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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
August 4, 2016**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, August 4, 2016 at 6:00pm in the Conference Room of the DeKalb County Highway Department, located at 1826 Barber Greene Road, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

Chairman John Gudmunson called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Committee members present were Mr. Luebke, Vice Chair, Mr. Bunge, Mr. Frieders, Mr. Metzger, Mr. Pietrowski and Ms. Willis. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz and Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mr. Frieders and seconded by Ms. Willis to approve the minutes of the regular June 2, 2016 and special June 15, 2016 meetings. The motion to approve both sets of minutes passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ORDINANCE #O2016-07 – ALTERED SPEED ZONE FOR ALL STREETS IN UNINCORPORATED FAIRDALE, FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

Mr. Schwartz presented the ordinance at the request of the Franklin Road District Highway Commissioner. After reviewing the request it was determined that the streets involved would qualify as a residence district thereby allowing speed to be reduced to no less than 25 mph. Mr. Schwartz stated that since all streets in Fairdale were currently being rebuilt to include being resurfaced and the existence of parks/playgrounds and children in this area, it was his judgement that the speed be reduced to the limit of 25 mph. **Mr. Bunge moved and Vice Chair Luebke seconded the motion to forward the ordinance to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2016-49: AWARD FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SERVICE TRUCK, BOBCAT ALL-WHEEL STEER LOADER AND A TANDEM STEEL DRUM VIBRATORY ROLLER

Mr. Schwartz informed the Committee that bids were received for the purchase of three pieces of equipment up for replacement this year by the Department. Three bids were received for the service truck with Brad Manning Ford from DeKalb, Illinois submitting the low bid in the amount of \$73,533.00. Two bids were received for the remaining equipment, however only one bidder, CRS Bobcat from DeKalb, Illinois met the specifications/administrative procedures required. Therefore, it was recommended that CRS Bobcat be awarded the bid for the all-wheel steer loader in the amount of \$33,320.00 and the tandem steel drum roller in the amount of \$26,600.00. Discussion followed on certain items contained within the service truck award as well as the need to replace a piece of equipment being utilized for only approximately 100 hours a year. Mr. Schwartz will re-evaluate the need for paper manuals to be purchased for the service truck. If the mechanic staff feel they can obtain the required information in a different way and that will not affect their performance, the manuals may not have to be purchased at this time. Mr. Schwartz recommended the bobcat steer loader be replaced at this time to continue to provide efficient equipment in the fleet. The trade-in value was good and the longer the Department holds on to equipment, more costly repairs are expected and trade-in value decreases. **Mr. Metzger moved and Vice Chair Luebke seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2016-50: ANTICIPATION OF TOWNSHIP BRIDGE PROGRAM FUNDS FOR MELMS ROAD BRIDGE IN GENOA ROAD DISTRICT

Genoa Road District is scheduled to replace the bridge on Melms Road this year. Township Bridge Funds are being programed to assist the Road District with the cost of construction and engineering. Because the County's annual allocation of funds from this program will fall short of funds needed, the County will bear these costs and be reimbursed with future year allocations. In order to accomplish this, an anticipation resolution must be on file with IDOT. This resolution satisfies this requirement. Total cost of this project has been estimated at \$727,902.80 with \$171,867.20 being programed to come from the Township Bridge Fund. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this resolution. **Ms. Willis moved and Mr. Bunge seconded the motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIR'S COMMENTS: Chairman Gudmunson stated he noticed the stripers were in the County and that construction continues on the bridge on US Route 30 east of Illinois Route 23. He reminded all present of the 4-H Fair this weekend at the Sandwich Fair Grounds.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS: Mr. Schwartz commented on the US 30 Bridge stating he requested Springfield to allow 80,000 pound trucks to travel over the completed south lane portion of the bridge while the north side lane was being constructed. This would relieve some of the stress being placed on local roads especially for Clinton and Squaw Grove Road Districts. After considering the request the State did agree to allow that and the weight restrictions signs have been removed. Hopefully this will greatly reduce or eliminate truck traffic on our local roads that was meant for US 30.

The stream inspection of Somonauk Creek has been completed and the County should have the official results soon to determine if any endangered species of marine life would be harmed during construction of the bridge on Somonauk Road. Due to the lateness of the year however, construction of the bridge will continue to be postponed until early in 2017.

