

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
March 4, 2021**

A Zoom public meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, March 4, 2021, at 6:00pm.

Chairman Plote called the meeting to order at 6:02pm and called for the roll. Committee members present were Mr. Deutsch, Ms. Emmer, Ms. Jones, Mr. Osland (in person) and Ms. Willis. Vice Chair Luebke joined the meeting at 6:08pm. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz, Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager, County Administrator Brian Gregory, County Board Member Kathy Lampkins and Deputy County Administrator Derek Hiland were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion made by Ms. Willis and seconded by Ms. Emmer to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed with six yes votes, one absent, with a roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Deutsch moved and Mr. Osland seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2021 regular meeting and the minutes of the February 17, 2021 special meeting. The motion passed with six yes votes, one absent, with a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

RESOLUTION #R2021-18: APPROPRIATION OF MFT FUNDS FOR PEACE ROAD BRIDGES PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

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 budgeted for certain projects throughout the year. 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. One of the projects scheduled for MFT funds during 2021 is the phase I and II engineering services for the widening of two existing structures on Peace Road on the west side of Sycamore. In order to increase the number of lanes in

each direction on Peace Road from north of Illinois Route 64 to Peace/Plank and Illinois Route 23, the bridges will need to be widened. An engineering firm will be selected during the Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) process beginning next week and an agreement will be presented to the Committee for their approval during April's Committee meeting. The total MFT funds being requested for these engineering services has been estimated at \$120,000.00. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of this resolution. **Ms. Willis moved and Ms. Emmer seconded a motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. Roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with seven yes votes and zero no votes.**

RESOLUTION #R2021-19: LOCAL AGENCY AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS FOR THE RESURFACING OF SUYDAM ROAD

When the County is awarded Federal and/or State funding for a particular project, the County must enter into an agreement with the State in order to spend said funds. The State (IDOT) holds the funds and writes the checks during the construction of these projects while billing the County for our share of the cost. The Committee will see similar agreements this year prior to our 2021 federally funded projects going to letting. This agreement is for the Suydam Road resurfacing project. Suydam Road from Illinois Route 23 east to Gletty Road in the City of Sandwich will be resurfaced this year. The total estimated cost of this project is \$1,312,500 and the County's share is estimated to be \$262,000. Mr. Schwartz recommended the County enter into this agreement. **Mr. Deutsch moved and Vice Chair Luebke seconded a motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. The motion passed unanimously with seven yes votes during a roll call vote.**

MAINTENANCE AWARD RESOLUTIONS #R2021-20: 2021 GENERAL COUNTY LETTING AND #R2021-21: 2021 ROAD DISTRICT AGGREGATE PROJECTS, CRACK ROUT AND FILL PROJECTS, AND 2021 DRAINAGE PIPES

Mr. Schwartz presented two award resolutions for consideration by the Committee after the opening of bids was held on March 3, 2021. They are resolution #R2021-20 and #R2020-21. Resolution #R2021-20 is for the General County Letting. These bids are requested every year for maintenance materials utilized by the County and Road Districts. These bids cover aggregate, patching material, hot-mix and liquid calcium chloride this year. By accepting these bids, prices are set for the year and will not increase. All bids are awarded and the lowest cost is calculated by taking the bid price of a product and adding in the cost of travel from the quarry/plant to the job site.

Resolution #R2021-21 involves the aggregate spread on road projects, drainage pipes and filling of cracks on various roads for the Road Districts and Municipalities. Several bids were received and Macklin Incorporated, Inc. submitted the low bids for 4,000 tons of aggregate spread on road for Clinton Road District in the amount of \$50,000.00 and 5,000 tons of aggregate spread on road for Paw Paw Road District in the amount of \$67,000.00; Wagner Aggregate, Inc. submitted the low bids meeting specifications for

5,000 tons of aggregate spread on road in Malta Road District in the amount of \$52,500; 3,300 tons of aggregate spread on road in Pierce Road District in the amount of \$40,986.00; and 5,000 tons of aggregate spread on road in South Grove Road District in the amount of \$44,650.00; for this year's crack routing and filling project, Denler, Inc. from Joliet, Illinois, submitted the low bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$37,327.22; drainage pipes to be utilized by the County and Road Districts during 2021 were also let. By combining the needs of the Road Districts with the County's a lower unit cost is often realized. Two suppliers submitted bids with Metal Culverts, Inc. from Jefferson City, Missouri submitting the low bid meeting specifications. The amount of their bid was \$61,883.04 for various sized pipes and bands. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of both award resolutions. **Ms. Willis moved and Ms. Emmer seconded a motion to forward the resolutions to the full County Board recommending approval. The motion passed unanimously with seven yes votes during a roll call vote.**

