

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
February 6, 2014**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 6:00pm in the Conference Room of the DeKalb County Highway Department, DeKalb, Illinois.

Chairman Gudmunson called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Committee members present were Mr. Deverell, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Jones, Mr. O'Barski, and Vice Chair Pietrowski. Mr. Frieders was absent. Others present were Mr. Nathan Schwartz, County Engineer, Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager, James Quinn, Operations Manager, Ms. Christine Johnson, Assistant County Administrator, and Mr. Greg Milburg, Farm Bureau.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Deverell to approve the minutes of the regular January 2, 2014 meeting. The motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Discussion held on amending the agenda to add a MFT Resolution for the 2014 County Seal Coat Project. Motion made by Mr. Deverell and seconded by Mr. Jones to amend the agenda as requested. Motion Passed. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. O'Barski seconded to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

AWARD RESOLUTION #R2014-07: 2014 GENERAL COUNTY LETTING

Mr. Schwartz explained to the Committee that each year the County will request bids from local vendors for construction materials used through the year by the County and all 19 Road Districts. The purpose of this is to set a price for the entire year and to also provide vendors with an estimate of the amount of maintenance material that might be needed. Bids were opened on February 6, 2014 at 10:00am and the results of that

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letting was provided for the Committee's review. It is common practice to award to all bidders. To determine the lowest price for a particular product being picked up and transported by the County or Road Districts, a charge of \$1.40 for the first mile and \$.30 for each additional mile to the project site is added to the bid price. Prices are very similar to last years and the County Engineer recommended approval of this resolution. **A motion was made by Vice Chair Pietrowski and seconded by Mr. Jones to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. The motion passed unanimously.**

AWARD RESOLUTION #R2014-08: 2014 ROAD DISTRICT AGGREGATE PROJECTS

Mr. Schwartz indicated in addition to the General County Letting, the County received bids for the Road District aggregate projects for this year. Bids were received from three local vendors and Macklin, Inc. from Rochelle, Illinois submitted the lowest on road bid for all projects. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this resolution for Macklin to provide aggregate for the five Road Districts in the total amount of \$161,991.50. **A motion was made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Johnson to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. The motion passed unanimously.**

MFT RESOLUTION #R2014-11: 2014 COUNTY SEAL COAT PROJECT

Mr. Schwartz presented this resolution to the Committee for their review and action. Whenever the County determines that MFT funds will be utilized for a project, the County Board must appropriate said funds. IDOT is requiring this resolution be submitted when the proposal is submitted to IDOT for approval prior to the project going out for bid. The Committee will award the Seal Coat Project during the month of March. Mr. Schwartz stated he has some concerns with this process and will be addressing them in the future. In the meantime, Mr. Schwartz recommends approval of this resolution in the amount of \$123,000.00 in MFT funds to be used toward the County's 2014 Seal Coat Project. **A motion was made by Mr. O'Barski and seconded by Vice Chair Pietrowski to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. The motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIR'S COMMENTS: Chairman Gudmunson commented on the bridge south of Hinckley on Somonauk Road. He has noticed the deck has been repaired several times and it is still in bad shape. Mr. Schwartz agreed with the Chairman's assessment of the bridge and stated this bridge is on the replacement list. The bridge has more problems than just the deck so that is the reason it is being scheduled for replacement in 4-5 years.

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Chairman Gudmunson commented on the outstanding job the Maintainers are doing with snow removal operations. The weather has been difficult on manpower as well as machinery and he appreciated the job County forces are doing this year. Other Committee members echoed these same sentiments. Mr. Schwartz thanked the Committee for their comments and will pass them along.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Schwartz provided the Committee with an update of the Transportation Improvement Progress Report that occurred during the month of January. Five projects were commented on: Barber Greene Road from Route 23 to Peace Road is still in the preliminary engineering stages. This project will be the resurfacing of this road and will be funded in part with DSATS funding. The Five Points Road Bridge project remains slow due to the cold weather. Progress is being made but not at the pace expected when the bridge was closed in the fall. Keslinger Road Bridge is moving forward for a 2014 letting with construction to begin in the fall of this year. Perry Road Bridge and West County Line Road Bridge are in the preliminary engineering stages and hopefully will be let during the April/May time frame of this year.

The County Engineer stated the Committee will see bids for approval of the 2014 County Seal Project as well as the 2014 Pipe Letting during March's meeting.

DSATS will begin their annual traffic counts throughout the DeKalb/Sycamore/Cortland area. They will also be tracking freight movement in and out of the metropolitan area to get information of routes being traveled. By-Laws will be reviewed and hopefully a better process will be designed to fund projects to facilitate planning and budgeting needs. They will also be doing long-range planning this year.

On the legislative update there is not much to report. Law makers reported back on January 29, 2014 and February 14, 2014 is the deadline for the new bill submission.

The Department did receive an opinion from the State's Attorney's Office that if the Department was to lease a truck with the intent to buy it at a later date then the Highway Department would be obligated to go through the bid process if the vehicle was expected to cost more than \$30,000.00. The better performing trucks seem to always cost more than the low bid and the Department was in the process of exploring any options that might allow the County to procure more dependable trucks.

The application period for the Assistant County Engineer position will close on February 10, 2014 and the County Engineer will be interviewing prospective candidates after that.

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: The availability of salt was discussed as well as options available to reduce salt usage. Mr. Schwartz stated he was in conference with local area County Engineer's discussing this topic. Everyone is still studying the different options, whether it be beet juice, sand/salt mix, liquid salt solutions, etc. to see if the increase/decrease in cost is providing for clean safe roads in an acceptable amount of time after a snow/ice event and if these products were in fact cost effective. Mr. Schwartz stated our salt supply was slowly being delivered and everyone is conserving. The County supplies salt for approximately 30 other agencies through our contract and everyone has been understanding of quantity limitations. Additional storage space for salt was mentioned and the County Engineer had considered that. Cost benefits would have to be explored.

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 Vice Chair Pietrowski and seconded by Mr. O'Barski and the motion passed unanimously.** The February 6, 2014 meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Gudmunson
Chairman

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