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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes  
May 30, 2019**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, May 30, 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 6:02pm 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, County Administrator, Mr. Gary Hanson and Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager were also present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion made by Mr. West and seconded by Ms. Emmer to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Mr. Osland moved and Mr. Pietrowski seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2019 regular meeting and the May 15, 2019 special meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

In preparation for the upcoming 2020 Budget session, Mr. Schwartz provided an overview to the Committee of scheduled five-year equipment replacement needs as well as the planned construction projects for the next five years, with emphasis on the budget year 2020. These two phases of the Department's budget account for the majority spending activity and information was provided to allow Committee members time to review these items and ask any questions that they might have. The total planned expenditures for equipment replacement has been estimated to be \$520,000.00 for 2020. Construction projects will total an estimate of \$6,350,000.00 with \$940,000.00 being paid with local funds. Construction projects were identified that were scheduled for the 2019 construction season and have been moved back a year. Both five year plans are a working document and items change from time to time depending on the current condition of equipment, funding opportunities and manning levels.

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:** Chairman Plote was asked to inquire why a resident engineer (RE) was not present at all times during a construction project being overseen by the County. The County charges for this service and there was concern at the local level that the Townships might not be getting what they paid for. Mr. Schwartz stated the resident engineer is not present at all times during a project. In the past when the engineering division was fully staffed, it was very common for any individual inspector to oversee multiple crews or contractors each day. With currently only two inspectors and several projects going at the same time it is impossible for an RE to be present 100% of the time during construction. The RE still is required to ensure the project is being completed per the specifications contracted, complete the necessary inspections, paperwork and material certifications. Established crews for the contractors that have been awarded these projects know what needs to be done and what the County expects. If there is an inexperienced crew assigned to one of the County projects the RE would spend more time with that crew in order for the crew to get an understanding of what the County expects. Township officials are encouraged to stop by and check in on their projects. If they notice something that is not right or they have any questions they would contact the RE for resolution. With the overall work by the County including preconstruction surveying, plan & specification preparation, letting and contract administration, construction layout, construction oversight, material certification, and project closeout, the Townships are still getting what they pay for and the County is not short-changing them.

**COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:**

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee.

-Barber Greene Road safety shoulder/right turn lane project has been completed by the contractor. Shoulder stone is being placed by County forces and that part of this project stands at approximately 75% complete.

-Johnson Road box culvert is currently posted at 12 Tons. Preliminary Engineering has been completed as well as the design engineering. The Committee will be asked to approve the award for this project during the June 19<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Committee.

-The earthwork for the Peace Road turn lanes at Freed and Brickville Roads stands at 50% complete. Once the turn lanes have been constructed they will be overlaid at a later date with a separate hot-mix asphalt paving contract.

-Somonauk Road box culvert has been completed and the seeding is now beginning to grow. The Somonauk Road sidewalk project will be in front of the Committee on June 19<sup>th</sup> for contract approval.

-The South First Street culvert at the intersection with Gurler Road shows the preliminary engineering at 70% and the design engineering at 10%. This is on schedule for a 2020 construction.

-Waterman Road, phase 2 and 3, the reconstruction of shoulders and ditches from Duffy Road to Perry Road will be in front of the Committee during our June 19<sup>th</sup> special meeting for contract approval

As a Legislative update there are 31 hours left in the current session. On the table for approval is a bill authorizing the sale and use of recreational marijuana, a capital bill, upcoming 2020 Budget, and expanded gambling in the State. A lot still needs to be completed and we will wait and see what, if anything, gets approved. On the Federal side there is not much movement toward a Federal Capital Bill. Legislators are finding it difficult to find additional funding for a new capital bill. The current funding structure and levels for projects will remain in place for another year, as has been the case for the past several years.

DSATS will have their Transportation Improvement Plan and Unified Planning Work Program approved during June. This plan describes and summarizes all projects completed last year and what projects are being planned for the coming next five years. Those documents, along with the Active Transportation Plan, are up on the website for review. Mr. Schwartz encouraged Committee Members to review these documents if they get a chance. The Active Transportation Plan (bike trails, walking paths, etc.) is a 190 page document that was completed in house this year and will be in future years. Mr. Pietrowski commented that it was good to see the Town of Cortland back involved in the DSATS process.

The Highway Department currently has a vacancy in the Support Services Division. Our Accounting Clerk C position is vacant and Mr. Schwartz has requested that he be given permission to fill it. It is currently a full-time position, but depending on circumstances it could be filled by a part-time person. That decision will be left up to Mr. Schwartz to see how it would best be filled. **A motion was made by Mr. Pietrowski and seconded by Vice Chair Willis to grant Mr. Schwartz the authority to fill this position. Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Schwartz still has not heard back from the property owner on the corner to see what he would be willing to do to allow Corson Drive to become a public roadway.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** The County Engineer requested a special Highway Committee meeting be scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Freedom Room to approve four construction projects. No objections were heard.

**A motion was made by Ms. Emmer and seconded by Mr. Luebke to enter into executive session per Chapter 5 ILCS Act 120/2(c)(5) – The Purchase or Lease of real property for Use by DeKalb County. A roll call vote was taken with seven yes votes and zero no votes. The Highway Committee entered executive session at 7:15pm.**

The Highway Committee returned to normal session at 7:39pm.

**A motion was made by Mr. Pietrowski and seconded by Mr. Osland to authorize the County Board Chairman to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Sycamore for the acquisition of a storage building at 1721 N. Main Street and the acquisition of two buildings at 202 E. Page Street for a price of \$475,000.00, said funds coming from the County Farm Fund and the Opportunity Fund. In addition to the purchase of said buildings an additional \$25,000.00 is to come from the Opportunity Fund for minor renovations and repairs to said buildings. Motion passed unanimously.**

**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 7:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Plote  
Chairman