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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
November 1, 2018**

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

Chairman Plote called the meeting to order at 6:02pm and called for the roll. Committee members present were Mr. Bunge, Mr. Frieders, Mr. Osland, Mr. Stoddard and Vice Chair Willis. Ms. Polanco was absent. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz and 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 October 4, 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. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

RESOLUTION #R2018-62: ANTICIPATION OF TOWNSHIP BRIDGE FUNDS FOR SECTION 13-05119-01-BR, MCNEAL ROAD BRIDGE IN FRANKLIN ROAD DISTRICT

Mr. Schwartz stated each year the County receives an allocation from the State of Illinois to assist in the construction of Township/Road District bridges. The estimated amount of Township Bridge Program (TBP) funds programmed for the construction of McNeal Road Bridge is \$839,920.00. The County's annual allocation averages around \$164,000 per year. In order to construct this bridge as scheduled in 2020 the County will upfront the funds needed for this project and receive annual payments from the State through the TBP allocation until the County is made whole. This resolution is necessary to anticipate those funds in the amount of \$639,858.00. Mr. Schwartz

recommended approval of this resolution. **Vice Chair Willis moved and Mr. Bunge seconded a motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Chairman Plote commented on the recent accidents in the County and the deterioration of the edge of roadways, in particular, Suydam Road. Mr. Schwartz stated he recently returned from the annual safety conference and the increase in accidents is not just a County problem but nationwide. It seems like every new safety measure put in place, over time, becomes a non-attention getter for the traveling public. They just become use to the extra signage, pavement markings, rumble strips or flashing lights and pay little attention to them. Everyone continues to look at ways to make traveling safer. Distracted drivers are becoming a serious problem. The Committee asked what the lights would do at the intersection of Illinois Route 23 and Chicago Road. Mr. Schwartz informed them they would flash 24/7 on both Chicago Road and Route 23. Hopefully, this improvement will remind travelers that an intersection is coming up that is different than normal intersections and requires their attention. Concerning the edge of pavement deteriorating on roads, Mr. Schwartz stated Operations was in the process of filling in the worst spots with patch mix. As roadways are resurfaced, the County is adding three feet of paved shoulders. This will correct the edge of pavement breaking off when heavy/wide equipment is running along the edge of the travel lane. Suydam Road is scheduled for repaving during 2020/2021 time frame.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee.

The Barber Greene Road widening and resurfacing project for all intent and purposes is complete.

The preliminary engineering for Base Line Road Bridge and McNeal Road Bridge stand at 10% complete. Design engineering is at 5% for Base Line Road Bridge and 10% for McNeal Road Bridge.

The Peace Road intersection with State Route 64 preliminary engineering is 85% complete and design engineering stands at 35%. The County is working with the City of Sycamore to secure the needed compensatory storage for this project. Storage will be located at Sycamore's wastewater treatment plant adjacent to this project.

The preliminary engineering for Plank Road Safety project stands at 80% complete and design engineering at 60%. Pre-preliminary plans are being reviewed by this Department.

Somonauk Road culvert replacement at Union Ditch #1 (Gurler Road) is 98% complete. Paving was completed today and shoulder stone should be placed tomorrow and the

road open to traffic later in the day. The Committee inquired if this project took longer than planned. Mr. Schwartz stated there were some unexpected delays. The east end of the box culvert across Somonauk Road sunk 18 inches after installation. The soil borings taken indicated the soil was appropriate to accommodate this construction. However, due to the rains and swirling waters after installation, the soil was turned into a pudding like filling that would not support the end of the box culvert. That required a section of the box culvert to be removed, as well as the bad soil, and large aggregate placed at that location. The road will be open November 2nd.

As a legislative update, elections are coming next Tuesday. Mr. Schwartz stated there might be a push to get a capital plan in place. The last one was ten years ago and history shows one comes along every ten years. The County Engineers have informed the legislators of the funding requirements needed to maintain all local roads in the State. They are leaving it up to the legislators to find a way to fund this \$650 million per year initiative as there are many areas that need additional funding. The Committee stated if the County were to secure the additional funding how long would it take to bring the County's road up to 80,000 pounds. Mr. Schwartz estimated that time to be 10-15 years.

For DSATS, it looks like there may not be a new intergovernmental agreement in place prior to the beginning of our new budget year January 1, 2019. There are still several changes being worked out between the City and the County. One solution would be to move DSATS to the County and continue to operate under the old agreement until the new one is agreed to. A comment was made concerning the new public transportation program now that the Huskie Line was combined with the TransVac Line. Riders are saying an hour trip now takes twice as long. Mr. Schwartz requested information concerning this issue so he could provide it to the appropriate person for review.

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 Vice Chair Willis and seconded by Mr. Osland and the motion passed unanimously.** The November 1, 2018 meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Roy Plote
Chairman