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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
August 1, 2019**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, August 1, 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 6:03pm and called for the roll. Committee members present were Ms. Emmer, Mr. Osland, Mr. Pietrowski, Mr. West and Vice Chair Willis. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz, Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager and one guest were also present. Mr. Luebke joined the meeting at 6:13pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion made by Vice Chair Willis and seconded by Mr. West to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Emmer moved and Mr. Pietrowski seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2019 regular meeting and the June 19, 2019 special meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

RESOLUTION #R2019-47: JURISDICTIONAL TRANSFER FOR RICH ROAD AND COLTONVILLE ROAD TO THE CITY OF DEKALB AND DEKALB ROAD DISTRICT

Mr. Schwartz explained to the Committee that Rich Road was a Township Road back in the day and a portion of Rich Road east of North First Street was renamed to Coltonville Road at some point in time. The Highway Commissioner for DeKalb Road District approached the County Engineer to inquire if it might be possible to transfer the County's portion of Rich Road and Coltonville Road that are in DeKalb Township back to the Road District. As the City of DeKalb grows and annexes property into the City limits, if property is within 30 feet of a roadway, that roadway would also transfer to the City of DeKalb. DeKalb Township currently has 28.29 miles of roadway to maintain. The current law states that road districts can be abolished if they do not exceed a total of four centerline miles in length. Although this is not a concern at the present time,

new bills proposed in Springfield seek to increase this minimum mileage. Also, as the City of DeKalb and the City of Sycamore continue to grow and annex property, it could be a concern in the future. After reviewing the situation, the County Engineer determined this request made sense for several reasons. 1) Rich and Coltonville Roads are mostly still rural roadways; 2) they have lower traffic counts than other similar roads of in that area; 3) DeKalb Road District is financially able to properly maintain these roads; and 4) it would allow the County to reallocate maintenance funding to other portions of the County in need. Because a County road cannot terminate at a Road District road (only with another County road, a State highway, or a municipality) it would also be necessary to transfer a portion of these roadways to the City of DeKalb as well. DeKalb Road District and the City of DeKalb currently have an intergovernmental agreement for DeKalb Road District to maintain those portions of roadways transferred to the City. DeKalb Road District would acquire 1.469 miles of roadway (0.771 miles of Rich Road and 0.698 miles of Coltonville Road) and the City of DeKalb would acquire 1.174 miles of roadway (1.129 miles of Rich Road and 0.045 miles of Coltonville Road). These jurisdictional transfers agreed to will become effective upon IDOT approval. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this resolution. **A motion was made by Ms. Emmer and seconded by Vice Chair Willis to forward this resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

ORDINANCE #O2019-35: DESIGNATION OF AN URBAN SPEED ZONE FOR SWANSON ROAD IN SYCMORE ROAD DISTRICT

The Highway Department has received concerns from residents living on Swanson Road just east of Illinois Route 23 stating that commuters were utilizing Swanson Road as an alternate route when heading into the suburbs. Their main concern was that of speeding vehicles past the row of houses on both side of this portion of Swanson Road for approximately 0.25 miles. East of the row of houses, the speed limit is a statutory 55 mph speed zone. Immediately east of Route 23 where the houses are, there is currently a statutory 30 mph speed zone. However, this particular zone has not been codified within the County Code. To ensure proper enforcement and collection of any appropriate fines due, it is in the best interest of the County to have this speed zone codified. That is the purpose of this ordinance and Mr. Schwartz recommended its approval. **A motion was made by Mr. Luebke and seconded by Vice Chair Willis to forward this ordinance to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Chairman Plote reminded everyone about the upcoming Barn Tour being held on August 10th in Victor Township. Seven barns will be open for touring – two on Leland Road, three on Suydam Road, one on Pine Road and one on Burma Road. Parking might be a problem at some of the locations but folks should come out and enjoy a day in the country.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Schwartz stated he has spoken with the property owner along Corson Drive and that property owner is agreeing to donate right of way in order to get the Sycamore Highway Commissioner to accept Corson Drive as a public road. The Highway Commissioner has agreed to accept the road with the amount of right of way donated and the road surface being repaired to include the filling of current potholes. Residents will still have to share some costs for attorney fees and surveys, but the total cost will be much less than previously reported. A letter is being sent out to all residents along Corson Drive to set up a meeting with the County Engineer and the Highway Commissioner for Sycamore Road District to discuss the situation. Hopefully residents will come to an understanding and an agreement to move forward with this latest recommendation that allows the road to become a public one.

