

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, April 5, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 404 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bass, Members Hoselton, Dean, Baggett, and O'Connor

Members Absent: Member Cavallini

Other Members Present: Member Owens

Staff Members Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator, Ms. Christine Northcutt, Recording Secretary, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer; Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer

Others Present: Ms. Christine Brauer, Regional Planning Commission; Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Regional Planning Commission; Ms. Jeanne Morris, League of Women Voters

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. Chairman Bass stated that he was going to make a change in the order of today's agenda. Chairman Bass informed the Committee that Mr. Owens is in attendance at today's meeting in order to give a report on his recent trip to the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. Mr. Owens provided the Committee a copy of a Resolution of Support for the reauthorization of TEA-21 that was passed by the NACo Transportation Steering Committee. Mr. Owens stated that the Steering Committee is asking for funding in the amount of no less than \$318 billion. Mr. Owens stated that because President Bush has announced that he would veto any bill requesting funding over \$284 billion for TEA-21, Congress has made it clear that they will not entertain any bills seeking an amount in excess of \$284 billion.

Mr. Owens informed the Committee that on March 10th the House passed TEA-21 (417-9) for \$284 billion over six years. The bill is now in the Senate. That is where the roadblocks occur because of the donor-donee state issue. Mr. Owens explained that so many cents of each dollar that is sent to Washington D.C., the donor states do not receive the full amount back. For example, New Jersey will receive \$1.11 for every dollar they contribute, but Illinois will only receive \$.90 for every dollar contributed.

Mr. Owens stated that our legislators are aware that TEA-21 needs to move forward, as we are already one year into the six-year plan.

Mr. Owens stated that the County would receive \$1 million of the \$35 million that Congressman Johnson has been promised for his district. Chairman Bass stated that \$1 million would fund the repair of one of the interstate overpasses that need desperate attention in the County.

**Mr. Dean entered the meeting at 8:11 a.m.

Mr. Owens stated that the Transportation Steering Committee also discussed the problems that Amtrak is facing. Mr. Owens stated that President Bush has only recommended only \$360 million in funding for Amtrak. Amtrak is requesting \$1.8 billion in order to remain operational. Mr. Owens stated that if Amtrak does not receive federal funding, they will probably look to the state and local funding levels.

Mr. Hoselton thanked Mr. Owens for his thorough report. There were no questions for Mr. Owens.

Chairman Bass stated that the first item on the agenda today is the approval of the Minutes from the March 1, 2005 Meeting of the Transportation Committee. Chairman Bass asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2005 meeting.

Motion by O'Connor/Baggett to approve the Minutes of the March 1, 2005 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass advised the Committee that the next item for action is payment of the March, 2005 bills. Chairman Bass informed the Committee that he has a letter from Ms. Jackie Dozier, County Auditor, recommending payment of the bills.

Mr. Hoselton asked why the County is using Lewis, Yockey & Brown for its contract work and not The Farnsworth Group. Mr. Mitchell responded that the County has had a standing contract with Lewis, Yockey & Brown for land surveying, plat work, etc. Mr. Dean asked if we should get a competitive bid from the Farnsworth Group. Mr. Mitchell responded that professional services are not competitively bid. Chairman Bass stated that the Farnsworth Group had previously expressed that they were not interested in locking in their prices for an entire year.

Motion by Dean/Hoselton to recommend approval of the bills for March, 2005 as submitted by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that there is no appearance by members of the public.

Chairman Bass stated that the first item for action is the letting results from March 23, 2005 and the March 24, 2005 for County and Township projects. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to present this item.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the Committee has been provided with the two sets of bid tabs and two Resolutions for award of various contracts. Mr. Mitchell stated that the letting was split into two sections. The March 23rd letting was for the intermittent overlay work, bridge work and some other miscellaneous items. The March 24th letting was for all of the oil and chip projects in the Townships and the County. Mr. Mitchell stated that McLean County Asphalt was the low bidder for all of the intermittent overlay projects in Group 10 except for two projects. H.J. Eppel was the low bidder for the Martin Road District project. Towanda Co. is the low bidder for Dawson Road work in Group 14 for stockpiling.

There were several bids for bridge work. The first project is for work on the Heller Bridge. Stark was the low bidder at 7.6% below the estimate. The next project is the box culvert on the Lexington-LeRoy Road in which Stark was the low bidder at 5.97% below the estimate. In the West Road District, Stark was the low bidder, but they were at 16% over the engineer's estimate, so the

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Highway Department is recommending rejection of that bid. The project has been scheduled to be re-bid later this month.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the other bid tab contains the bids for the oil and chip work from the March 24th letting. For the County project, Beniach was the low bidder at 6% over the estimate. For the Allen Township Road Project, Rowe was the low bidder at 2% over the estimate. For the both projects in Anchor and Arrowsmith, Beniach was the low bidder. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Committee can go through the entire bid tab at their leisure. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would recommend award of these projects to the various low bidders as stated in the attached resolution.

