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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
September 5, 2019**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, September 5, 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 6:27pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. West moved and Ms. Emmer seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2019 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

RESOLUTION #R2019-62: INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS FOR EXPENDITURE OF DSATS FUNDING

Mr. Schwartz explained to the Committee that the DeKalb Sycamore Area Transportation Study (DSATS) is a grant funded program. Federal and State funds are reimbursed to the County based on actual expenditures reported to the State by the County. Once reported, reimbursement usually arrives back to the County within 30 days. Similar to construction projects, when the County utilizes Federal or State funds, an agreement must be entered into with the State. The document before you tonight is the agreement allowing the County the use of these Federal and State funds for DSATS purposes. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this agreement. **A motion was**

made by Mr. Pietrowski and seconded by Vice Chair Willis to forward this resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION #R2019-63: ENGINEERING AGREEMENT FOR SOMONAUK ROAD CULVERT EXTENSIONS PROJECT SECTION # 19-00268-00-BR

Design work will begin this year to extend five concrete box culverts and one pipe culvert along Somonauk Road north of Perry Road. An additional box culvert will be looked at on Perry Road just east of Somonauk Road as well to see if it is feasible to extend it during this project. Shoulders are steep along this stretch of roadway and by widening the shoulders and adjusting the ditch slope to 4:1, a safer road will be realized. The Engineering firm of Willett Hofmann & Associates from Dixon, Illinois was chosen through the Qualification Based Selection process for phase I and II engineering services. The negotiated price is \$89,635.45 and this includes designing all the structures as well as right-of-way negotiations and acquisition. Mr. Schwartz recommended entering into this agreement. **A motion was made by Ms. Emmer and seconded by Mr. Osland to forward this resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Chairman Plote commented on the recent accidents at Illinois Route 23 and Chicago Road. These accidents have come after the State completed the installation of flashing lights at this intersection and that installation seems to have improved the intersection very little. It might be time for the State to consider a four-way stop at this intersection. Mr. Schwartz stated he continually has conversations with District 3 in Ottawa concerning the safety of roadways in DeKalb County. The State is currently reviewing the intersection of Illinois Route 23 and Melms Road for possible safety improvements. Because the time since the installation of the flashing lights at Chicago and Route 23 has been relatively short, the State will more than likely wait a period of time to see if additional measures are needed at that intersection. Mr. Schwartz will continue to monitor the situation and make recommendations to the State as needed. Mr. Plote requested accident information from State Route 251 and Chicago Road. That intersection has flashing lights outlining the stop sign there and he wondered since their installation if any reduction in crashes have been recorded. Mr. Schwartz will contact IDOT to see what information can be obtained.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee.

- Base Line Road Bridge is complete and the road was opened to traffic on August 16th – a month early.
- Johnson Road box culvert is complete and the road opened to traffic on August 5th - eleven days early.
- Motel Road Bridge is working its way through the preliminary and design

engineering phases and they stand at 35% and 25% respectively. This is an Illinois Special Bridge project and the 80% funding will come from an additional funding stream from the State and not the County's normal State Bridge funding stream.

- Peace Road at Route 64 is 30% complete. The intersection has been paved and now work will be concentrated on the paving of the additional lanes of traffic. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of October and is on schedule for that completion date.

- The Peace Road turn lanes at Freed and Brickville Roads will have the hot-mix asphalt placed tomorrow. This project should be completed by early next week.

- Plank Road is 30% complete and is on schedule to be completed by the end of October.

- The Somonauk Road sidewalk project is scheduled to begin on September 16th. The Contractor may come in earlier and the completion date for this project is September 27th.

- 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 first load of culverts were rejected by the contractor due to bent ends on the culverts and bands. This needs to be corrected to ensure a clean splice when extending the culverts. Completion date is November 1st.

The Committee inquired about Airport Road and the possibility of reducing the current 45 mph speed limit north of Quigley Road. Mr. Schwartz explained the process of working toward an altered speed limit. Staff have begun the process of collecting data for the engineering study. The Committee will be advised of the outcome of that study when complete.

The County Engineer met with the Tollway today to walk through their construction projects over I-88 that involved County and Township roadways. For the most part just a bit of additional clean-up was requested. Hinckley Road overpass was resurfaced by the tollway and the guardrail was installed one to two feet closer to the travel lane than the existing guardrail was located. This makes it tight for snow plows and agriculture equipment traveling this route. The Tollway commented they built it to IDOT standards but will look and see if any adjustments can be made.

The Committee recommended the date of October 8th for the annual Highway Tour of projects. Additional details will follow as the Department finalizes the projects, route, etc.

OTHER BUSINESS: The Department currently has a vacancy for one full time mechanic. The County Engineer was looking for a consensus from the Committee to advertise to fill this vacancy prior to the winter months. The consensus was to fill the position.

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 Vice Chair Willis and passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Plote
Chairman