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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes  
October 5, 2017**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, October 5, 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. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco, Mr. Stoddard and Vice Chair Willis. Mr. Bunge was absent. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz was attending the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Illinois Association of County Engineer's fall meeting and was present via video conferencing from Moline, Illinois. Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager and one other guest were also present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion made by Mr. Osland and seconded by Mr. Plote to approve the minutes of the regular September 7, 2017 meeting and the special September 28, 2017 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Mr. Stoddard moved and Mr. Osland seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

**RESOLUTION #R2017-123: APPROVAL OF ENGINEERING AGREEMENT FOR SOMONAUK ROAD BRIDGE, .25 MILES SOUTH OF US ROUTE 30, NEAR HINCKLEY, ILLINOIS**

Mr. Schwartz stated the structure over Little Rock Creek on Somonauk Road is scheduled to be replaced during 2018. Preliminary engineering and plans will need to be completed before a bid letting can be held. This agreement with Wendler Engineering Services from Dixon, Illinois will begin that process. The structure is anticipated to be a steel beam bridge, with a reinforced concrete deck and necessary roadway approaches not exceeding 500 feet in length. The letting for this project is being tentatively scheduled for March of 2018. Construction would not begin until the spring postings were removed from County roadways and there appears to be no

environmental concerns in the area of this structure. This agreement is for a cost not to exceed \$75,480.00. The County has utilized Wendler's in the past and has been satisfied with their performance. The Committee inquired if the County could design bridges in house and Mr. Schwartz stated they could not. Bridge design requires a structural engineer to prepare the plans and the County does not have one on staff. Mr. Schwartz recommended the resolution be forwarded to the full County Board recommending approval. **Vice Chair Willis moved and Mr. Plote seconded the motion to forward Resolution #R2017-123 to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

**ACTION ON BUDGET APPEALS:** No appeals were submitted to County Administration that would require action by this Committee at this time.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS:** Chairman Frieders commented that he enjoyed the Highway Tour of completed construction projects and encouraged all Board members to attend future tours. Valuable information is presented during the tour detailing how funds are spent and projects developed and prioritized.

**COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:**

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee. The Highway Department Complex Storage Facility has not changed since last month. However, the site is expected to be cored out and aggregate placed before winter months set in. The building specifications will need to be decided upon in the very near future.

Peace Road Safety Study has had no action since our last report, but is still on schedule to have Phase I presented to the Committee during their November meeting. If you travel Peace Road you will notice extensions of the turn lanes for north bound Peace as you approach Illinois Route 64 as well as new signage on the mast arm just north of Sarah Drive. The traffic signal heads have been outlined with yellow reflective strips to help with visibility in this area.

Barber Greene Road paving and widening project stands at 70% completion for the preliminary engineering process and remains on schedule for construction during 2018.

The Barber Greene Road Bridge deck replacement will begin this Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, with the road closure taking place and construction beginning on Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup>. The road is scheduled to be closed until November 17, 2017.

The County is pushing back the McNeal Road Bridge to 2020 from 2019. The County anticipates several federal projects being underway that are already planned for 2019 and will not have the staff to oversee McNeal Road Bridge as well. Travel time to the bridge site is concerning due to the location and that will take valuable time away from other projects.

The Somonauk Road Bridge is now completed and was opened prior to Sandwich Fair. Final cost of construction was \$629,578.00 and the estimate was \$650,000.00.

The Somonauk Road paving project is also completed. Final cost of construction was \$739,516.00 and estimate was \$1,046,420.00.

The Department's new tandem, equipped with snow removal equipment, is scheduled to arrive in the next day or so and the lift truck is scheduled to be delivered the first week in November.

The County's salt contract has not been formally approved as of yet, however preliminary word is that District 3 will see salt prices in the \$50s for the coming season. Last year's price was \$68.61. The mowers are working their way back to the Barber Greene Shop and are planning to make one more pass on Peace and Plank Roads prior to being done for the year.

As a legislative update, the legislature has determined certain funding that traditionally has been funded through the State's general fund will now be funded through transportation funding per the Transportation Funds Amendment passed by the voters last year. This will result in approximately \$300 million less in transportation dollars available as the RTA and the Serious D bonds used for construction will now be funded by transportation funds. This will have an effect on the TARP program, the Needy Township program and the County consolidated payment as all payments will be reduced by 50%. The County's consolidated payment will be approximately \$115,000.00 less than last year and the Townships will lose approximately \$15,000.00 total among the five Townships affected.

DSATS is finishing up the Transit Development Plan. One major goal of this plan is to combine the NIU Huskie transportation system with the VAC transportation system to improve efficiency and reduce redundancy. NIU Huskie and VAC assets would be split with one contractor handling the fixed routes and another contractor handling the door to door service. If these two agencies were merged it would enhance the County's ability to obtain additional Federal funding. Federal funds require a match and the State funding NIU receives for its transportation services could be utilized to match additional Federal funds.

Mr. Schwartz informed the Committee that DSATS agreed to expand the Barber Greene Road safety shoulder project to include a right turn lane for west bound traffic at Peace Road. This is an additional \$40,000.00 and will improve traffic flow at this intersection.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Plote inquired if the County required permits for entrances. Mr. Schwartz stated the Department does require permits for any access points to a County roadway. This is to ensure that installation is done correctly to eliminate or reduce drainage problems in the future. The permit also ensures entrances are placed at a location that will not endanger the traveling public from vehicles entering and leaving said property. These entrances are placed at the sole expense of the property owner however, once installed, inspected and accepted by the County, they become the County's responsibility to maintain from then on.

**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. Stoddard and seconded by Ms. Polanco and the motion passed unanimously.** The October 5, 2017 meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Frieders  
Chairman