Motion Hoselton/O'Connor to recommend approval of the Letting Results from March 23, 2005 and March 24, 2005 for County and Township Projects.
Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is a bridge petition for the 2005 Empire-Dawson Joint Culvert. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell if he would present this item to the Committee.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that that this bridge is located on the Sportsman's Club Road (800 North) which is on the Township line between Empire and Dawson. There are a series of culverts on this road which need work. This project will address the first culvert which needs work. The County's share of the project will be approximately \$10,000.00. The two Townships will split their half based upon assessed valuation. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department recommends approval of this petition.

Motion Dean/O'Connor to recommend approval of a 2005 Empire-Dawson Joint Culvert Bridge Petition.
Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is road work status. Mr. Mitchell stated that there is no work currently taking place, but there will be within the next month.

Chairman Bass stated the next item is an update on the Public Meeting for the Danvers-Carlock Road work. Mr. Mitchell stated that he has provided the Committee with a memo summarizing the primary questions asked at the meeting, an attendance sheet from the meeting and 7 comment sheets that have been received from citizens who have concerns. Mr. Mitchell stated that there is a campground owner who is concerned about the road being closed as it may hinder people from getting to and from his camp site. Mr. Mitchell stated that the

Highway Department has proposed that they fix the road first that most affects the traffic in and out of the campground. Other concerns were that if the road is fixed, there will be many people speeding along the road and it may create a safety hazard.

Ms. O'Connor asked about the concern that residents raised regarding the Township Road which crosses the Danvers-Carlock Road (East-West) and the possibility for people to be unable stop at the intersection. Mr. Mitchell responded that residents are worried that when the bridge is removed in that area during construction, cars could slide into the creek. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the bridge does not sit square with the East-West Township Road, so there is currently a hazard in that area. Mr. Mitchell stated that they will be placing attenuator (?) barrels in line with the Township Road, so that if someone does slide through the intersection they would hit the barrels. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department looked into regrading the hill, but it would have been a major project and very expensive.

Mr. Mitchell stated that construction on this road was originally scheduled to take place this year. It has become evident that this is going to be impossible. Mr. Mitchell advised the Committee that next month the Highway Department will present an appraisal agreement to the Committee. The appraisal agreement will help to determine the value of property in the areas. The appraisal process will take 3 – 4 months. Following the appraisal process, the right-of-way negotiations will begin. The right of way negotiations will last into the winter and then a Spring 2006 letting would follow. If all goes as planned, construction would begin soon after the letting. The road would be complete with an aggregate surface by the end of Summer, 2006. The following year the Highway Department could finish the project by putting a surface on the road.

Mr. Mitchell stated that there were questions from the public as to whether this would be an 80,000 lb. road. It was originally proposed to be an oil and chip road, which would be a 73,280 lb. road. But if it is the Committee's pleasure, the Highway Department can apply for partial funding to have the road surfaced with hot-mix. Ms. O'Connor stated that the residents are concerned with safety if the road surface is very smooth. Chairman Bass stated that both safety and an 80,000 lb. road should be goals of any road that is being resurfaced. Mr. Mitchell stated that he believes that it would probably be a better option to go with the hot-mix. Ms. O'Connor asked if Mr. Mitchell could research this and noted that she would support the hot-mix surface. Chairman Bass informed the Committee that they cannot take any action on this matter today as it is only an item for information. Mr. Mitchell stated that he will do some research and place this item on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Mr. Baggett asked why the Highway Department would be pushing for this change on people who seem against it. Chairman Bass stated that there will

always be people who want things to stay at the status quo. There are others who feel the change will be a positive one. Chairman Bass stated that typically the people who are against an action are usually the ones who are most vocal. Ms. O'Connor stated that there were many people at the Public Hearing who were supportive of this action. Mr. Mitchell stated that this change is being proposed mostly as a matter of public safety. Mr. Baggett asked what would happen if someone is adamant against giving the County right-of-way on their property. Mr. Mitchell replied that the County would seek an injunction for condemnation. Chairman Bass added that condemnation is done only as a last resort.

Chairman Bass thanked the Committee for all of their comments.

Chairman Bass asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, Chairman Bass asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session.

Motion by Dean/Hoselton to enter into Executive Session at 9:06 a.m. to discuss Collective Bargaining with the Committee Members, County Administrator's Office staff, Mr. Jack Mitchell, and Mr. Eric Schmidt to remain in the meeting. Motion carried.

The Committee went into Executive Session to discuss collective Bargaining issues.

Motion by O'Connor/Dean to exit Executive Session at 9:17 a.m.

The committee

With no further business to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman Bass adjourned the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt
Recording Secretary