The Committee congratulated Mr. Schwartz on his recent award as the 2019 Illinois Government Engineer of the Year presented by the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers.

As an update to the four vacancies currently at the Highway Department – the Administrative Clerk C position has been recently filled. This position will be a part-time position with the possibility of going full-time. The Department interviewed for one of the engineering tech's positions and has one promising candidate. An offer of employment will be made in the near future. The other engineering tech position and the DSATS Planner position currently remain vacate.

Since the Committee met last, the State has passed a \$0.19 MFT increase. This doubled the tax to \$0.38. The last rate increase was January 1, 1990. The additional revenue will be distributed using a new formula. Twenty percent will go to transit (rail/buses). The remaining 80% will be distributed 60% / 40% to the State and local agencies. Although the local agencies account of 89% of the centerline miles in the State, the State roadways carry 60% of the traffic and the local agencies carry 40% of the traffic. The County Engineers felt this distribution was a fair distribution and were under the impression this formula would be used for all new transportation revenue. However, the entire increase in vehicle registrations will go to IDOT with none of that revenue stream being shared with the local agencies. The Federal Government is still trying to find a fix for the Highway Trust Fund which has not been solvent for many years. The current Federal tax of \$.184 has been in place since 1993 and the Federal Government will try to fix this fund without raising this tax.

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee.

- Base Line Road Bridge is 90% complete. The approaches will be paved next week, then the bridge rails and deck grooving will be completed. After that the road will be opened to traffic.

- Johnson Road box culvert has the additional 12 ½ inches of concrete added to the deck and is now curing. After the curing stage, the approaches will be reshaped

and the bridge opened to traffic. This road should be opened in the next two weeks or so.

- McNeal Road Bridge design engineering is 100% complete and this project is expected to be let during November of this year. This will be a State letting. Construction will occur in 2020.

- Peace Road at Route 64 is 10% complete. Coring out on the east side has begun and the placement of aggregate is taking place. Work is allowed on one side of the roadway at a time during this project. No additional right of way was needed for this project.

- Plank Road is 10% complete. The pullouts have been installed and culverts are being extended. A work Zone speed limit was established by the County Engineer for this project at the contractor's request. Traffic has a tendency to exceed the speed limit on this road and hopefully a reduced speed limit during construction will prevent any serious problems out there. The Sheriff's Department has also been on scene from time to time reminding folks to slow down as they hand them their ticket.

- The earthwork for the Peace Road turn lanes at Freed and Brickville Roads is complete. The pre-construction meeting is scheduled for August 20th to place a hot-mix asphalt on these turn lanes.

- The Somonauk Road sidewalk project is waiting on the pre-construction meeting to be scheduled. That should be accomplished in the near future. The Somonauk Road Box Culverts extension project is beginning the QBS phase. Letters of Intent are due to the County Engineer by 3:00pm on Monday, August 5th.

- South First Street Culvert replacement is well on track for a spring letting.

- Waterman Road, phase 2 and 3, the reconstruction of shoulders and ditches from Duffy Road to Perry Road will be underway shortly. The pre-construction meeting is scheduled for August 6th.

The Committee inquired about the bike/walking trail along Barber Greene Road – would it be completed this year? Mr. Schwartz stated it would be completed as far as the obtained right-of-way would allow. Not all right-of-way has been obtained to complete this path to Loves Road.

A new Planner has not been hired for DSATS yet. This position will need to be filled soon as work needs to begin on the 25-year long range transportation plan. Much of this plan will be completed in house unlike past years. Only tasks that cannot be completed on time or this Department does not have the expertise to complete will be contracted.

The Department's proposed 2020 Budget was presented to the Committee. Mr. Schwartz provided the Committee with an overview of the seven different budgets that will ultimately be approved by the County Board. Equipment purchases and planned construction projects were reviewed. Individual budgets were reviewed, highlighting and explaining any items that listed a significant increase over last year. A downward adjustment was made to the Federal Matching Tax levy for 2020 to allow for an increase in funds to be placed in the Highway Fund. Additional salt storage facility is being proposed for 2020 to allow for the capability to store more salt early on in the fall.

Delivery of salt is becoming a problem especially after a big snow event when everyone is needing material and events come back to back. Professional services showed an increase for 2020 as the Department moves forward with plans to realign Plank Road. Mr. Schwartz stated that as Committee Members review the budgets, any questions they might have, can be addressed to himself or Wayne.

OTHER BUSINESS:

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. Osland, seconded by Ms. Emmer and passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Plote
Chairman