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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes  
January 7, 2016**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, January 7, 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 6:04pm. Committee members present were Mr. Bunge, Mr. Frieders, Mr. Metzger, Vice Chair O'Barski and Mr. Pietrowski. Mr. Luebke was absent. The County Engineer, Nathan Schwartz, Support Services Manager, Wayne Davey, Operations Manager, Mr. Jim Quinn, Mr. Tracy Jones, Vice Chair, DeKalb County Board, Mr. Greg Millburg, Farm Bureau and Mr. Charles Cole, Aurora, Illinois were also present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion made by Mr. Pietrowski and seconded by Vice Chair O'Barski to approve the minutes of the regular November 5, 2015 and the special November 18, 2015 meetings. The motion to approve both sets of minutes passed unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Mr. Metzger moved and Vice Chair O'Barski seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

**AWARD RESOLUTION #R2016-01: PURCHASE OF A NEW TANDEM CAB & CHASSIS**

Mr. Schwartz explained to the Committee that bids were received and opened on January 5, 2016 for the purchase of one new 2017 tandem cab and chassis. Three bids were received with JX Peterbilt of Rockford, Illinois submitting the low bid meeting the most specifications. The cost of the cab and chassis is \$99,584.25, with an option for a transmission warranty for \$459.00 and engine warranty for \$2,750.00. The trade allowed was \$35,000.00 for a total cost of this new cab and chassis of \$67,793.25. None of the bids submitted met all specifications listed. The specifications not met by JX Peterbilt do not cause any concern for the Operations Division as they are minor exceptions. Mr. Schwartz stated last year's tandem that the Committee approved has

been delivered and that plow truck was also a Peterbilt. It has not been tested during snow removal operations as of yet, but Mr. Schwartz reminded the Committee that the Highway Department was very satisfied with the 2005 Peterbilt the County purchased 11 years ago. Mr. Schwartz also stated the Highway Department would like to consider an extended day cab for this award. It would provide an additional ten inches of cab space and include more head room for the driver. The Department would like to purchase that option as a trial to see if drivers found the cab less confining during their 16 hour shifts of plowing snow. This option was quoted as being an additional \$2,988.00. **Mr. Pietrowski made a motion to approve the resolution with the amendment adding the option of the extended cab. Motion died for lack of a second.** Mr. Jones stated he had heard that Winnebago County had purchased Peterbilt plow trucks and they were having some problems with the trucks not being big enough to handle snow removal as the plow frames were cracking. During the bid process last year the County looked into those problems and found out the major cause of the problem was the design and installation of the plow frame (and the damage was caused when the truck ran into a rail on a railroad crossing). Monroe Truck Equipment, which installs the plow frame on the County's plow trucks has a different design which should eliminate any frame cracking caused by moving snow. The Committee moved to the maintenance bay to inspect the new Peterbilt approved last year. After their inspection **Mr. Frieders moved and Mr. Metzger seconded the motion to forward the resolution as presented to the full County Board recommending approval. Five yes votes and one no vote (Mr. Pietrowski) was recorded. Motion passed.**

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS:** Chairman Gudmunson commented that it was nice not having to battle snow so far this winter but understands we have a long way to go to spring.

**COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:** Mr. Schwartz provided an update of current projects underway throughout the County since his November report. The Coltonville Road Bridge project is currently shut down for the winter and a detailed time line of the progress was shared with the County Board at their December meeting. A new project, McGirr Road Bridge in Pierce Township, was added to the report this month. It is being programed to be built with Federal funds and a construction year of 2020. Engineering design is moving forward for the Melms Road Bridge. The Plank Road and Shabbona Road Federal repaving projects are being reviewed by IDOT and are on schedule to be let and constructed during 2016. The Somonauk Road Bridge over Somonauk Creek is being redesigned as a single span bridge as opposed to the current two span. This will help with maintenance issues and water flow. Members were concerned of the timing of the construction for this bridge. Somonauk Road is a major road for the fair traffic and the road would be closed during that time. The question was asked if there was any way to begin construction earlier to have the bridge completed before the fair. Mr. Schwartz stated this cycle of bridge design work was already under way and you cannot let the project until you know the design. Next year's bridge cycle is being moved up to start the design work earlier in hopes of getting an earlier start date. This is a locally funded project so when the County Board approves the award the contracts can be

drawn up quickly and signed, allowing the contractor to begin ordering materials. The South Paw Paw Road bridges are completed and the road open to traffic and the Suydam Road Bridge over Buck Creek approaches have been milled and repaved to eliminate the current dip.

The current ComEd project is moving forward and the latest schedule is for them to be out of DeKalb County by January 23<sup>rd</sup>. There may still be some clean-up needed after that date but the majority of the construction and wire pulls should be completed. The next ComEd project (Grand Prairie Gateway Project) is scheduled to begin sometime early this year and continue through 2017. As of this meeting the County does not have any road use agreements in place with ComEd and until those are in place no construction will be underway. Mr. Schwartz has concerns about the spring posting for this project and ComEd's progress may be slow if the project starts during that time.

Mr. Schwartz stated the legislative agenda will be discussed at next week's Executive Committee and one item on the agenda is the authority for the County to charge up to a four cent Motor Fuel Tax on fuel purchased in DeKalb County. By having ILCS 5/5-1035.1 amended to include DeKalb County, the State would grant the County Board of DeKalb the authority to impose the tax. It would still be up to the County to assess the need for the tax and actually impose the tax. The agenda item is just to get the authority to impose this tax. An estimate provided by Mr. Schwartz was that for every one cent tax on the purchase of on-road use fuel the County would see an increase in revenue of approximately \$450,000. With proposed road and bridge projects, as well as roadway upgrades costs estimated at approximately \$113 million, an additional source of revenue will need to be found to allow the County to upgrade roads and bridges to the State mandate of 80,000 pounds. These funds would be used by the County solely for the purpose of operating, constructing and improving public highways and waterways, and acquiring real property and right-of-ways for public highways and waterways within DeKalb County. Mr. Schwartz reiterated that even if the legislation were passed, the authority to impose such a tax rest with the County Board. Research shows vehicles traveling 12,000 miles a year at 16-20 miles per gallon would pay an additional \$2.00 to \$2.50 per month. Mr. Schwartz provided the Committee with this overview so when presented by the Executive Committee they would have pertinent information on why this issue should be included as a legislative agenda item.

Mr. Schwartz stated his annual report would be presenting the same types of information as years past. It will cover the road, bridge and special projects started and completed during 2015, the cost of said projects, funding sources and planned 2016 projects.

The Peace Road Safety Study is moving forward with the City of Sycamore. Currently concentration is at the intersection of Peace Road and Prairie Drive where several incidents have occurred. Speed and traffic information is being collected and reviewed with the City.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Chairman Gudmunson inquired if the State of Illinois would ever consider taking over Peace Road and upgrading it to 80,000 pounds from Illinois Route 64 to Peace/Plank/23 to keep truck traffic out of downtown Sycamore. Mr. Schwartz stated he has been in contact with IDOT for some time about the very same thing. After IDOT completed their initial study of the road they indicated they were not interested in accepting a jurisdictional transfer of Peace Road in its current condition. Mr. Schwartz has requested IDOT provide the County with a list of improvements they would like to have done to Peace Road.

**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 Vice Chair O'Barski and seconded by Mr. Metzger and the motion passed unanimously.** The January 7, 2016 meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Gudmunson  
Chairman