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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
June 3, 2021**

A hybrid public meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, June 3, 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 and Ms. Willis via Zoom. Chairman Plote, Mr. Osland was present in the conference room and Mr. Deutsch arrived at 6:05pm. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz, Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager (present in conference room) and three other guests were also present via zoom.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion made by Mr. Osland to amend the presented agenda by removing items 2 and 3 and approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Willis seconded that motion. The motion to approve the agenda as amended passed with six yes votes, zero no votes with a roll call vote. (Documents not received from IDOT to move these forward)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice Chair Luebke moved and Mr. Osland seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular May 6, 2021 meeting and the special May 12, 2021 meeting. The motion passed with six yes votes and zero no votes, with a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: One member from the public commented on the recent installation of a 4-way stop at South First Street and Gurler Road. The concern was whether the County was intending on making Gurler Road east of South First Street a truck route or not. Said concern would be addressed under the County Engineer Comments later in this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS #R2021-40 & 41: JURISDICTIONAL TRANSFER OF SOUTH FIRST STREET TO THE ROAD DISTRICTS OF AFTON AND DEKALB

Mr. Schwartz informed the Committee that paperwork was ready for the official transfer of South First Street. Several years ago the then Afton Highway Commissioner requested the County take South First Street over for maintenance. The County

Engineer at the time agreed to do so. The current Highway Commissioner for Afton Road District has requested that road be returned to Afton Road District for maintenance. Because South First Street does not “fit” with the layout of County roads Mr. Schwartz agreed this road would be better maintained by the Road Districts as established many years ago. Accordingly, South First Street from Perry Road north and east to Gurler Road will be transferred back to Afton Road District and from Gurler Road north to the City of DeKalb limits transferred back to DeKalb Road District upon approval of the County Board and IDOT. The effective date of this transfer, if approved, has been agreed to be November 1, 2021. The County will have the road resurfaced and some drainage issues addressed prior to the transfer. **Ms. Willis moved and Ms. Emmer seconded a motion to forward both resolutions to the full County Board recommending approval. A roll call vote was held with seven yes votes and zero no votes. Motion passed.**

RESOLUTION #R2021-44: AWARD RESOLUTION FOR THE HOT-MIX ASPHALT RESURFACING OF SOUTH FIRST STREET, PERRY ROAD, WATERMAN ROAD AND CHICAGO ROAD

The County opened bids for the resurfacing of South First Street from Perry Road to the City of DeKalb limits; Perry Road from South First Street to Illinois Route 23; and Waterman Road from Perry Road to 50 feet south of Cruise Lane. Curran Contracting Company from Crystal Lake, Illinois submitted the low bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$1,435,072.61. The low bid for the Chicago Road resurfacing from Illinois Route 23 west to Shabbona Road was also submitted by Curran Contracting Company in the amount of \$2,507,176.75. Both bids were below the Engineer’s Estimate for these projects. Upon completion of the resurfacing projects these roads will be designated as all-weather routes and will not be posted during spring postings. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of the awards. **Mr. Osland moved and Mr. Deutsch seconded a motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. A roll call vote was held with seven yes votes and zero no votes. Motion passed.**

As the Highway Department begins its 2022 budget process, it has been our policy to share with the Committee our scheduled equipment replacement and planned construction projects for next year. This allows time for appropriate review of this information, any questions or concerns, and consultation with the County Engineer. Our formal budget will be presented to the Committee during our August meeting. If any Committee Member has any questions concerning our equipment needs and scheduled construction projects they are encouraged to contact our Department.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS: Chairman Plote commented on the recent fatality at the intersection of Illinois Route 64 and North First Street. This is a four-way stop and the incident seemed to be driver error.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee.

- Chicago Road paving project was let and brought before the Committee tonight for award.

- McNeal Road Bridge is 100% complete.

- Motel Road Bridge stands at 90% complete and should be open to traffic in the near future.

- 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 100% complete for the preliminary and design engineering. This project is scheduled for a July letting.

- Plank Road Study is moving ahead slowly with environmental requirements and stands at 20% complete.

- South First Street resurfacing project has been combined with Perry Road and Waterman Road resurfacing projects. These projects were brought before the Committee tonight for award.

- South First Street culvert replacement is continuing and now stands at 98% complete. Was delayed due to utility relocations and if contractors remain on schedule this intersection should be opened next week.

- Suydam Road Bridge replacement is scheduled to begin the week of June 14, 2021.

- Twombly Road upgrade was another project that was let this week. N-TRAK Group from Loves Park, Illinois submitted the low bid in the amount of \$811,337.15. This project will be awarded by the DeKalb Road District as it is funded through 100% local funds.

- The 12 Road District hot-mix resurfacing projects have begun as of today. Engineering crews will be busy inspecting these projects.

The County Engineer explained that when the County schedules a project for completion it also looks around the entire project to get a bigger and clearer picture of what is happening or what should be happening in that area. Traffic counts and crash history are always being reviewed. The history of the intersection of Gurler and South First Street were likewise reviewed during the ongoing construction to see if travel could be made safer. Reviewing crash history found no alarming trends. Reviewing traffic flow data found that Gurler Road traffic to the east had doubled. Traffic is normally stopped for the higher volume road, which historically has been South First Street. Upon analyzing the increased traffic on Gurler Road it was found Gurler Road to the east had a little higher traffic volumes than South First Street to the south. It was determined that an all-way stop would be appropriate for this intersection going forward. Gurler Road immediately west of Route 23 and immediately east of South First Street belong to DeKalb Road District with the middle section of Gurler Road belonging to the City of DeKalb. The Road District has its portions of Gurler Road posted for weight at 15 tons or 30,000 pounds. This would prohibit loaded trucks from traveling this route and require them to remain on the posted truck route which is Harvestore Drive, the

east-west road immediately to the north of Gurler Road. Empty trucks meeting the legal weight and length restrictions would be allowed on this or any such public roadway. Neither the Road District nor the City of DeKalb have any plans, which our Department is aware of, to designate Gurler Road as an authorized truck route. Loaded trucks coming off of I-88 at the Annie Glidden Road exit often use Fairview Drive to South First Street to Harvestore Drive to Illinois Route 23 to get on the state truck route.

For a legislative update, Springfield has passed the new fiscal year budget. It is on hold to work out a few more details before heading to the Governor for signature. At the Federal level work continues on the infrastructure funding. Republicans are in favor of traditional items to be funded (roads/bridges/railways) and not the home care services, manufacturing, housing, etc. portion of the proposal. Negotiations will continue.

DSATS is continuing to address items pertinent to the DeKalb-Sycamore-Cortland area. New data sets have been obtained which provide information such as population density in residential areas as well as employer locations and size of their work force. This allows DSATS to analyze and project which roads would be utilized for travel to and from work. This information will greatly assist in planning which roadways should be upgraded in future years. Bike trails remain high on the list for future projects as DeKalb, Sycamore, and Cortland all have existing trails to connect.

A question was presented concerning the concrete tile on Gurler that is waiting to be installed – where will it flow to? Mr. Schwartz stated he did not have any information on that particular project but would research the details. Another question was raised concerning the Pratt Road Bridge west of the fair entrance. Mr. Schwartz stated that bridge belongs to the City of Sandwich and they have been awarded a grant to replace it. That project will be tentatively scheduled in five years.

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 by a roll call vote with seven yes votes and zero no votes.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Plote
Chairman