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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
November 7, 2019**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, November 7, 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, Mr. West and Vice Chair Willis. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz, Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager and twenty-eight (28) guests were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Emmer moved and Mr. West seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2019 regular meeting and the October 8, 2019 special meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Thirteen citizens stood and spoke about their safety concerns about the driving conditions of Plank Road, specifically between Moose Range Road and just east of Lukens Road. Their concerns are the speed of the vehicles, drivers not obeying the rules of the road by passing at intersections, and vehicles passing when vehicle(s) in front of them are making a turning movement that requires them to cross a lane of traffic. A petition was provided to the Committee by Ms. Julie Weingarz with one hundred and sixty signatures attached. The petition summary stated that "residents along Plank Road and commuters request restriping of Plank Road from south edge of Moose Range curve eastward to past the s-curve that is east of Lukens Road with a double, solid yellow stripe to indicate no passing zone. Place no passing signs along this stretch of road and lower speed limit to 45mph. There are 4 intersections on this stretch of road that should be clearly marked as no passing zones. The complexity of road conditions on this stretch include 4 intersections, 2 sharp curves, 2 moderate curves, 1 steep hill, entrances to 2 subdivisions, 1 school bus stop and multiple farm entrances. These conditions make passing very dangerous and rate of speed needs to be reduced from 55mph to 45mph to allow for safer entrance to and exiting from Plank

Road for area residents and farmers and commuters until turn lanes or road straightening on Plank Road can be implemented.” The Action Petitioned for was “We the undersigned are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to extend no passing zone with appropriate signage on Plank Road eastward from the southern edge of Moose Range curve to eastern edge of S-curve that is just beyond Lukens Rd. Reduce speed limit to 45mph for this stretch of Plank Road.” The Committee listened to those residents wishing to voice their concerns and received the said petition. This issue will be placed on the next agenda to be briefed by the County Engineer and provide the Committee the opportunity to take any action deemed appropriate concerning the petition. Chairman Plote thanked everyone for coming and bringing this item to the Committee’s attention.

RESOLUTION #R2019-78: MFT RESOLUTION FOR GENERAL MAINTENANCE PROJECTS FOR 2020

Mr. Schwartz stated each year the County expends Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds received through the State’s distribution formula that are collected when fuel is sold at the pumps. These funds are utilized for scheduled maintenance projects during 2020. In order for the Department to spend any MFT funds, the County must appropriate said funds and the State of Illinois, through IDOT, must authorize the expenditure. This resolution satisfies that requirement. The County will be using MFT funds for a portion of the salary paid to the maintainers while they are performing maintenance functions on the road. When not working on the road, their salary is paid with local highway tax dollars. MFT funds cannot be utilized for administration or engineering staff as they do not perform maintenance functions on the County’s roadways. MFT funds will also be used for winter maintenance materials (salt), equipment rental, seal coat operations and pavement striping for the coming year. The total funds requesting to be appropriated is \$1,942,280, broken out as salary \$621,180; equipment rental \$500,000; winter maintenance \$600,000; seal coat operations \$111,100; and pavement striping \$110,000. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this resolution. **Mr. West moved and Mr. Osland seconded a motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2019-79: MFT RESOLUTION FOR SECTION 15-00250-00-SW SOMONAUK ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT

The construction of sidewalk along Somonauk Road has been completed and quantities agreed too. The County will be expending additional MFT funds on this project than originally appropriated by the County Board during June of 2019 (\$50,000.00). In order for IDOT to authorize the additional expenditure this supplemental resolution must be passed by the County Board. The amount of this resolution is \$3,994.33 and Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this resolution. **A motion was made by Mr. Luebke and seconded by Vice Chair Willis to forward this resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Chairman Plote commented that another accident has occurred at the intersection of Illinois Route 23 and Chicago Road. Mr. Schwartz stated that information is still being gathered from District 2 so a comparison can be made between this intersection and Chicago Road and Illinois 251. The comparison would include signage type, markings, etc. and see if crash rates were affected by certain improvements.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee.

- McNeal Road Bridge letting has been pushed back from a November 2019 letting to a January 2020 letting. Authorization has been received from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for Incidental Take of the Gravel Chub.
- Motel Road Bridge is working its way through the preliminary and design engineering phases and they stand at 70% and 50% respectively. The County is expecting to have a slippershell mussel issue for this project.
- Peace Road at Route 64 is 95% complete. The roadway landscape has been completed and the construction zone speed limit has been removed. The temporary signals will remain in place until the permanent signals are installed during the spring of 2020.
- The final phase of the Peace Road Safety Study was shared and reviewed with the Committee. Findings were similar to the north end of Peace Road. A summary of all phases will be placed on the County's website in the near future.
- Plank Road is 90% complete. Weather has become a factor now as the topsoil was placed this week and the final landscape is left to be completed.
- The Somonauk Road sidewalk project is completed.
- Somonauk Road Culverts project is at 15% complete for the preliminary engineering and 10% design engineering.
- South First Street Culvert replacement preliminary engineering is at 95% complete and the design engineering is also at 95% complete. This project is on track for a spring letting.
- Waterman Road, phase 2 and 3, the landscaping is beginning on the south two miles of this project. If the weather permits, the contractor will continue to work north with the landscaping.

For a legislative update, Springfield has completed the first half of the fall veto session.

DSATS is currently conducting traffic counts at various locations. These should be completed in the next couple of weeks depending on the weather. The Peace Road resurfacing project from Bethany Road to Illinois Route 64 has been pushed up two years to 2020. IDOT has some funding programmed that recently became available that other agencies could not utilize in a timely manner. DeKalb County was ready with a project and will take advantage of this situation. The City of Sycamore will also have Mercantile Drive resurfaced during this DSATS project.

Corson Drive residents are moving forward with the ROW dedication. The road will not be fixed up this year but hopefully the dedication will be completed by next year to allow Corson Drive to be a public road.

A discussion was held concerning a December Committee meeting. It was the consensus that the Committee would meet prior to the County Board meeting on December 18th at 6:30pm, if a County Board meeting is to be held that month.

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. Pietrowski, seconded by Mr. Luebke and passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Plote
Chairman