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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
January 2, 2014**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, January 2, 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. Frieders, Mr. O'Barski, and Vice Chair Pietrowski. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Jones were absent. Others present were Mr. Nathan Schwartz, County Engineer, Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager, James Quinn, Operations Manager, Board Member Anthony Cvek and Mr. Steve Frerichs, Chastain & Associates.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Vice Chair Pietrowski and seconded by Mr. Deverell to approve the minutes of the regular December 5, 2013 and special December 11, 2013 meetings. The motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion made by Mr. O'Barski and seconded by Vice Chair Pietrowski to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

RESOLUTION #R2014-01: ENGINEERING AGREEMENT FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE WEST COUNTY LINE ROAD BOX CULVERT

Mr. Schwartz explained to the Committee that an Engineering Agreement was being presented for the design of a box culvert on West County Line Road south of Lee Road. Chairman Gudmunson inquired if an agreement was needed to design a precast culvert or could the County do that in house. Mr. Schwartz explained the County could design a precast box culvert in house as the required structural engineering stamp would be provided by the company manufacturing the culvert. With that said, Mr. Schwartz informed the Committee that West County Line Road is a truck route and with the heavy loads traveling that roadway it was his opinion that a poured in place box culvert would

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be a better long term structure. In addition, a poured structure would provide less obstruction to water flow than a precast culvert. The Committee inquired if the County Engineer knew the increase in water flow that this new structure would handle. Mr. Schwartz stated it was hard to tell at this stage in the design but typically it would be between 5% to 10%, could be more, and could be less. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of the proposed resolution for Willett Hofmann & Associates to design a box culvert in the amount not to exceed \$29,136.60. **A motion was made by Vice Chair Pietrowski and seconded by Mr. O'Barski to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. The motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2014-02: ENGINEERING AGREEMENT FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF A BRIDGE ON PERRY ROAD 600 FEET WEST OF CHASE ROAD

Mr. Schwartz informed the Committee that this bridge was scheduled to be replaced during 2014. The Engineering firm of Chastain & Associates, LLC has been selected to do the design work and prepare the plans for a cost not to exceed \$53,385.00. Mr. Deverell inquired as to why all bridges were being made bigger. Mr. Schwartz explained that data is better and with the aid of computers additional data such as developments and hydraulics are all taken into consideration. Mr. Frerichs added older bridge designs were based on rain fall data collected from the 1940s. Bridges are now being designed with data collected during the 1970s which shows an increase in rain fall of approximately 15%. Therefore bridges are being designed to handle the increase in water flow caused by the increase in rainfall. **A motion was made by Mr. O'Barski and seconded by Mr. Deverell to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. The motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2014-03: SUPPORT FOR A NEW TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO BENEFIT THE ECONOMY & THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. Schwartz presented a resolution to the Committee for their review and discussion concerning the funding of transportation needs in the State of Illinois. The last funding for transportation needs was in 2009 during Illinois Jobs Now! where 9.5 billion in revenue was raised. Nine billion went to the State with the remaining going to local agencies. The local agencies have just received the fourth of five installments of their portion. The State needs to find a way to provide an equitable, reliable and sustainable revenue source for transportation needs and is a pay as you go type of revenue. The Transportation For Illinois Coalition (TFIC), which Mr. Schwartz belongs as a member of the Illinois County Engineer Association, prepared an assessment of Illinois transportation needs. Through this assessment it became clear that a reliable funding source is needed. Diversions need to stop where current revenue is collected for transportation needs, but somehow are being utilized for different purposes. This resolution provides nothing specific in funding details but simply says that there is a

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need to make this item a priority to reach a solution. As Mr. Schwartz travels around the State and meets with legislators, the one thing constant he hears is that legislators want to hear from constituents. Further, they like to hear a solution to the problems. This is a way for the County to do that. The Committee voiced some concerns with this extremely broad resolution. Comments were made that maybe a more specific resolution should be worked on identifying problems unique to DeKalb County and to ensure needy townships and needy counties are adequately taken care of. Mr. Cvek inquired what would be done with this resolution if and when it was passed by the County Board. Mr. Schwartz stated the resolution would be sent to a variety of legislative leaders and local officials. The TFIC has submitted two bills HB 3637 and SB 2589 outlining the principles of a new capital program and the distribution of new money. This resolution urges the General Assembly and Governor to build upon these initiatives and create a plan that raises additional revenue to properly address transportation needs of the future. **A motion was made by Vice Chair Pietrowski to present this resolution to the full County Board. Chairman Gudmunson asked for a second and it was seconded by Mr. O'Barski. Chairman Gudmunson held a roll call vote resulting in three yes votes and two no votes; No votes were cast by Chairman Gudmunson and Mr. Frieders. Motion passed.**

MFT RESOLUTION #2014-04 – SUPPLEMENTAL RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR 2013 WINTER MAINTENANCE MATERIALS

During calendar year 2013 the County budgeted \$500,000 for winter maintenance materials (salt). This material is not only used by the County but also townships, municipalities as well as school districts and Kishwaukee College. The County is reimbursed by these agencies for their usage. Approximately 56% of this salt is used by other agencies with the County utilizing 44% of all salt purchased. Because of the severe weather at the beginning of 2013 and the continuing winter weather during the month of December 2013, it is necessary to authorize additional funding to close out the 2013 season. This resolution is a supplement to the resolution passed by the County Board during November of 2012 and will authorize an additional \$170,000 to cover the additional material used to provide safe roads for the traveling public. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this resolution. **A motion was made by Mr. Frieders and seconded by Mr. O'Barski to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. The motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIR'S COMMENTS: Chairman Gudmunson commented on the amount of salt being used on the roads. Over the years he has noticed an increase in the County's usage. The County roads are becoming like the State Roads and that is forcing the Townships to spread more salt on their roads. Mr. Gudmunson stated the public has forgotten how to travel on snowy/icy roads and this is forcing governments to use more salt. Chairman Gudmunson expressed his concern over the usage by the County at

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times when he feels the spreading of salt is not necessary. This overspreading causes damage to farm equipment as well as all vehicles/equipment as it travels down roads in the winter months. He feels this operation can be and needs to be managed at a better level. Chairman Gudmunson also expressed concerns over proper use of county radios.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Schwartz provided the Committee with an update of the Transportation Improvement Progress Report that occurred during the month of December. The only project discussed was Waterman Road. Due to the condition of this road the County might reconstruct the road first and then continue with the ditch and earthwork that will need to be completed after the road is constructed.

Mr. Schwartz informed the Committee that he is currently taking applications for the Assistant County Engineer position and will continue to do so until February 10, 2014.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Mr. Frieders inquired into the Governor Beveridge Road project identified during the 2013 Highway Tour. Mr. Schwartz stated this was a Squaw Grove Road District project and the plan is for the Road Commissioner to request that road as well as part of Bastian Road to be built up to an 80,000 pound road.

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 Mr. Deverell and seconded by Mr. O'Barski and the motion passed unanimously.** The January 2, 2014 meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Gudmunson
Chairman

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