Coltonville Road Bridge is open and a few comments have been received concerning the guardrail. Mr. Schwartz explained the land tenant next to the bridge was concerned that the gap in the guardrail that would allow for farming equipment to enter and exit his farm land was not sufficient. Mr. Schwartz stated there is a 25 foot rounded opening for equipment to enter and he does not foresee a problem. The tenant was offered an opportunity to bring his equipment in while the road was closed to see if the placement of the guardrail would pose any problems. The tenant declined the offer. If a problem arises down the road the guardrail could be relocated.

The Department has received a request that the County not mow within the right-of-way as it is expensive to do and is doing harm to the environment, especially the bee population. Mr. Schwartz asked for the Committee's input. The Committee appreciates the concern but the reasons for keeping the right-of-way vegetation to a minimum outweigh not mowing. It is important to provide the traveling public with safe roadways and keeping the sight distance, especially at intersections, was deemed very important. Along with drainage and wildlife issues, the Committee agreed mowing should continue.

The Great Lakes Basin Railroad held an informational meeting in Rockford today and Mr. Schwartz attended along with the County Administrator, Gary Hanson. This meeting was to share initial thoughts about the project and where it stands. In order for a project such as this to get underway there must be a need, funding must be acquired, and appropriate permits obtained. The need has been established, private funding has been secured and the project is now seeking the required permits. Mr. Schwartz will keep the Committee informed as more information is available. Currently the proposed route is not going through DeKalb County but that could change.

Later this month Mr. Schwartz is scheduled to meet with the Town of Cortland to go over proposed improvements for Somonauk Road. Mr. Pietrowski inquired if Cortland was still an active member of DSATS and Mr. Schwartz stated they have not formally

been removed. The Town has expressed concerns over the cost/benefit ratio of them being a member of DSATS. Private consultants attend for the Town and that can get expensive. Mr. Schwartz stated it is important to continue to get the Town of Cortland's input as transportation projects get approved through DSATS, because these projects would affect Sycamore, Cortland and DeKalb, as well as the County. Options to have an unpaid interested member of the community living in the Town of Cortland attend the meetings to provide the Town's input is being explored.

The Department has received a request for consideration of establishing a memorial sign program in the County similar to the ones offered by the State of Illinois. Mr. Schwartz asked the Committee for their recommendations. Memorials appear throughout the County and currently we have no regulations concerning them. When they are placed in our right-of-way we respectfully move them to the back of the right-of-way so as not to interfere with our maintenance operations. The Committee requested the County Engineer move forward and see how these are being handled in surrounding Counties. The Committee felt if any sign program is approved there should be a time limit that the sign is allowed to be in place; and that the cost of the sign be borne by the requestor, who would be given the sign after it is removed from the right-of-way.

Mr. Schwartz provided an update of the transportation improvement progress report after a brief slide show of current projects underway. The streets in Fairdale are being resurfaced and that project should be completed in the very near future. The Howison Road Bridge timber pile repairs has its preconstruction meeting scheduled for August 16th. Repairs are expected to begin shortly thereafter. Plank Road resurfacing project is completed and striped. The pavement work is completed and the County is able to move back in to finish the earthwork along part of the road. The start of the school year on 17th of this month is being considered in our scheduling. Shabbona Road resurfacing project was scheduled for July but was rescheduled by the contractor due to the State budget uncertainties. The contractor is now ready to come back to DeKalb County to begin this project and should start shortly. DeKalb County's portion of Stone Quarry Road resurfacing has been completed by Boone County. Waterman Road reconstruction of the two mile portion from Perry Road to McGirr Road will not occur this year. The road would not be able to be seal coated as planned and the County does not desire to have those two miles be gravel over the winter months. Next year, all five miles have been programmed to be reconstructed. The funds budgeted for this project will remain and will not be utilized for other projects. The Highway Department is assisting Sycamore Forest Preserve in advertising and letting their road and path project for Evergreen Village with that bid letting being scheduled for August 17th.

Seal Coat and Striping operations are winding down in the County. Both should be done and out of the County by next week.

Mr. Schwartz informed the Committee he plans on beginning the hiring process for filling the Operations Foreman's position. The goal is to have our required number of plow operators in place prior to the winter season. If the Foreman position is filled in-house then a "musical chairs" scenario could evolve with several vacancies needing to be filled as current employees move to different positions.

The Department's proposed 2017 Budget was provided to the Committee for their information and review. If anyone has questions or concerns about the submission they were asked to contact the Department.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Gudmunson 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 Ms. Willis and seconded by Mr. Bunge and the motion passed unanimously.** The August 4, 2016 meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,


John Gudmunson
Chairman