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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
August 3, 2017**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, August 3, 2017, 6:00pm in the Conference Room of the DeKalb County Highway Department, located at 1826 Barber Greene Road, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

Chairman John Frieders called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Roll call was held and Committee members present were Mr. Bunge, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco and Vice Chair Willis. Mr. Stoddard was absent. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz, Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager and other guests were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Ms. Polanco and seconded by Mr. Osland to approve the minutes of the regular June 1, 2017 meeting and the special June 21, 2017 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

ORDINANCE 2017-14: ALTERED SPEED ZONE FOR GENOA ROAD

A request was received by the Highway Department to review the speed limit on Genoa Road approximately 0.6 miles northwest of the Genoa city limits. The current 45mph speed zone ends at the beginning of a group of ten homes in that area. The request was presented by a County Board member after being approached by the home owners in this area. Due to the spacing of the access points being no more than 500 feet apart for a distance greater than a quarter mile, the County Engineer recommended the current 45mph zone be extended an additional 1,990 feet. The required engineering/speed study does support such a recommendation for a residence district and Mr. Schwartz recommended the ordinance be forwarded to the full County Board

recommending approval. **Mr. Bunge moved and Mr. Osland seconded the motion to forward Ordinance 2017-14 to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIR'S COMMENTS: Chairman Frieders stated he had traveled Waterman Road and was pleased with the progress being made.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Schwartz provided the Committee with a short overview of the new GIS system the Highway Department is operating. This system will allow the Department to continue to place pertinent information within layers of our base map. The information currently located on the base map, is the jurisdictional limits of the municipalities and townships within the County; signage currently located on County roadways and accident reports. Roadway information dealing with right-of-way, pavement width and depth, maintenance performed, drainage tile, culverts, bridges, bridge postings, weight limits, etc. are just a sample of the information being considered to be included within these layers. This information will allow research to be conducted from a computer rather than having to hunt for files and then go through volumes of paper to find what is needed. The information will also be available to crews while in the field if needed. This will be an ongoing project over the next several years.

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee. The Highway Department Complex Storage Facility is 90% through the preliminary engineering stage and 40% through the design phase. This project is tentatively scheduled for a bid letting during the month of September.

Peace Road Safety Study will be conducted in stages. There will be six stages and the first one will look at Lindgren Road to Illinois Route 23. The completion date for that first phase of the study is October 31, 2017. The other stages will focus on Peace/Illinois Route 23 North to Illinois Route 64; Illinois Route 64 to Illinois Route 23 South; Illinois Route 23 South to Bethany Road; Bethany Road to Barber Greene Road; and Barber Greene Road to Pleasant Street.

The Somonauk Road Bridge project is 55% completed. The contractor is currently tying the rebar and placing it in preparation of pouring the deck. This project is still on schedule to have the road opened to traffic before the Sandwich Fair.

The estimate of cost for the Somonauk Road culvert installation at Union Ditch # 1 has been received and the estimate is considerably over the current budgeted amount. Therefore, this project will be pushed back to 2018. This project is more entailed than originally thought due to the amount of water flowing through this area.

The Somonauk Road paving project has begun with County forces patching the driveways with hot mix asphalt and preparing to core out the shoulders. The paving crew is scheduled to begin as early as Tuesday, August 8th.

Waterman Road is 75% complete and the road should be seal coated within the next two weeks. The contractor is placing the final two inches of aggregate on the surface and then will do the final prep work ahead of priming the road.

As a legislative update, the State does have a budget, but school funding is still being worked on. There has been some misinformation concerning a possible gas tax. No such tax was passed however, the incentive for producing ethanol is being deleted. Therefore, 100% of the cost to produce ethanol will be borne by the producers. It is anticipated this extra cost will be passed on to the consumer. If passed to the consumer this could cause a raise in the price of ethanol but the cause is not due to any additional taxes being placed on this product. Mr. Plote stated these incentives were scheduled to be removed next year anyway, but will now be removed a year earlier.

DSATS – the Coltonville/Rich Roads/N. First Street/Bethany Road resurfacing project has moved through the TAC Committee of DSATS and will be presented at this month's Policy Committee for selection. Mr. Schwartz is confident this project will be selected for funding and Coltonville and Rich Roads will be upgraded to an 80,000 pound highway during 2018.

At the request of Chairman Frieders the County Engineer reviewed the process utilized by the Department to select vendors for engineering and professional services. These services are selected on a qualification based selection or QBS. The objective of the QBS is to allow the County to locate a qualified consultant to undertake a project; then through negotiations, engage the consultant to provide the creative and technical work required at a fair and reasonable cost. The QBS procedures for public notice, evaluation, selection and contract negotiations shall be used whenever a project requiring architectural, engineering or land surveying services are proposed by the County. The County may also waive some requirements if the total cost of the services from a consultant is estimated to be less than \$25,000. Mr. Schwartz stated many services that the County deals with would fall under the less than \$25,000 threshold. The Highway Department will be placing forms on the County's website for this procedure. It was suggested that the State's Attorney's Office review the forms before being placed there.

The Committee agreed that the Annual Highway Tour will be held on September 28th. This will be considered a special meeting and the times of the meeting will be from 9:00am to 2:30pm-3:00pm. More information will be provided as we get closer to this event.

The Department's proposed 2018 Budget was provided to the Committee for their information and review. Mr. Schwartz went over each budget highlighting items of interest and providing an explanation for those items. After the Committee has time to review this proposal in detail and if anyone has questions or concerns about the submission they were asked to contact the Department. Chairman Frieders requested members bring their copies of the budget back to the September meeting in case further discussions were necessary to address any concerns that may arise.

OTHER BUSINESS: Comments were made on Facebook concerning placing grass clippings on the roadway while mowing ditches. Mr. Schwartz stated the County utilizes batwing mowers and these do not side discharge clippings. Our mowers drop the clippings at the bottom of the mower and no clippings are thrown to the side. The comment in question was addressing a private entity on a township jurisdiction roadway and did not involve the County in any way. The unlawful depositing of material on any roadway that is deemed to make the roadway unsafe should be addressed to the Sheriff's Department.

Vice Chair Willis inquired about the cameras that have been installed at signalized intersections by the County. Mr. Schwartz stated these cameras were installed in lieu of placing the loops in the pavement to provide traffic information to the signals to allow for turning movements as well as direction changes. They are not there to record any personnel information or who is running a red light, etc. These cameras have that capability, but are not being utilized for any purpose other than traffic control. The Committee will be notified prior to potentially changing the use of the cameras if the Department determines a need in the future.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Frieders 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. Plote and seconded by Ms. Polanco and the motion passed unanimously.** The August 3, 2017 meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Frieders
Chairman