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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
October 3, 2019**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, October 3, 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 6:04pm and called for the roll. Committee members present were Ms. Emmer, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Osland, Mr. Pietrowski and Vice Chair Willis. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz, Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager were also present. Mr. West was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion made by Mr. Luebke and seconded by Mr. Pietrowski to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice Chair Willis moved and Mr. Osland seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2019 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

RESOLUTION #R2019-67: INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF KIRKLAND FOR MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING

Mr. Schwartz explained to the Committee that the County has the authority to perform engineering services for Road Districts and can also provide that same service to municipalities with an approved agreement. Several municipalities are included in the County's general maintenance projects in order to secure better pricing for their smaller projects. This is a service this Department offers to all municipalities for the standard set engineering fee of five percent of the overall project cost. After consultation with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) it was agreed to allow the County to enter into an agreement with municipalities that was open ended. By so doing the County would not have to pass multiple agreements annually to perform the requested engineering services for the municipalities. The open ended agreement can be terminated at any time by either party and the agreements are only for general

maintenance projects and not construction projects. The County is not competing with consultants for these services as the consultant firms are not profitable doing general maintenance projects – they would prefer the County handle those projects. Several of these agreements will be presented early next year as the County prepares the 2020 maintenance program. The one before you tonight has included the maintenance year of 2018 to satisfy IDOT's requirement that engineering services must be covered by such agreement and not the single page engineering form as was allowed in previous years. In order for IDOT to close out the Village of Kirkland's MFT projects for 2018, they are requiring this agreement. Mr. Schwartz recommended the County enter into this agreement with the Village of Kirkland. **A motion was made by Ms. Emmer and seconded by Mr. Luebke to forward this resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2019-68: LOCAL AGENCY AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS FOR FEDERAL PARTICIPATION FOR SECTION 13-05119-01-BR, MCNEAL ROAD BRIDGE

The construction of McNeal Road Bridge is scheduled for the spring of 2020 and will be built utilizing Federal and State funds. This project will be let during November of this year and prior to letting the subject agreement needs to be in place. The Committee reviews and recommends these agreements to the full County Board for every Federal and State funded project completed by DeKalb County and our Road Districts. The estimated cost of this project is \$2,750,000.00 with the County's participation being \$52,000.00 and Franklin Road District's participation being \$82,000.00. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this resolution. **A motion was made by Vice Chair Willis and seconded by Mr. Luebke to forward this resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

There were no 2020 County Budget Appeals that needed to be addressed by the Committee.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Chairman Plote commented on the Waterman Road project. The Contractor is closing the road in sections even though the signs on the barricades state that the road is open to the Orchard and Winery. Mr. Schwartz stated there may be signs during particular days but for the most part the road is to remain open for access to those businesses. The barricades should be staggered to allow local traffic to get through although there may be delays. Sometimes a short closure cannot be helped. Chairman Plote inquired about the proposed underground electric utility line running through the County along Route 23 and does the County have any say about this project. Mr. Schwartz indicated that project was slated to be constructed within the State's right-of-way and it would not involve the County unless environmental items like wetlands were involved. Comments were made concerning the solar farms and Mr. Schwartz stated some of the projects were working their way through Community Development Department and the Highway Department.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee.

- Motel Road Bridge is working its way through the preliminary and design engineering phases and they stand at 50% and 35% respectively.
- Peace Road at Route 64 is 75% complete. The roadway work for this project is scheduled to be completed by the end of October and is on schedule for that completion date. The installation of the new traffic control signals for this intersection may not be completed until next year. IDOT has yet to provide the approved signal plans to the contractor. The temporary signals will remain in place until the permanent signals are installed.
- The Peace Road turn lanes at Freed and Brickville Roads are 100% complete and have received favorable comments by the City of Sycamore for this safety improvement.
- Plank Road is 70% complete and is on schedule to be completed by the end of October.
- The Somonauk Road sidewalk project is 70% completed. Some new sections will need to be removed and re-poured due to not meeting ADA slope standards. This will be done at the contractor's expense.
- South First Street Culvert replacement preliminary engineering is at 95% complete and the design engineering is at 85% complete. This project is on track for a spring letting.
- Waterman Road, phase 2 and 3, the reconstruction of shoulders and ditches from Duffy Road to Perry Road is underway and the contractor has three crews working on this project. Weather has delayed the dirt work on this project. Completion date is November 1st.

The Committee inquired about the final Peace Road Safety Study. Mr. Schwartz indicated he would try to have it before the Committee during their November meeting.

For a legislative update, Springfield will be back to work the first week in November. The Federal Government is still working on a Federal transportation bill that does not require the raising of Motor Fuel Taxes at that level.

DSATS has posted the vacancy notice for the planner position. June of 2020 DSATS will be submitting their long range plan so work will continue getting that submission prepared. Video cameras will be going up in the next few weeks to capture traffic counts and movements at designated roadways and planned projects have been requested from the municipalities for inclusion in the upcoming Transportation Improvement Plan.

During the Committee's June meeting the County Engineer requested to be allowed to fill the current vacant Administrative Clerk C position with a part-time employee. During the advertising period only one application was received and that person was interviewed and hired on July 8, 2019 for 20 hours a week. After two months that

position is once again vacant. The County Engineer requested to fill the position again and this time with a full-time employee. During the previous two months of employment portions of tasks could not be completed in the time allotted and the entire scope of job responsibilities had not been turned over to the new employee yet. It is the opinion of this Department that the Department and County would best be served if this position were a full-time position. The Committee agreed and provided the County Engineer with a consensus to fill the vacant position with a full-time employee.

The annual Highway Tour is scheduled for next Tuesday, leaving the Highway Department at 9:00am. A brief overview of the route was discussed.

The County Engineer along with the Highway Commissioner for Sycamore Road District, met with the property owners for Corson Drive at the Township Building on September 23rd. The residents were provided the final steps and cost estimates for allowing the Highway Commissioner to accept Corson Drive as a public roadway. It will now be up to the residents to move forward to dedicate the right-of-way to the Sycamore Road District and have the Road District accept the road.

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 Mr. Pietrowski and passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Plote
Chairman