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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Special Highway Committee Minutes  
November 21, 2018**

A special meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Wednesday, November 21, 2018, at 6:30pm in the Conference Center Room of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau, located at 1350 W. Prairie Drive, Sycamore, Illinois 60178.

Chairman Plote called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and called for the roll. Committee members present were Mr. Frieders, Mr. Osland, Ms. Polanco, and Mr. Stoddard. Mr. Bunge and Vice Chair Willis were absent. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz, County Administrator, Gary Hanson, County Board member Mr. Jeff Whelan and one other guest were also present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Mr. Stoddard moved and Ms. Polanco seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

**DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO FILL CURRENT HIGHWAY MAINTAINER VACANCY IN OPERATIONS DIVISION**

Mr. Schwartz provided the background for the requirement of Committee approval prior to filling a vacant highway maintainer position due to a recent resignation. This position is critical for snow removal operations during the winter months and provides normal highway maintenance activities during the remaining months. This is a full-time union position with a starting salary of \$29.36 per hour, with this position being paid 80% during year one, 90% during year two and 100% during year three of the starting salary in effect during that year. Due to no meeting being scheduled for December, Mr. Schwartz felt it important to get a decision for this position prior to the January meeting to allow the position to be filled as quickly as possible. **Motion made by Mr. Stoddard and seconded by Mr. Osland to grant permission to fill the current vacancy in the Operations Division.** Discussion followed and included the option of not filling the position or filling the position as a part-time employee. Mr. Schwartz explained to the Committee his number one priority is to ensure the safety of the traveling public while traveling on County roadways. Currently the Department has 12 snow routes, taking typically 3 hours per round depending on the type of snow event. Those 12 routes are

handled by nine full-time maintainers, one full time mechanic who is reassigned during snow events, and two winter part-time hires referred to as “snow birds”. During the winter when not plowing snow or performing general roadway maintenance, crews are kept busy trimming trees and cleaning fence rows. Also in the winter, a lot of maintenance is performed on vehicles as the trucks are worked the hardest during the winter months since they push snow and carry full loads of salt during extremely cold temperatures. Time spent on snow removal operations, the impact on services to the public if routes were combined, enlarged, or contracted out to the Road Districts were discussed. Also discussed was ways to amend the union contract to allow greater flexibility when it comes to filling positions. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS:** Chairman Plote wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**COUNTY ENGINEER’S COMMENTS:** Mr. Schwartz wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving as well.

**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. Stoddard and seconded by Ms. Polanco and the motion passed unanimously.** The November 21, 2018 meeting was adjourned at 6:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Plote". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Roy Plote  
Chairman