

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on December 2, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. at the Law and Justice Center, Room 700, 104 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Mrs. Carmen Zielinski, Administrator's Office; Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer

Others Present: Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Planner, Regional Planning; Ms. Christine Brauer, Member, Regional Planning Commission

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Chairman Bass presented the Minutes of the November 4, 2003 meeting for approval.

Motion by Owens/Cavallini to approve the Minutes of the November 4, 2003 meeting of the Transportation Committee as presented.
Motion carried.

Chairman Bass presented the bills for approval. The Committee reviewed the bills.

Mr. Cavallini asked for clarification of the "Group Purchasing" category in the bills. Mr. Mitchell explained that the purchasing of culverts, salt, signs, posts, in large quantities falls under this category. By having these items readily available, the Townships are able to purchase these item directly from the Highway Department.

Mr. Dean noted that by purchasing these items in such large quantities, a better price is achieved for everyone.

Mr. Cavallini made reference to the "Purchase of Right of Way" line item on page 7 of the Bills. Mr. Cavallini wanted to know where the Right of Way was purchased. Mr. Mitchell answered that this Right of Way was purchased for the Springtown Road project forward.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to approve the bills for November 2003 as transmitted by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented a 2004 County Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance Resolution appropriating \$1,800,000.00 from the Motor Fuel Tax allotment for the maintenance on County or State Highways, meeting the requirements of the Illinois Highway Code.

Mr. Owens noted that the only change on this resolution was an increase in the amount. Mr. Mitchell clarified that the only change from last year is the increase in the amount from \$1,700,000.00 to \$1,800,000.00. Mr. Mitchell noted that the \$1,800,000.00 is the estimated budget amount assigned to the maintenance account. As the construction projects are finalized and an estimate for the project is prepared, a construction Resolution is presented for approval.

Mr. Owens wondered what happens if this \$1,800,000.00 is surpassed for maintenance. Mr. Mitchell explained that more Motor Fuel Tax money can be appropriated to maintenance during the year if necessary.

Mr. Dean asked for clarification of the source of the Motor Fuel Tax funds. Mr. Mitchell explained that motor fuel tax is collected and distributed by the State. The State of Illinois keeps about 47% of the motor fuel tax. When the last license fee was increased,

the local share of the motor fuel tax increased. Mr. Mitchell could not recall the exact amount shared by all the entities at this time. Mr. Mitchell estimated that the townships receive 18% of the tax based on the road mileage in their road district. The municipalities share is based on their population versus the population of the rest of the State. The County's share of the Motor Fuel Tax funds is based on the number of motor vehicle registrations in the County. Mr. Dean asked if the County's share is based on actual sales within the County. Mr. Mitchell replied that the sales within the County do not affect the County's share. Mr. Mitchell noted that there also is a County Consolidated Program enacted several years ago that provides around \$400,000.00 to McLean County for highway projects.

Motion by Owens/Cavallini to recommend approval of the 2004 Motor Fuel Tax County Maintenance Resolution. Motion carried.

At this time, Chairman Bass suggested that the Executive Session scheduled at this time be moved to the end of the meeting. Hearing no objections, Chairman Bass referred to the Road Work Status report listed on the agenda.

Mr. Mitchell noted that Rowe Construction finished paving binder and finished curb, gutter and shoulder work. County work is complete for the winter regarding this project. This project goes from Kickapoo Creek Bridge to 1800 East. Mr. Owens asked when will Rowe Construction be finished with their portion of the project. Mr. Mitchell replied that Rowe will finish the level binder, petrovan and the surface layer next spring and summer. Mr. Owens noted that the County construction part of the project does not have an estimated percentage of completion listed. Mr. Mitchell explained that the County will have to do some minor restoration next spring and summer on this area and that he will provide a percentage of completion in the next project summary.

Mr. Dean commented that he drove by this project this weekend and was pleased with the results.

Mr. Mitchell referred to the other Randolph Road District project from Route 51 to Kickapoo Creek Bridge. Mr. Mitchell stated that Rowe Construction has paved the binder and finished the curb and gutters at Route 51 and Kickapoo Creek Bridge location. Stark is working on the box culvert and should be completed with this part of the project in about four (4) weeks. Mr. Mitchell noted that the new portion of the road should open soon.

Mr. Owens suggested including the future projected costs of County construction and the construction engineering portion of the projects for the members to consider as the project moves along. Mr. Mitchell answered that he will make it a point to provide these figures in the future.

Mr. Mitchell referred to the status of the Lexington Township Road 2200 North and 2650 East. Mr. Mitchell stated that Members Owens and Hoselton were at the meeting regarding this project.

At this time, Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to recap the details of this project for the new Committee members. Mr. Mitchell pointed out the location of this project on the map. The road has been oil and chip for roughly a quarter of a mile. Mr. Mitchell stated that as new homes have been built, the oil and chip road has been expanded by adding a gravel surface to provide a road for the new homes. Mr. Mitchell pointed out that there is a bridge on this road that is very narrow and has been considered a safety issue. A bridge petition was approved by the County Board to enlarge this bridge a few years ago. As the road work is being done, the bridge will be enlarged. Mr. Mitchell noted that about a year ago, there was a public hearing where the residents expressed their concern about losing their trees, front yards and fences. The County has been negotiating with the farmer across the road who has expressed some interest in selling part of his property to the County to facilitate this project. However, two of the residents near the bridge portion of the project have now expressed their concern about the need to cut into the front part of their property.

