

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
November 5, 2015**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 6:00pm in the Conference Room of the DeKalb County Highway Department, located at 1826 Barber Greene Road, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

Chairman John Gudmunson called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Committee members present were Mr. Bunge, Mr. Frieders, Mr. Luebke, Mr. Metzger and Mr. Pietrowski. Vice Chair O'Barski was absent. The County Engineer, Nathan Schwartz, Support Services Manager, Wayne Davey, and Mr. Charles Cole, Aurora, Illinois were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mr. Pietrowski and seconded by Mr. Luebke to approve the minutes of the regular October 1, 2015 meeting. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Metzger moved and Mr. Pietrowski seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

**ORDINANCE #O2015-10 – ALTERED SPEED ZONES FOR PEARL STREET
LOCATED IN FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP**

Mr. Schwartz explained to the Committee that there is currently a 35 MPH speed zone on Pearl Street north of the south branch of the Kishwaukee River that was placed years ago by a former Highway Commissioner. This zone was never codified nor was an engineering study completed to make this a legal and enforceable zone. The current Franklin Road District Highway Commissioner requested this speed limit be codified and an engineering study was conducted. The study determined this current zone would qualify as a residence district and therefore local jurisdictions would have the authority to reduce speed limits to not lower than 25 MPH. Due to the length of this road and the placement of entrances being less than 500 feet apart for the required one quarter mile length, this portion of Pearl Street beginning at the Kirkland municipal limits

and proceeding north for 1,915 feet qualifies for an altered speed zone of 35 MPH. As such the County Board does have the authority to reduce the speed limit to 35 MPH and Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of the proposed Ordinance. **A motion was made by Mr. Luebke and seconded by Mr. Frieders to forward the Ordinance to the full County Board recommending approval. The motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2015-94: VACATION OF APPROXIMATELY 1.6 ACRES OF RIGHT-OF-WAY ON THE WEST SIDE OF MALTA ROAD 1.34 MILES NORTH OF OLD STATE ROAD

The County Assessor informed the Highway Department that a small parcel of land assigned to the Illinois Department of Transportation had an assessed value place on it this year which triggered a tax bill. When IDOT was presented with this bill it was learned that the parcel was in fact old right-of-way associated with a relocation of County Highway 31, (Malta Road), constructed during the early 1950s that was never vacated and returned to the registered land owner. Mr. Schwartz informed the Committee that the County did not own this parcel and it is not being used for highway purposes. Therefore, this parcel should be vacated and returned to the owner of record and placed back on the appropriate tax records. The resolution presented tonight is the first step in the process and Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of the resolution. **A motion was made by Mr. Pietrowski and seconded by Mr. Luebke to forward the Resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. The motion passed unanimously**

MFT RESOLUTION #R2015-95 – 2016 SALARY AND EQUIPMENT RENTAL

The County Engineer explained that every year the County must pass resolutions authorizing the appropriation of MFT funds prior to their expenditure. This resolution will comply with that requirement. MFT funds will be utilized for a portion of the maintainer's salaries when they are performing work on the County Highways. The County also rents their construction equipment to allow MFT funds to flow into the highway budget for equipment replacement. A total of \$1,005,880.00 will be authorized; \$605,880.00 for salaries and \$400,000.00 for equipment rental. This resolution is passed every year prior to January 1st and Mr. Schwartz recommended approval. **Motion made by Mr. Metzger and seconded by Mr. Luebke to forward this resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

