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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes  
May 6, 2021**

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

Chairman Plote called the meeting to order at 6:03pm and called for the roll. Committee members present were Ms. Emmer, Ms. Jones, Vice Chair Luebke, Mr. Osland and Ms. Willis by Zoom. Chairman Plote was present in the conference room and Mr. Deutsch was absent. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz, Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager, Dawn Wucki-Rossbach, Village of Maple Park Administrator and one other guest were also present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion made by Ms. Emmer and seconded by Vice Chair Luebke to approve the agenda as presented. The motion to approve the agenda passed with six yes votes, zero no votes with a roll call vote.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Ms. Willis moved and Ms. Emmer seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2021 regular meeting. The motion passed with six yes votes and zero no votes, with a roll call vote.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Ms. Wucki-Rossbach reserved her comments for the County Engineer's discussion on honorary street signs.

**RESOLUTION #R2021-34: INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC SIGNALS ON THE STATE SYSTEM THAT INTERSECT WITH A COUNTY ROAD**

Mr. Schwartz informed the Committee that every ten years the subject agreement comes up for review and renewal. This agreement covers traffic signals that were installed at the request of the County when Peace Road was built and intersected with State Routes 23 south, 64 and 23 north. In order to allow traffic signals at these locations the County agreed to maintain all signals to include the cost of power supplied. The terms of this agreement have not changed from the 2011 agreement and Mr. Schwartz recommended the County renew said agreement. **Vice Chair Luebke**

**moved and Ms. Jones seconded a motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. A roll call vote was held with six yes votes and zero no votes. Motion passed.**

**RESOLUTION #R2021-35: VACATION OF “A” STREET LOCATED IN HIGHLAND MEADOWS OFF OF RICH ROAD IN DEKALB TOWNSHIP**

The County Engineer stated the County had been requested to vacate a portion of land previously dedicated to the Public for use as a public road back around 1962 when the Highland Meadows subdivision was established. The city limits of DeKalb fall to the south of Rich Road and to the north of Rich Road is DeKalb Township. This parcel of land was never accepted by the Township nor was the road ever constructed. The City of DeKalb has no intention of constructing a roadway at this location if and when the land north of Rich Road is developed and annexed into the City limits. The new City street would continue north from the current Taft Street. The vacated lot would be returned to adjacent subdivision land owners (and in this case there is only one) and be returned to the tax rolls. **Ms. Willis moved and Ms. Emmer seconded a motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. A roll call vote was held with six yes votes and zero no votes. Motion passed.**

**ORDINANCE #O2021-06: ALTERED SPEED ZONE ON PERRY ROAD BETWEEN ILLINOIS ROUTE 23 EAST FOR 3210 FEET**

Citizens along Perry Road had inquired into lowering the speed limit on a portion of Perry Road. Their concern lies where there are several houses that enter and exit onto Perry Road at this location. The County Engineer reviewed this section of roadway for compliance with 625 ILCS 5/1-172 to see if any portion could be designated as a residence district for the purposes of an altered speed zone. After analyzing Perry Road from Illinois Route 23 east for 3,210 feet, it was determined that section met the requirements of being at least a quarter of a mile long with residences or residences and buildings in use for businesses spaced no more than 500 feet apart. Mr. Schwartz determined a speed of 45mph was appropriate for this zone and recommended the Committee forward the proposed Ordinance to the full County Board recommending approval. **Vice Chair Luebke moved and Ms. Jones seconded a motion to forward the ordinance to the full County Board recommending approval. Motion passed with a roll call vote with six yes votes and zero no votes.**

**CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS:** Chairman Plote commented that he was receiving complaints concerning roadside memorials on County highways stating they were distracting and hindering line of sight at intersections. Some of these memorials were also quite elaborate and precluded proper vegetation control at these locations. Mr. Schwartz stated this subject has been discussed with the Committee several times over the years but no specific direction given on how the County might best deal with these situations. The County will be working on a sign ordinance in the future that will include

and address roadside memorials. Mr. Schwartz welcomes any and all comments or thoughts the Committee has on this subject.

### **COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:**

The County has received a request from the Village of Maple Park to allow an honorary street sign be placed on the street sign post along East County Line Road at Center Street in Maple Park. This sign would honor the service of the past Village president who served as President for the past 12 years. Any sign placed within the County's right-of-way can only be installed with the permission of the County Engineer having jurisdiction over the roadway. Ms. Wucki-Rosbach shared the Village's policy and procedures concerning their Honorary Street Name Designation program with the Committee. Currently the County has no such program to allow for such placement within the County's right-of-way. Due to this item not being on tonight's agenda the County Engineer inquired if the Committee desired to put this item on a future agenda for proper discussion. It was the consensus of the Committee that further discussion was warranted. Mr. Schwartz indicated that a special meeting is being requested for May 12, 2021 at 6:30pm to review and approve an engineering agreement for the Peace Road bridges and the honorary street sign request would be placed on the agenda to be discussed further at that time.

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee.

- Chicago Road paving project stands at 75% of the preliminary and design engineering. This project will be let in June and on the June agenda for the Committee's approval.

- McGirr Road Bridge was let on April 23, 2021 in Springfield and the low bid was submitted by Riber Construction in the amount of \$693,852.41; \$46,900.59 below our estimate.

- 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 95% complete for the preliminary engineering and 90% complete for the design engineering.

- Plank Road Study is moving ahead slowly with environmental requirements and stands at 15% complete.

- South First Street resurfacing project has been combined with Perry Road and Waterman Road resurfacing projects. These projects involve TARP funding and are scheduled for a June letting. The Committee will be asked in June for their approval.

- Suydam Road Bridge replacement was let on April 23, 2021 in Springfield with Martin & Company Excavating submitting the low bid in the amount of \$1,041,744.50; \$93,635.50 below the estimate.

- Suydam Road resurfacing project was let on April 23, 2021 in Springfield with Curran Contracting submitting the low bid in the amount of \$1,041,744.00; \$142,683.93 below the estimate for this project.

For a legislative update, Springfield has reviewed several proposed bills but very few have made it to the third reading. These bills seem to have very little impact on transportation/funding issues.

DSATS is continuing to go 120 MPH with their hair on fire! Updating plans and policies and improving information of the website. Recently completed was the interactive bike trail map of all trails within our DSATS boundaries. This information shows the location, length, type of surface of the trail, who uses the trail (walking/bike/both) and if the trail is part of a roadway/street.

From time to time the County receives requests for Engine Breaking Prohibited signs be placed at certain locations throughout the County. The County does not have an ordinance regulating such activity. In conversation with the Sheriff's Department it was learned that no written violations of Engine Breaking could be found. It is difficult to enforce such a regulation when law enforcement is not present to witness such a violation. Regulatory and warning signs should be used conservatively because these signs, if used to excess, tend to lose their effectiveness. To erect signs in rural areas of the County that cannot be enforced or are difficult to enforce would diminish their effectiveness as well. Engine Braking or Jake Breaking is considered a necessary safety feature and useful under certain circumstances. The Committee felt such a program was designed for mainly municipalities where houses are placed close together and not out in the rural areas. IDOT has no such program but does regulate the signage to be erected for such use when placed on a State highway. It does allow signs to be erected when requested through Municipalities and County's only. No request from Township officials will be approved. The Committee, by consensus, felt this issue need not go any further at this time and could be readdressed if warranted in the future.

Mr. Schwartz indicated the new plow truck bid in January of 2020 has arrived and is getting inspected by the Mechanics and will be in service shortly.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Plote asked if there were 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 by a roll call vote with six yes votes and zero no votes.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:23pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Plote  
Chairman