

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, January 11, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 404 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: Member Hoselton

Other Members Present: None

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. Bill Wasson, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer

Others Present: Ms. Christine Brauer, Regional Planning Commission

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

Chairman Bass introduced all who were present at the meeting. Chairman Bass introduced Mr. Terry Baggett, who is the Transportation Committee's newest member.

Chairman Bass presented the Minutes of the December 7, 2004 meeting for approval.

Motion by Dean/Cavallini to approve the Minutes of the December 7, 2004 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass informed the Committee that the next item on the agenda is the payment of the December 2004 bills. Chairman Bass noted that he has a letter from Ms. Jackie Dozier, County Auditor, recommending payment of the bills.

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Mr. Cavallini asked Mr. Mitchell what is *Contact Construction*. Mr. Mitchell responded that *Contact Construction* is the pipe company that was awarded the culvert bid for this year.

Mr. Dean asked what are the payments of \$131,250.00 and \$100,000.00 to the Illinois State Treasurer. Mr. Mitchell replied that the County entered into an agreement with the State of Illinois regarding the widening of Pipeline Road to four lanes and placing signals at intersection of Pipeline Road and Northtown Road. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Town of Normal is reimbursing the County for half of this bill and the County is making payments to the State of Illinois.

Motion by O'Connor/Cavallini to recommend approval of the bills for December, 2004 as submitted by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the first item on the agenda is the letting results from December 29, 2004 for County Projects. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to present this item to the Committee. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department held a letting for cold-mix and hot-mix on truck. Mr. Mitchell stated that Rowe was the low bidder for cold-mix at \$48.50 per ton. For Sylvax, McLean County Asphalt came in as the low bid at \$76.00 per ton. Mr. Mitchell stated that for the hot-mix on truck, Rowe was low bidder for the Northtown, Downs, Shirley at \$38.00 and McLean County Asphalt is low bidder for other areas at \$37.50 per ton. Mr. Mitchell stated that these are on truck bids so all bids are accepted subject to mileage and availability. Mr. Mitchell recommended approval of the award of these bids.

Motion by Dean/Cavallini to recommend approval
of the Letting Results from December 29, 2004 for
County and Township Projects. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item on the agenda is a Weight Limit Ordinance. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to present this item to the Committee. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Committee has been provided with a map which summarizes the County roads and their various weight limits. Mr. Mitchell stated that over the years the Committee has approved resolutions for 80,000 lbs. weight limit, which are coded in blue on the map. There are no 80,000 lbs. roads being added, but there are some upgrades due to some structural changes which have been made by the Highway Department. Chairman Bass reminded the Committee that the McLean County Sheriff's Department works with most of the Townships to hire a Sheriff's Deputy to patrol the roads for weight limit violations. Mr. Mitchell added that there is a spring weight limit ordinance that begins January 15th and runs through April 15th. Mr. Mitchell noted that every spring is different as to when the signs are put up to enforce the ordinance. The County does not want to place the signs up too early because if the trucks can still haul the County would prefer that they continue to haul before the ground gets too soft. In the spring when the roads have dried up, the postings are removed.

Motion by O'Connor/Cavallini to recommend approval
of the proposed Weight Limit Ordinance. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item on the agenda is a resolution for County Highway 15 stop signs. Mr. Mitchell stated that this resolution is for two intersections on Sabina Road straight south of Arrowsmith where County Highway 15 bends, goes through Sabina down to Route 136. This Resolution is to make a four-way stop at the intersection south of Arrowsmith and to make a three-way stop at the "T" north of Sabina. The corner straight south of Arrowsmith is currently a two-way stop and there was recently a fatal accident at

that intersection. Mr. Mitchell noted that he would recommend approval of this Resolution. Mr. Dean thanked the Highway Department for this investigation, as this is the intersection where he recently had an accident.

Motion by Dean/O'Connor to recommend approval of
a Resolution to for Stop Signs on County Highway
15. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item on the agenda is a Safety Application for Evergreen Lake. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Committee will find a map of this proposed improvement to an access road in COMLARA Park which currently runs straight into a boat ramp and then into the lake. Mr. Mitchell explained that several years ago there were four high school students in a car, which drove immediately off the road and into the lake. Three of the students drowned. Last year a gentleman went off the road and into the lake. There were a group of Boy Scouts camping in the area, the Scouts pulled the gentleman from his car and save his life. Mr. Mitchell stated that alcohol did play a part in both of these scenarios.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the strip on the map that is marked in yellow is a proposed "ramp" with loose aggregate material to stop any run away vehicles that would try to go through that road again. The material that is taken off the roadway and replaced with the loose aggregate will be placed to the east of that area and provide an additional parking lot.

Mr. Mitchell stated that currently there are two sets of stop signs and rumble strips in place, and there still has been drivers who end up in the lake. The fear that Mr. Bill Wasson, Director, Parks and Recreation Department and the Highway Department share is that there may be an innocent person on the boat ramp getting a boat in or out of the water and may be hit by a runaway vehicle.

Mr. Mitchell stated that last year the Highway Department recommended placing attenuator barrels in the roadway, which the Committee voted down. Mr. Mitchell stated that there are federal highway safety funds may be available for this project. The total project cost for this project is \$200,000.00 and there are \$180,000.00 of federal safety funds available. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that these funds are not guaranteed, but have been applied for. Mr. Mitchell stated that if the Committee does not wish to proceed with this request, the Highway Department can withdraw the application. Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Wasson if he had anything to add. Mr. Wasson stated that his concern is not only for the drivers, but for the users of the boat ramp facility. The White Oak area of the Park has been an area of increasing usage. There is also limited parking in that area. This design would not only increase the Park's safety, but would provide additional safe parking.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that this will not be the final approval for this project. If and when the federal funding comes through, the Committee will be able to go over the details of the project. Chairman Bass stated that he believes that this proposal is a waste of money in order to stop people who have been drinking and driving from having accidents. After a brief discussion, Mr. Dean called for the question. Chairman Bass noted that the Chair will vote.

Motion by O'Connor/Dean to recommend approval
of a Safety Application for Evergreen Lake.
Chairman Bass voted "no". Motion carried 4-1.

Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell if he had any items to be presented for the Committee's information. Mr. Mitchell stated that there is no roadwork status presently as they have been weathered out of projects. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that he has received a letter from the Village of Downs requesting no parking along Washington Street from Seminary to the block where St. Mary's Catholic Church is located. The problem is that there is 31 feet between sidewalks and when there are cars parked along both sides of this street during church services or events it is extremely tight. Mr. Mitchell stated that St. Mary's Church is not receptive to this idea. Mr. Mitchell stated that he has sent a letter to the Village of Downs and to St. Mary's Church requesting a meeting to see if this can be worked out before this comes before the Committee for action.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he has provided the Committee with an updated County Highway Map, a State Highway Map and a Law Book. The Law Book is printed by the Illinois Department of Transportation every couple of years which contains the pertinent statutes that the Transportation Committee deals with.

Mr. Cavallini asked what is the status for the meeting regarding Danvers/Carlock Road. Mr. Mitchell stated that there will be a public meeting to explain the resurfacing of the road. The residents along the road and the media will be notified. Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Zeunik if this will violate the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Zeunik stated that as long as there is no official Committee business that takes place at this meeting, this will not be a violation of the Open Meetings Act.

Chairman Bass asked if there were any further comments or questions. With no further business to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman Bass stated that he would entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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Motion by Cavallini/O'Connor to adjourn the
Meeting of the Transportation Committee at
9:06 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt
Recording Secretary

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