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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
February 7, 2019**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, February 7, 2019, 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 6:03pm and called for the roll. Committee members present were Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland and Vice Chair Willis. Mr. West joined the meeting at 6:20pm and Mr. Pietrowski joined the meeting at 6:30pm. Ms. Emmer was absent. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz, Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager and one other guest were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion made by Mr. Luebke and seconded by Vice Chair Willis to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Luebke moved and Mr. Osland seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2019 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

RESOLUTION #R2019-07: LOCAL AGENCY AGREEMENT FOR BARBER GREENE ROAD SAFETY SHOULDERS – SECTION 16-00187-01-SD

Mr. Schwartz stated Federal funds would be used for the scheduled project during 2019 to place four foot safety shoulders from Peace Road east to Somonauk Road and place a hot-mix asphalt for a right turn lane on Barber Greene Road for turning northbound onto Peace Road. This project is a County project funded through the DSATS programs. 80% will be funded with Federal funds and the County will be responsible for 20% of this cost that has been estimated to be \$33,000.00. The letting for this project will be held during March of this year with construction to start later in the spring/summer of this year. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this resolution.

Vice Chair Willis moved and Mr. Luebke seconded a motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION #R2019-08: PURCHASE OF ONE NEW TANDEM CAB AND CHASSIS

Bids were opened on February 7, 2019 at 9:00am to replace a snow plow truck in the Highway Department's snow removal fleet. Only one bid proposal was received and that was from JX Peterbilt from Rockford, Illinois. Their bid was in the amount of \$100,800.00 with a trade allowance of \$10,000.00 for the County's 2007 Sterling LT8500 with snow removal equipment. The County has been satisfied with the Peterbilt's performance and we currently have five Peterbilt tandem plow trucks and one Peterbilt service truck. The County would also purchase some options with this truck to include an engine and transmission extended warranty and an after treatment warranty. The total cost of the cab and chassis after trade and with options, if approved, would be \$93,568.00. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this resolution. **Mr. Osland moved and Vice Chair Willis seconded a motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously**

RESOLUTION #R2019-09: AWARD OF PEACE ROAD AGGREGATE BASE FOR RIGHT TURN LANES AT BRICKVILLE AND FREED ROADS

Mr. Schwartz explained the Department opened bids on February 7, 2019 at 9:00am for this project. The project consists of earth excavation, furnishing excavation, aggregate base and other incidental work for right turn lanes on Peace Road at Brickville Road and Freed Road. Five bids were received for this project with William Charles Construction Company, LLC from Rockford, Illinois submitting the low bid meeting specifications. Their bid was \$132,330.45 and the Engineer's Estimate was \$244,957.50 for this project. Mr. Schwartz explained to the Committee that \$90,000.00 was budgeted from the Highway Budget and \$175,000 budgeted from the County Bridge Budget for this project. However, when the highway staff reviewed these intersections it was determined no culvert extensions would be necessary to complete this project. Therefore, County Bridge funds would not be authorized for this project and the entire project will be paid for utilizing Highway Budget funds. Although the Highway Budget was under budgeted for this project, the Department will delay an equipment refurbish project for two years to make up the shortfall. William Charles Construction has worked in the County before – just recently completing the Barber Greene Road widening and resurfacing project as well as the Coltonville-Rich-Bethany Roads-North First Street resurfacing project during 2018. The County has been satisfied with their performance. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this resolution. **Vice Chair Willis moved and Mr. Luebke seconded a motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Chairman Plote stated he had not received any complaints from the public concerning the snow events and thanked the Department for their diligence and dedication.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Schwartz shared with the Committee that the Department is always looking for ways to operate as efficiently as possible. As an example, the Department purchased a chain sharpener for our chain saws and now sharpen all our chains in house. This \$110.00 investment has paid for itself after one round of sharpening our chains on our six chain saws. When they are in use, the chains are sharpened at the end of the day and ready in the morning before being deployed. In the past we would have to wait on the vendor to get to our chains. This investment has saved the County money as well as time.