MFT RESOLUTION #R2015-96: 2016 WINTER MAINTENANCE MATERIAL

As in years past, the County will utilize MFT funds to cover the cost of the salt the County, Townships, Villages, and educational institutions will be using to keep their respective roadways and parking areas clear during the winter months. The County is reimbursed by these agencies for their salt usage. This year's amount is \$583,185.00 and Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this resolution. **Motion made by Mr. Pietrowski and seconded by Mr. Frieders to forward this resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIR'S COMMENTS: Chairman Gudmunson commented that he was pleased that Governor Beveridge Highway was finally completed and was looking forward to the Suydam Road Bridge approached being completed soon. Chairman Gudmunson requested the County Engineer contact the Village of Somonauk concerning their portion of Governor Beveridge Road as well as the bridge on that section. Both are in an urgent need of repair and maybe the County can provide some assistance with the required repairs.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS: Mr. Schwartz provided an update of current projects underway throughout the County. Chicago Road was completed this past month and that closes out the County's asphalt overlay projects for 2015. A couple of small patching projects are still underway and are scheduled to be completed in the next week or so. These include two sections on Suydam Road and Chicago, Pratt and East Sandwich Road in Sandwich Road District. The Coltonville Road Bridge project is progressing well and stands at 50% completed. Work is currently focused on the deck and the deck is scheduled to be poured the week of Thanksgiving if the weather continues to hold. Current plans are to have this bridge open to traffic by the end of 2015. The South Paw Paw Road bridges stand at 98% complete. All that is remaining is the installation of guardrail and the deck grooving. Once the contractor installs the guard rail this bridge can be open to traffic. The Suydam Road Bridge over Buck Creek is still waiting for the approaches to be milled and repaved to eliminate the current dip. Although not a County Highway project, the County Engineer is overseeing the construction of a new parking lot east of the current jail as part of the jail expansion project. During construction of the jail over 100 parking spaces will be lost to employees and citizens conducting County business. Therefore, a new parking lot is being constructed to help alleviate this shortage. Work is progressing and the paving portion of this project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

Mr. Schwartz stated no budget is in sight for the State as of tonight and therefore the County is still not receiving any Motor Fuel Tax funds. The County has a healthy fund balance in our account and therefore we are in a manageable position for the remaining of 2015 and for the beginning of 2016. Winter maintenance materials as well as salaries and equipment rental funds are all funded to the end of 2016. All MFT maintenance and construction projects for 2016 will be prepared as in years past and ready for letting once funding is again flowing to the Road Districts and the County. Hopefully the County's early letting schedule will still be able to be met.

The implementation of the new Waters of the United States regulations have been temporarily delayed. Several states had successfully sued the EPA over the new regulations and were exempt from following them. However the EPA was informing the remaining States that they would be required to comply with the new regulations. Until things are sorted out at the Federal level, the new regulations will not go into effect.

The Federal Highway Bill is moving forward with 280 amendments attached to it. Everything from import/export matters to endangered swallows have been attached to the Bill. A deal is expected to be reached this week on a six year plan. A vote to raise the Federal Gas Tax by .15 cents has been blocked. The current rate of .18.4 cents has been in place since 1993 and is not keeping pace with inflation or the cost of materials. The Federal Government collects around \$34 billion dollars for highway construction but spends \$50 billion. The difference comes from a general Federal funding source. The .15 cent increase would have covered the entire \$50 billion so the general funding source would not have to be utilized and provide a sustainable funding stream for future years.

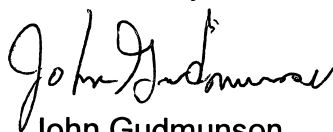
Mr. Schwartz presented a breakdown of where taxes go that are collected by the County. It was interesting to see that current (2013) taxes collected and distributed to the Highway Department assessed on a \$150,000.00 home would cover the cost of only two feet of a hot-mix resurfacing project. The majority of taxes continue to flow to the school system.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Pietrowski thanked the Department for their involvement with assisting in the procurement of the trailblazer signs for Whiskey Acres.

Mr. Schwartz stated he is working on three engineering agreements for 2016 bridge projects. These agreements should be ready for approval in the near future. In order for preliminary survey work to be completed prior to winter weather setting in, Mr. Schwartz requested a special meeting be held at 7:00pm on November 18, 2015 for the Committee to approve the agreements. The agreements could then be approved by the full County Board at their regular November meeting. The Committee by consensus agreed to the special meeting.

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. Pietrowski and seconded by Mr. Frieders and the motion passed unanimously.** The November 5, 2015 meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Gudmunson
Chairman