borrowing from the Federal General Fund. If these recommendations are approved this will probably not result in any additional funding at the local level. These funds would be used to keep the Trust Fund whole and not have to receive transfers from the General Fund.

For DSATS, preparations are continuing to have DSATS functions transferred to the County from the City of DeKalb. A budget for this function is currently being reviewed by County Administration and will become a part of the Highway Department's Budget. When Board Members get their budget books a proposed DSATS budget will be included in that book. One position will be transferred from the City of DeKalb to the

County and be under the supervision of the County Engineer. The Committee voiced some concern over the amount of time this function will require the County Engineer to devote to DSATS matters. The County Engineer assured the Committee that by having this operation located at the County and proper oversight, less time should be required than he currently spends on such matters. A Federal unfunded mandate is also being attached to DSATS – the requirement to keep track of the condition of roads and bridges within their boundary limits. The County already does this, but time will tell how the requirements for this tracking will unfold and what will be involved.

The Department's proposed 2019 Budget was presented to the Committee. Mr. Schwartz provided the Committee with an overview of the six different budgets that will ultimately be approved by the County Board. These budgets have the 0.29% increase in revenues, per the budget instructions, that deal with tax levies. The Department understands that a 0.29% increase may not be possible and the Department has made contingency plans if these need to be adjusted. Downward adjustments have been made to the Aid to Bridge and Federal Matching Tax levies to allow for an increase in funds to be placed in the Highway Fund. Mr. Schwartz stated that as Committee Members review the budgets, any questions they might have, can be addressed to himself or Wayne. The Committee had concerns with the reduction of Bridge Funds and Matching Funds and would this reduction hinder the County's ability to qualify for Federal dollars that require the County's match. Mr. Schwartz stated he has reviewed his five year plan, as well as his long range plan, and is confident that all Federal projects he has programmed will have appropriate funding on the local level to match any Federal dollars awarded.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Schwartz spoke of the recent accidents along Route 23 that involved a county road crossing them. Specifically Perry Road and Chicago Roads wherein driver error plays a big role in the cause of these accidents. These intersections seem to be prone to accidents even though there is appropriate sight distance in all directions. Perry Road at Route 23 recently had stop bars painted on Perry Road as well as doubling up the stop signs and having double cross traffic does not stop signs placed under the stop signs. At Chicago Road and Route 23, there is already doubled up stop signs/cross traffic does not stop and stop ahead signs. The State is installing yellow flashers on the intersection ahead signs on Route 23 and red flashers on the stop signs on Chicago Road. The installation is scheduled for October 11th with an estimated completion date of November 7th. The State is currently waiting for the required materials for this project. Both intersections have rumble strips on the county roads warning of a stop condition. The Committee stated we can't just blame these accidents on driver error and move on. We need to continue to find ways to make these intersections safer for the traveling public. Mr. Schwartz will provide the Committee with an overview of the accidents that have occurred at Chicago and Route 23 over the years as a matter of information and see if any additional action can be taken at these intersections to improve safety and reduce accidents.

The Kingston Road District Highway Commissioner recently had a piece of right-of-way donated that will enable the Road District to complete Carson Road east of Glidden Road. This will eliminate confusion by emergency responders that come to Carson Road and head west when the house they are searching for is east of Glidden Road.

The County was made aware of a situation on Old State Road just east of Five Points Road. The property owner at 10654 Old State Road has a pump and hose within the County's right-of-way and is pumping water from the nearby creek to water his newly planted trees. The Department made contact with the property owner and explained what was being done was not proper and he needed to remove his equipment from the right-of-way. The property owner was not receptive to the Department's instructions to remove his equipment. This information is provided in the event any Committee member is contacted by the property owner they would have a bit of the background on this matter.

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 Vice Chair Willis and seconded by Mr. Stoddard and the motion passed unanimously.** The August 2, 2018 meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Roy Plote
Chairman