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Chairman Plote commented that the County plans on posting County roads beginning on Monday, March 8th for the spring postings. He hopes for a short posting period! The Committee inquired if a road is an 80,000 pound road will it be posted? Mr. Schwartz stated if the road is classified as a truck route and TARP funds were utilized in upgrading the road, then no, those roads would not be posted. However, the County currently has some roads that are 80,000 pound roads but not classified as truck routes. Those will be posted during the spring posting period. No overweight permits are granted during the posting period on either the designated truck routes or the 80,000 pound routes.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee.

- McGirr Road Bridge has both the preliminary engineering and the design engineering at 100% complete. This project is scheduled for a late April 2021 letting in Springfield.

- New Lebanon Road Bridge, which is on the fast track to be built later this year due to the closure of the bridge by IDOT, stands at 35% complete for the preliminary engineering and 15% complete for the design engineering.

- Plank Road Study remains at 8% complete with the completion of a very extensive environmental study. IDOT has concurred with the County's approach to this project and has provided encouraging feedback.

- South First Street resurfacing project is being handled in-house. The preliminary engineering is currently at 25%. This project will be completed during 2021.

- Suydam Road Bridge is through the preliminary and design engineering stages and the temporary right-of-way acquisition is 90% completed.

- Suydam Road resurfacing from Illinois Route 23 east to Gletty Road is 100% completed for both the preliminary and design engineering phases. This project is scheduled for an April letting in Springfield.

- Twombly Road upgrade project is in stage two and will be resurfaced this year. Last year during stage one, all underground utilities were upgrade prior to the resurfacing.

- Waterman Road, Phase 3B and 4, will continue with the extension of the box culvert south of McGirr Road. Both the preliminary engineering and the design engineering is 100% complete. Right of way acquisition is at 25%. This is a 2021 project and the road will also be resurfaced this year. We are currently looking at a May/June letting.

For a legislative update, Springfield is back in session. Next week during the County Engineer's meeting of the Legislative Committee, all Bills introduced that will have any impact on County or Road Districts roads will be reviewed. Mr. Schwartz currently sits on this Committee. In Washington, the main emphasis remains on Covid relief but movement is being made to get an infrastructure plan in place by September of this year.

DSATS continues to be very busy. Mr. Schwartz gave the Committee a quick tour of the County's DSATS website, noting important information. Mr. Geber continues to be proactive and updating this information as required. Mr. Schwartz indicated that the County Administrator is the County's voting member for DSATS by title. Whoever is the County Administrator has the privilege to be assigned to DSATS (Policy) and they are not assigned by name. No special nominations have to be made due to the changing of the County's Administrator.

The Department's Annual Report was presented to the Committee and briefly reviewed. The County Engineer highlighted the projects completed during 2020, including the cost of the projects and the contractor who was awarded the project. Pictures highlighting these projects helped to showcase the complexity as well as the finished project were included in the report. Mr. Schwartz also touched on upcoming projects for 2021 that the County is looking forward to completing.

The Committee inquired if a structure were closed would it always be repaired or replaced regardless if anyone lives on that portion of the roadway or the cost? Mr. Schwartz indicated that if a structure was closed or in need of repair every effort would be made to complete the needed corrective action. It might not be immediate, but it would happen at some point. Discussions have not occurred during his time as County Engineer where a Road District Highway Commissioner has requested a failing structure not be repair/replaced and the road remain closed indefinitely.

The current pile of excess dirt observed at the corner of South First Street and Gurler Road will be incorporated into the box culvert replacement. When conditions allow for construction to resume, the reshaping of the waterway on the west side of the road will be completed. Utility relocation was delayed in this area and hampered the completion of this project during 2020.

The Highway Department is still waiting for the County to get to Group 1C to allow for those in the Department that want to be vaccinated for Covid be vaccinated. No word on what the time line is for that to happen.

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 Vice Chair Luebke, seconded by Ms. Jones and passed unanimously by a roll call vote.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Plote
Chairman