

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Highway Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
October 6, 2016**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, October 6, 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 6:00pm. Committee members present were Mr. Luebke, Vice Chair, Mr. Bunge, Mr. Frieders, Mr. Pietrowski and Ms. Willis. Mr. Metzger was absent. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz, Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager and Mr. Tracy Jones, County Board Vice Chairman, were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Vice Chair Luebke and seconded by Ms. Willis to approve the minutes of the regular September 1, 2016 meeting and the special September 20, 2016 meeting. The motion to approve both sets of minutes passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Frieders moved and Ms. Willis seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None presented

2017 BUDGET:

Mr. Schwartz indicated the Committee had no budget appeals to be acted on. The Committee inquired about MFT funding for 2017. Mr. Schwartz stated he was confident the normal MFT funding stream would continue during 2017. The Budget reflects a continued small decrease in the funding level which has been occurring over the past several years. If gas prices increase dramatically, consumption will fall and that will do more to decrease our monthly allotments than anything else. The Committee also asked how the Department was dealing with the required budget cuts for 2017 as they were concerned the Department would just reduce projects and not look for other ways to reduce costs such as personnel, equipment, etc. Mr. Schwartz stated he has addressed the problem from several different directions. He continually looks for additional funding streams to be utilized when planning and programming projects for

future years. One bridge project has been delayed for a year but this was due in part to this year's delay of the Somonauk Road Bridge due to threatened mussels in the area of that project. The Department is also performing more tasks in-house in the Engineering Division as well as the Maintenance Division to reduce contracted services costs.

RESOLUTION #2016-68: AWARD FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SNOW BLOWER

Mr. Schwartz stated bids were received and opened today for the replacement of the County's oldest piece of snow removal equipment. The 1980 Fair snow blower is used to remove snow during consecutive severe snow events that require snow to be removed from the right-of-way. Snow blowers can deposit snow farther back into a farm field than a loader. When you utilize a loader to push snow, fences are usually damaged in this process. The newer machine will be more economical to operate and by purchasing the replacement this year it will save the County from having to go to the Tier 4 emissions requirements, saving thousands. Only one bid was received for this letting and was submitted by Bonnell Industries, Inc. from Dixon, Illinois. Their bid was for \$121,467.00, with a trade allowance of \$6,200.00 for the County's 1980 snow blower. The final cost to the County would be \$115,267.00. Mr. Schwartz recommended the approval of this resolution. **A motion was made by Mr. Pietrowski and seconded by Vice Chair Luebke to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #2016-71: SUPPLEMENTAL ENGINEERING AGREEMENT FOR SOMONAUK ROAD BRIDGE

Mr. Schwartz presented to the Committee a supplemental engineering agreement for the Somonauk Road Bridge. The County Board approved the original agreement during their November Board meeting in 2015. Since the approval of that agreement the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has determined that threatened species have been confirmed to be in the vicinity of the proposed project and additional engineering steps will need to be taken to protect the Slippershell mussel. In addition to the threatened species issue, additional Plats of Highways were prepared to ensure sufficient right-of-way for embankment construction was obtained. Together these issues will require the expenditure of an addition \$13,310.00. The Plats have already been completed and the additional work needed to comply with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources requirement will need to be done prior to construction being allowed to move forward. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this resolution. **A motion was made by Ms. Willis and seconded by Vice Chair Luebke to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIR'S COMMENTS: Chairman Gudmunson thanked the County Engineer for the annual tour of construction projects for the County Board members. It was very informative and Board members have a better understanding of the complexities that involve projects and how funds are spent.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Schwartz provided an update of the transportation improvement progress report. The Howison Road Bridge timber pile repairs have been completed and the bridge reopened to traffic up to 80,000 pounds. Shabbona Road resurfacing project is completed with just a couple of items to be addressed on the punch list. The Melms Road Bridge project is at 25% complete and the road is still on schedule to be reopened to traffic before Thanksgiving. East County Line Road Bridge project is still on hold pending the acquisition of additional right-of-way needed. Two land owners are not in favor of giving up additional right-of-way, one on Kane County's side of the bridge and one on DeKalb County's side of the bridge. Kane County is requesting the County Engineer begin steps necessary to acquire the needed right-of-way for the parcel on DeKalb County's side through the Courts now as land owners have apparently broken off talks with Kane County. Mr. Schwartz wanted the Committee to know what might be the next steps. He will contact Kane County again to see if any further negotiations would be meaningful prior to beginning the condemnation process.

House Bill 6093 was the only Bill advanced that the Committee has been briefed on the past few months. All other bills remained in Committee. House Bill 6093 was the one extending the legal length and weight of a towing unit. Mr. Schwartz explained the November election will have the Illinois Transportation Taxes and Fees Lockbox Amendment as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment. This amendment is designed to prevent lawmakers from using transportation funds for anything other than their stated purposes – which is roads, bridges, transit, rail etc., and the administration of such projects. A voter approval of at least 60% is needed for this amendment to pass.

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 Mr. Pietrowski and seconded by Mr. Bunge and the motion passed unanimously.** The October 6, 2016 meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,


John Gudmunson
Chairman