The salt situation is looking up. Deliveries have been slow due to trucking issues and the County has been very conservative with spreading salt these past few weeks. Everyone who utilizes salt in this area was similarly affected. This year is the third time the County has come close to being entirely out of salt since Mr. Schwartz became the County Engineer. The Department has explored the possibility of enlarging our current salt storage building to allow for more storage. Due to structural issues that is not a possibility. The Highway Department will be exploring the possibility of constructing an additional salt storage building in the near future. This project could be a joint project with other governmental entities in the area or simply one for the County. Mr. Schwartz stated he is exploring all options to come up with the best solution to serve the citizens of DeKalb County.

Mr. Schwartz explained Rich Road was once a Township road under the jurisdiction of DeKalb Road District. The Highway Commissioner for DeKalb Road District has requested the County considered returning Rich Road to DeKalb Road District. In order for that to happen the City of DeKalb would have to agree to the jurisdictional transfer as portions of Rich Road would fall under their jurisdiction if removed from County jurisdiction. The City of DeKalb appears in favor of this agreement as DeKalb Road District has agreed to maintain the City's portion of Rich Road if the road was transferred. This is for information only as the City could act on this transfer during February or March. If that were to happen the Highway Department would request the County transfer Rich Road during the Committee's March meeting. This transfer is in the best interest of all governmental units involved.

A legislative update was shared with the Committee. HB 307-Citizens Empowerment Act would provide that electors may petition for a referendum at the next general election to dissolve a unit of local government. HB 348-McHenry Township and District Dissolution would amend the Township Code and provide the board of trustee of any

township located in McHenry County may submit a proposition to dissolve the township. HB-360-DuPage County-Township Dissolution – same as HB 348 but deals with townships in DuPage County. All road districts with less than 15 centerline miles of roadways would be abolished under those proposals. HB 1476 would amend the Motor Fuel Tax Law to make the distribution of MFT funds a continuing appropriation. That way in case of no budget being passed, the MFT funds collected would continue to flow to the Counties and townships without any additional action of the legislature. HB 1590 provides that a person cannot operate a low-speed electric scooter without a driver's license, instruction permit or State ID card and must be at least 16 years of age. SB 90 would allow for a drainage district to be dissolved if one or more municipalities account for at least 50% of a drainage district's territory. HR 71 urges IDOT to consider a higher percentage of all new revenues and new transportation investments be distributed to local roads.

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee.

The preliminary engineering for Base Line Road Bridge is 95% complete and the design engineering is 100% complete. We are waiting for a cultural sign-off by IDOT prior to this project going to letting. There was a Native American settlement near this bridge and a determination needs to be made that there are no artifacts in the vicinity.

The Johnson Road box culvert project has the preliminary engineering at 25% and the design engineering is at 20%.

McNeal Road Bridge has the preliminary engineering at 75% complete and the design engineering at 55% complete. This project is moving toward a 2019 letting with construction to begin during 2020. This waterway does have Gravel Chubs in it which are a state-threatened species. This will require the County to obtain an incidental take authorization from the Department of Natural Resources prior to construction.

The Peace Road intersection with State Route 64 preliminary engineering is 95% complete and design engineering stands at 100%. Plans are scheduled to be submitted to IDOT on February 8th for review and approval.

The preliminary engineering for Plank Road Safety project stands at 100% complete and design engineering at 100%. Plans have been submitted to IDOT for approval.

Phase Three and Four of the Peace Road safety study were on the table tonight for the Committee's information. Phase Five of this six part study is 25% complete.

For DSATS, it is now under the leadership of DeKalb County as of January 1st. Mr. Schwartz reviewed the County's web site with the Committee and gave a brief demonstration on how easy it was to find pertinent information for DSATS on the County's site.

OTHER BUSINESS: Vice Chair Willis inquired into Corson Drive and the concerns of the residents living there. Mr. Schwartz stated he would brief the Committee during their March meeting on that situation.

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. Luebke, passed unanimously,** and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Plote
Chairman