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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes  
May 2, 2019**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, May 2, 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 6:05pm and called for the roll. Committee members present were Ms. Emmer, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Pietrowski, Mr. West and Vice Chair Willis. 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. West and seconded by Mr. Luebke to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Ms. Emmer moved and Mr. Osland seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2019 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**RESOLUTION #R2019-35: INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF KIRKLAND FOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**

Mr. Schwartz explained to the Committee that this agreement was one of two being presented tonight. In order for Villages to utilize their Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds on certain projects, IDOT requires agreements with the County/Company/Firm that will be overseeing their maintenance projects. The Village of Kirkland has requested to utilize MFT funds for their crack filling, seal coat and striping projects that were included within the County's Maintenance Projects this year. The County will provide the required inspections for these projects at our normal rate of five percent of the Village's project cost. The project's cost has been estimated at \$16,000.00 with the engineering cost estimated at \$800.00. This is a very good deal for the Village and the County is happy to provide the service. The County will provide engineering services only for general maintenance projects and not construction projects. The Village has contracted with an engineering firm that provides all remaining necessary services. The County is not in

competition with the contracted firm as the maintenance projects required by villages are usually smaller projects and not cost effective for contracted engineering firms. These agreements will need to be completed each year for Villages that are programming MFT funds for projects and at the same time are being included in the County projects. The Committee might see several agreements or none annually depending on those decisions made at the Village level. Mr. Schwartz recommended the approval of this agreement. **Mr. Luebke moved and Vice Chair Willis seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **RESOLUTION #R2019-36: INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF SOMONAUK FOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**

The agreement covered by this resolution is identical to the agreement reviewed for the Village of Kirkland. The Village of Somonauk is also included in the County's crack filling, seal coat and striping projects. Their estimated cost for these projects is \$26,400.00, with engineering estimated at \$1,320.00. Mr. Schwartz recommended the approval of this agreement as well. **Mr. Osland moved and Mr. Luebke seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:** Chairman Plote commented on the newly installed warning lights at the intersection of Illinois Route 23 and Chicago Road. Since their installation in November of 2018 there have been two accidents. A comment was inquired if they were being effective. Mr. Schwartz stated it would take some time to allow for a longer period of time to pass so data could be reviewed and analyzed. It is hoped that over time a difference will be realized. However, accidents may very well continue at that intersection due to driver errors.

Mr. Plote also commented that the Committee should not engage people putting negative or inaccurate or inappropriate comments on social media pertaining to Highway Operations. It is seldom productive. The County Engineer should be the one to address those issues if he feels it is appropriate. Committee members stated they sometimes just try to correct inaccuracies being reported and leave it at that, but did agree that the County Engineer should be the main point of contact for such matters.

#### **COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:**

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee.

-Barber Greene Road safety shoulder/right turn lane project is scheduled to begin June 1<sup>st</sup>. Work should be completed within one week.

-The bid letting for the Base Line Road Bridge was held Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Prices were a bit higher than anticipated with the low bid being submitted by Civil Constructors of Freeport, Illinois in the amount of \$552,219.00. No start date has been set as of yet, but we would anticipate the middle to late June.

-Johnson Road box culvert is currently posted at 12 Tons. Preliminary Engineering stands at 80% complete and design engineering is at 75% complete. Construction is scheduled for this year.

-William Charles Construction from Loves Park, Illinois, submitted the low bid at \$2,164,846.00 for the Peace Road/Illinois Route 64 Safety Project. This was under the estimate of \$2,440,000 and work is to be completed by the end of October. We anticipate construction to begin around the middle of June.

-Peace Road Safety Study-Phase 6 is currently being prepared and will be the last phase for this study. At that time an executive summary will be posted on the County's website with links to the entire study.

-Plank Road safety project was let on April 26<sup>th</sup> and William Charles Construction from Loves Park, Illinois was the low bidder for this project as well in the amount of \$1,758,430. This was also below the estimate of \$2,280,000. We also anticipate construction to begin around the middle of June with a completion date by the end of October.

-Somonauk Road box culvert is at 99% complete and it has just been seeded. With the current weather conditions it is difficult to see any growth as of today.

As a Legislative update there are talks concerning a capital bill that could include a gas tax and vehicle registration fee increase but nothing has been released as of yet. There is still four and half weeks to go in the session to get one worked out. One thing has been made very clear and that is if there is no constitutional amendment allowing for a graduated income tax there will be no capital bill. At the Federal level there has been talk about a two trillion infrastructure plan but there is no funding allocated for such a plan.

DSATS operates on the State's Fiscal Year. June is the last month of the year for DSATS so work continues to close out the year and begin the new year. The 2019 Active Transportation Plan is being prepared as well as reviewing projects for the coming year.

Mr. Schwartz has contacted the property owner on the corner to see what he would be willing to do to allow Corson Drive to become a public roadway. He is waiting for a reply. The comment was made that if the minimum standard width for a road is 40 feet why does the Road District require 66 feet before they will consider taking it over. A 40 foot roadway might serve a purpose in a rural setting with very little traffic. However with traffic, school buses, mail carrier, delivery trucks etc., any road should be wide enough to accommodate traffic flowing in both directions. Also space is needed for sign placement and snow removal. A 40 foot roadway is not realistic in this situation.

Mr. Schwartz reviewed the last ten years of accident information for Barber Greene Road just east of Illinois Route 23 before County Farm Road and found only one reported incident for that area. The current striping configuration in that area seems to be adequate.

Mr. Schwartz spoke about the County's current mail box replacement practices when these are damaged during snow removal operations. Some surrounding counties have a reimbursement practice that allows \$25 for post replacement and \$25 for mailbox replacement only. One County offers the money but will not install/replace any mailboxes damaged during snow removal operations. One gives a choice of taking the money or having county forces replace their mailbox/post when they can get to it. The Highway Department currently sends maintainers out to replace damaged mailboxes after they are inspected and determined the damage was caused by snow removal operations. The Committee provided some input for consideration that included just offer monetary reimbursement, fill several buckets with concrete to hold a mailbox/post and just deliver them when damaged, and continue doing as we are – not everyone is in a position to fix their own mailbox.

The County Engineer inquired if the Committee was interested in a ride along program during snow removal operations. If the Committee thought it was beneficial the Department could put something together and folks could sign up to ride along. The main point presented at this suggestion was that the operators have several things going on at the same time in the cab of the truck and having someone riding along asking questions, screaming, crying, and requesting bathroom breaks etc. could be a distraction. Mr. Schwartz thanked the committee for their input on both items.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** The County Engineer will be out of town during the scheduled June Committee meeting. The Committee by consensus agreed to hold the June Committee meeting on May 30, 2019 at 6:00pm.

**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, seconded by Ms. Emmer and passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Plote  
Chairman