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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
August 4, 2022**

A public meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, August 4, 2022, at 6:00pm.

Chairman Plote called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and called for the roll. Committee members present were Mr. Deutsch, Ms. Emmer, Vice Chair Luebke, and Ms. Willis. Absent was Ms. Jones. Mr. Osland joined the meeting at 6:10 pm. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz and Ms. Stacy Richardson, Support Services Manager were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion made by Ms. Emmer and seconded by Ms. Willis to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Luebke moved and Mr. Deutsch seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular June 2, 2022 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

RESOLUTION #R2022-188: MALTA ROAD DISTRICT AGGREGATE PROJECT

Mr. Schwartz stated the Malta Road District requested to do additional SOR aggregate surface course that needed to go out for bid using TMFT money. The opening of only one bid took place August 3rd. Wagner Aggregate, Inc, from DeKalb submitted the lowest bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$49,230.00 for 4,500 tons aggregate. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of award. **Ms. Emmer moved and Ms. Willis seconded a motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval, motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2022-189: JURISDICTIONAL TRANSFER OF .24 MILE OF GLIDDEN ROAD TO CITY OF DEKALB

Mr. Schwartz explained that a parcel on the west side of Glidden Road north of Dresser Road, across from the County Community Outreach Building is being developed and has been annexed in the City of DeKalb. The new driveway which lines up with the

County's entrance is being built on an easement that will be a road connecting Glidden Road to Edens Garden Subdivision. Conversations over the years with City administrators have agreed that as the City develops both sides of the road and parcels are annexed into the city, the County road jurisdiction would be turned over to the city including its maintenance of striping, paving, mowing, and plowing. This resolution transfers the road jurisdiction of Glidden Road from Dresser Road north to County Health Blvd for 0.24 miles. **Mr. Luebke moved and Ms. Willis seconded a motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. The motion passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION #R2022-190: PEACE ROAD ENGINEERING CONTRACT

Mr. Schwartz explained that the County went through the qualifications based selectin (QBS) process to hire Chastain & Associates, LLC for preliminary engineering on the Peace Road Bridge that crosses the Kishwaukee River and related road-widening project north of Route 64 extending to Freed Road. He would like Chastain & Associates, LLC to put together additional supporting documentation necessary to help file for a HSIP Federal grant available for safety funding and also for the federal BIP grant program (Bridge Improvement Program). Extending the existing preliminary engineering contract would add an additional \$90,700. The use of federal dollars with the addition of lanes closer to housing requires a noise analysis. Performing this and other work in advance of the grant application makes the County more competitive in the grant process. Whether or not the multi-million-dollar grants are received, the additional scope of work is not wasted as the work would be performed at some time in the future anyway. **Mr. Deutsch moved and Mr. Osland seconded a motion to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. The motion passed unanimously.**

ADDITIONAL PEACE ROAD ACCESS POINT FOR BELLE TIRE

A developer previously requested a new access point on the east side of Peace Road just north of Route 23 (DeKalb Avenue). Normally, driveways and entrances are handled by the County Engineer. Peace Road is under an IGA between DeKalb County and the City of Sycamore which specifies the locations of all current and future access points. The IGA anticipates developers will ask for additional access points but recognizes access points should be limited and appropriately spaced. The IGA goes on to provide an exhibit of all access points and states all means of access shall use the predetermined primary and secondary access points. This includes requiring developers to design their local street network to tie into the predetermined access points. Therefore, addition of a new access point on Peace Road requires County Board and City Council approval.

The Committee previously had discussion under an informal agenda item and desired to forward the discussion to the Committee of the Whole. It was determined the City of Sycamore, or the developer through the City of Sycamore, should be requesting the additional access point as the parcel is currently rural and not annexed into the City. Ideally, the parcel would be annexed prior to the granting of an additional access point. During the August Highway Committee meeting, a formal, actionable agenda item was included. Discussion during the topic focused on several points:

- The County-City IGA specifies all access points and reasons for doing so
- The parcel in question has two existing access points from the adjacent commercial development on its east side (Peace Road is on its west side)
- While the developer had concerns about truck access from the commercial development, the Committee believed adequate access was attainable without additional entrances. This is due to the 32 ft wide pavement plus an additional 16 ft to right of way line where the 30 ft wide driveway easement starts for the east driveway. The west driveway is connected to a 110 ft diameter cul-de-sac so trucks turning in & out should not have difficulties.
- The Committee did not want additional conflicts with the Peace Road Trail (bike path) which extends 4.5 miles with minimal conflicts.
- The proposed development on the south half of the parcel would not create as much traffic as a fast-food establishment, but there is no guarantee it will not be sold to a different company. Additionally, the intentions of the north half of the parcel are unknown at this time and could likely include a high-traffic development.
- High amounts of traffic entering and existing Peace Road are not desired unless at one of the predetermined access points.
- The proximity of a driveway so close to other intersections could pose safety concerns as vehicles leave the parcel and immediately cross multiple lanes to switch sides of Peace Road at the adjacent intersection.

These concerns were recognized as issues for not only the subject parcel, but other potential requests along Peace Road. The committee agreed no additional access points to Peace Road, whether at this location or others, should be allowed.

A motion to deny the request to allow Peace Road access point for this parcel was made by Mr. Luebke, seconded by Ms. Willis. The motion to deny was passed unanimously.