Chairman Bass commented that after a telephone call with Mr. Randy Patton, Lexington Township Road Commissioner, it has been concluded that the Highway Department has to follow the guidelines established by the State for this project. The State mandates that this bridge be widened and brought up to code. If there is a need to purchase more of the Right of Way, then negotiations should be commenced. Chairman Bass stated that he had planned on being at the public hearing but decided not to attend because he was aware that two other Transportation Committee members were planning to attend and his appearance would have violated the Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Owens stated that he was present at the public hearing meeting where some concern was expressed on losing trees, but mostly they were concerned with losing property. The residents expressed their concern that the project would decrease their property resale value.

Mr. Owens asked Mr. Mitchell for a list of Right of Way purchased for this project. Mr. Mitchell answered that no Right of Way has been purchased at this time. The farmer has verbally agreed to sell some of his land, but since there are no finalized plans, no action has been taken in regards to the purchase of right of way.

Mr. Cavallini commented that the gravel road is 13 feet wide at the present time. It is estimated that this gravel road should be widened to 18 feet with about 60 feet of right of way. Mr. Mitchell explained that the right of way has been decreased to 50 feet on the east/west and initial north/south sides. Mr. Mitchell noted that on the east/west portion,

there is no need to purchase right of way from anyone's property except around the culvert area. The farmer has no problem with the widening since he is interested in selling parts of his property. On the north/south piece, the first several properties will not be affected due to the purchasing of land from the farmer. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the purchase of right of way will be handled by the Township, not the County. The suggestion of shifting the bridge over in order to miss the front yards of these residents is now being considered.

(Mr. Hoselton entered the meeting at 8:30 a.m.)

Mr. Hoselton made reference to a bridge agreement discussed in 2000 that was not presented to the Committee. Mr. Hoselton wanted to know the specific plan for the widening of this bridge. Mr. Mitchell stated that preliminary plans for the bridge have been designed. The next step is to resubmit them to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for their review and approval. However, if the plans have to be changed because of shifting the location for the bridge, more time will pass before it is presented to IDOT. This bridge project is scheduled for this State fiscal year, which ends on June 30, 2004.

Ms. O'Connor asked if by "shifting over", the bridge would move more towards the farmer's property. Mr. Mitchell answered that yes the shifting would occur towards the farmer's property. Mr. Mitchell is hopeful to have this project to a letting in early spring, before the construction season begins.

Mr. Owens asked if right of way is purchased before or after construction starts. Mr. Mitchell answered that right of way has to be purchased before any construction is started. Mr. Owens then asked why the County is involved with the right of way. Mr. Mitchell answered the County is involved because every bridge in the County is the responsibility of the County Highway Department. Also, all of the engineering for the Township's Motor Fuel Tax projects is done by the County Highway Department.

Mr. Cavallini heard that the bridge funding is based on a 80-10-10 split. Mr. Mitchell clarified that 80% of the State Township Bridge Program Funds are used for these types of projects. The County pays 10% and the Township pays the other 10%. Mr. Dean asked if the Township has their 10% share. Mr. Mitchell answered that they do have their share of the project. Mr. Owens noted that if the bridge is widened, then the road has to be fixed accordingly. Mr. Mitchell replied that about ½ mile of road will need to be improved in order to make the grades even all around.

Mr. Owens commented that some of the residents have voiced their concern about the amount of property to be lost. Mr. Cavallini asked if a map of the project could be provided for the Committee to review. Mr. Mitchell cannot provide an actual set of final

maps. At the meeting, the residents viewed an aerial photograph with lines drawn on them. He will make this photograph available to the members of the Committee.

Mr. Hoselton stated that he has heard comments of a forty-acre subdivision being considered for that area. Mr. Mitchell replied that in a conversation with the farmer, possible development of a subdivision was discussed. However, after checking with the Building and Zoning Department, it has been determined that a subdivision cannot be developed without going through the zoning and subdivision approval process. At this time, Mr. Mitchell does not know if the farmer is still interested in pursuing a subdivision project.

Chairman Bass asked if this project was at an impasse or should this project be pushed forward. Mr. Mitchell answered that this project is not at an impasse, but the alternatives to the bridge issue have to be worked out. Mr. Mitchell pointed out that there are three residents that still have to agree to this project and without a plan to show them the options, further discussion can't occur.

Mr. Owens commented that it was mentioned that once the final plans are drawn, a final meeting will be scheduled where the residents can review and discuss the plans. Mr. Owens suggested that when this meeting to review the final plans for the project is scheduled, the media be notified and all the members of Transportation Committee be invited to participate. Members concurred.

Chairman Bass referred to the Budget Reports in the agenda. Chairman Bass asked if anyone had any questions regarding the Budget Reports. Ms. O'Connor asked for clarification on the budget lines showing a 177% figure. Mr. Mitchell explained that part of the 177% figure line items are construction projects that were programmed in the prior fiscal year. Funding for all of these items has already been budgeted.

Chairman Bass asked if anyone had any other questions regarding the Budget Reports. Hearing none, Chairman Bass asked for a motion to enter into an Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters.

Motion by Owens/Cavillini to enter into an Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters. Motion carried.

The Transportation Committee entered Executive Session at 8:49 a.m.

The Transportation Committee adjourned Executive Session at 9:35 a.m.

Mr. Zeunik, County Administrator, presented a County Engineer Motor Fuel Tax Salary Resolution. Mr. Zeunik stated that for the purposes of presenting a resolution to the

County Board, the Transportation Committee is recommending an annualized salary of \$91,513.12 for the County Highway Engineer. Based on the Step Increase formula, this increase reflects a three-step increase from Step 75 to 78. The expected 2.5% across the board increase effective January 1, 2004 and the additional travel expenses for this position, are incorporated in this resolution.

Motion by Hoselton/Cavallini to recommend
Approval of the Resolution Appropriating
Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the County
Engineer's Salary and Schooling and Conference
Expenses, as recommended by the County
Administrator. Motion carried.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bass at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carmen I. Zielinski
Recording Secretary