Ordinance #O2022-11: PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ALTERED SPEED ZONE:

A request by the Cortland Township Highway Commissioner was made for a reduced speed on Hahn Drive, north of Lincoln Highway, which is located east of Cortland, in unincorporated portion in Cortland Road District. The County Engineer recommends the approval of the request for this section of Hahn Drive as it qualifies as a residence district, and consistent with the State of Illinois urban statutory 30 mph speed zone which is the rural subdivision standard across DeKalb County. Even though the street

is the Road District's jurisdiction, the request has to go through the County Board with the engineer's study that Mr. Schwartz confirms is completed. **A motion by Ms. Emmer, seconded by Mr. Deutsch to send to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. The motion passed unanimously.**

DEPARTMENT BUDGET DISCUSSION:

The Department's proposed 2023 Budget Draft was presented to the Committee. Mr. Schwartz provided the Committee with an overview of the seven different budgets that ultimately will go before the County Board for approval. Equipment purchases and planned construction projects were reviewed, with a few changes made with pricing updates since May's handout. The Peace Road project is moved to 2024 in hopes for grant funding. Individual budgets were reviewed, highlighting and explaining all items that listed a significant increase/decrease over current year's budget. He reminded the committee that these budgets are not part of the County's General Fund, and that the Engineering (funded with the collection of engineering fees for projects) & Motor Fuel Tax Funds (funded with the gas/diesel tax collected) are not part of the Levy/Property Tax collection. Special notation that the Engineering Fund salary total has increased with the offset of moving the Bridge Fund salary into the Engineering Fund; all are engineering technicians anyway. With no executive session placed on the Agenda, Mr. Schwartz offered comments only to explain reasoning in the Form V (variance) for line 6005 salaries. He is requesting to place the Assistant County Engineers salary rate be increased with increase in his duties which includes overseeing the traffic technicians and more in-house duties. The DSATS Fund is federal money with a state funded match so no local money is ultimately spent on this budget. The Savings & Efficiency forms will be forwarded to the Committee upon completion tomorrow. Mr. Schwartz stated that as Committee Members review the budgets, any questions they might have, could be addressed to himself or Stacy.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Chairman Plote stated resurfacing work of Suydam Road has begun. He is concerned with the fiber optic installations throughout the county, now going along the railroad tracks, landowners are voicing their concerns of not being notified of work performed in the ROW and damages to their underground drainage tile. Mr. Schwartz explained that the Highway Department are updating the utility permits to include more language outlining that the ROW is just an easement and that they need to contact underlying property owners, meeting state statues. Chairman Plote stated how difficult it is to go after the utility (once your find out contact information) when damages are found afterwards. No additional comments at this time.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

A photo was provided showing the large collection of items distributed yesterday for the month of July's County's One Initiative coordinated with the Highway Department. 4C – Community Coordinated Child Care was chosen as the benefactor of this collection by our department.

Traffic Signalized Intersections commented he continues to regularly review the Plank/Lindgren intersection request to warrant traffic signals. He discusses the situation regularly with the City of Sycamore. Since the last meeting a request for signals at Peace/Freed was made, a review to see if the intersection warrants signals, at this time it does not meet the warrants. It was mentioned that when improvements of multi-lane widening are completed, it may at that time meet the warrants for a traffic signal. The 24 hr traffic count, 4 hr & 8 hr peaks are all taken into consideration.

Review of previous Safety Projects - comments on Rt. 64 & Peace Rd, a recent full 2-year study data was received to review showing how much the safety improvements have benefited with the decrease of crashes. The Plank Rd widened paved safety shoulders have seen a decreased number of crashes on that road but is still just a small fix, will continue to pursue realignment. The Peace/Plank Rd study has a temporary pause for the artifact searches in the fields. Work continues to look into future public feedback.

The Transportation Improvement Progress Report was reviewed with the Committee.

- New Lebanon Road bridge replacement construction stands at 100% complete
- Peace Road Bridge moving along on design work
- Plank Road Study engineering about 50% complete
- Pearl Street Bridge preliminary engineering is underway for the Village of Kirkland Bridge built in couple of years
- Perry Road Bridge preliminary engineering began
- Rollo Road culvert replacement engineering stands at 50% complete
- Suydam Road paving from Rt. 23 to Rollo Rd has begun
- Seal Coat projects were completed last week

Legislative Update - There is a new bill that proposes when a public agency works for another public agency, prevailing wages must be paid to employees. This would be the same as the workers being considered a contractor. This wage is not only the hourly cash rate but benefits rate also. Most Road Districts would not be able to afford to pay that rate, affecting the smaller Townships which regularly work together on intergovernmental projects. If joint projects were to continue, a possible tax increase might be needed to afford the increase in wages. Chairman Plote spoke that if there is a way the committee can assist the townships please send more information or a fact sheet.

DSATS - Mr. Schwartz informed the committee he recently worked on getting the 5-year TIP for all Federal fund projects updated due to a recent IDOT's submittal. Also noted was the pavement condition survey this year and hiring a fulltime employee. These projects are labor and paid using the federal and state planning dollars.

ADJOURNMENT: Hearing no other business Chairman Plote asked for a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Luebke made an adjournment motion that was seconded by Ms. Willis, motion passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Plote
Chairman