

## Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, May 4, 1999 at 7:30 a.m. at the McLean County Highway Department, R.R. #1, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bass, Members Emmett, Kinzinger, Anderson, Hoselton

Members Absent: None

Department Heads/

Elected Officials

Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, County Highway Department

Others Present: Ms. Abby Moore, McLean County Regional Planning Commission

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Chairman Bass presented the minutes of the April 6, 1999 meeting for approval.

Motion by Hoselton/Kinzinger to accept and place on file the minutes of the April 6, 1999 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass presented the bills which have been reviewed and recommended for transmittal to the Transportation Committee by the County Auditor. Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, County Highway Department, reported that there is nothing unusual contained in the bills.

Mr. Emmett stated that he noticed in the bills that several right-of-ways were purchased. Mr. Emmett asked where are these right-of-ways located. Mr. Mitchell advised that the right-of-ways are located on the Hudson Road, including the Gildersleeve Corner. As the Committee members will recall, there is a site distance problem at the Gildersleeve Corner. Major fatalities have occurred along this area over the years. As soon as all of the right-of-ways are purchased, staff will begin the dirt and aggregate work along this section of the road, including cutting down the hill and raising the grade on both sides to obtain adequate site distance.

Motion by Emmett/Anderson to recommend payment of the bills as presented and recommended by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

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Mr. Mitchell presented a request for approval of a Bicycle Ride Permit from the Fellowship of Christian Farmers International to host "Pedaling for Kicks on Route 66" on July 24, 1999.

Motion by Hoselton/Emmett to recommend approval of a Bicycle Ride Permit for the Fellowship of Christian Farmers International for the "Pedaling for Kicks on Route 66". Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented a request for approval of a Resolution to Install a 4-Way Stop at the intersection of Old Route 150 (County Highway 70) and Martin Luther King Drive. Numerous accidents have occurred at this intersection. Mr. Mitchell reported that the County has applied, with the City of Bloomington, for safety funds to improve this intersection by putting in a turning lane and traffic signals. Funding will be split 80% by State, 10% by the City and 10% by the County. The County's share for this project will total approximately \$20,000 to \$30,000. Approval of the request for the safety funds is not anticipated until the year 2001. In the meantime, the intersection will become a 4-way stop.

Motion by Emmett/Kinzinger to recommend approval of a Resolution to Install a 4-Way Stop at the intersection of Old Route 150 (County Highway 70) and Martin Luther King Drive. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance for an Engineering Assistant position. Mr. Mitchell distributed to each Committee member a copy of a memo addressed to the County Administrator, the Finance Committee and the Transportation Committee regarding the request. Mr. Mitchell advised that, during the discussions of the Subdivision Ordinance, one of the major concerns was the inspection of the subdivision streets. In some instances, work on subdivision streets has been completed without any inspections. Minutes of the Transportation Committee

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The Subdivision Ordinance was approved with the provision that the inspection of the subdivisions would become the responsibility of the County. Mr. Mitchell advised that he is proposing that Mr. Richard Brettnacher, Engineer II, take over the inspection process of the subdivision streets. Mr. Jeff Tracy, Engineer II, who formerly performed this work, will now be working with the Township Road Commissioners.

Mr. Mitchell explained that the Engineering Assistant position will be a full-time position performing inspection work during the building season and performing survey work in the off season. Mr. Hoselton asked what are the duty requirements of the Engineering Assistant position. Mr. Mitchell explained that the first duty will be to assist the Engineer in the inspection process; for example, inspecting storm sewers, curb and gutter, surface work and any of the grading work that is done in the subdivision. When the individual is not assisting in the inspection process, he will be out surveying.

Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to clarify if the proposed Engineering Assistant position will be a new position. Mr. Mitchell replied that the proposed position will be a new position. Chairman Bass asked if any other Oversight Committee is aware of this request. Mr. Mitchell advised that the Land Use Committee, during the review process of the Subdivision Ordinance, was made aware that this request would be forthcoming. Chairman Bass asked if funding for this position is available in the Budget. Mr. Mitchell replied that funding for this position is not available in the Highway Department's Budget. This request was presented to the County Administrator's Office last fall during the budget process. Because the Subdivision Ordinance was not approved at that time of the budget process, it was decided that the position could not be added. Once the Subdivision Ordinance was approved, the position could then be incorporated into the Budget by amendment, if approved.

Mr. Hoselton asked if the County would be invading the mile and a half perimeter rule around the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal in taking over the inspection of subdivisions. Mr. Mitchell explained that the mile and a half perimeter is for zoning purposes only. If an annexation agreement is entered into, the County is not involved. Mr. Hoselton commented that good business from a City Administrator's viewpoint would be to make a deal with the County to perform the engineering work within the mile and a half perimeter. After the engineering work is completed, the City could then enter into an annexation agreement. Mr. Mitchell advised that this scenario could happen. This is not usual practice in the County's prime subdivision areas. Mr. Hoselton noted that this process could save the City or Town a lot of money in engineering fees. For example, there are 640 acres located north of the Town of Normal that Mr. Jack Snyder, developer, purchased. This property is located outside the Town of Normal's limits. As a result, the County could end up spending a lot of money on engineering fees. Mr. Mitchell advised that it is his understanding that an annexation agreement is being prepared for this property between the Town and Mr. Snyder.

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Mr. Mitchell advised that he is requesting that the Transportation Committee approve an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance in the amount of \$19,000 to add the position of Engineering Assistant. Mr. Kinzinger asked if Mr. Mitchell had any one in mind for this position at this time. Mr. Mitchell replied that the position will be advertised. The individual should possess engineering technology experience. In addition, the individual should have a couple years of schooling, either in drafting, technology or related work. This can be by experience, school or a combination thereof. The hiring process will be through the Highway Department.

Chairman Bass commented that he does not believe in the philosophy of rotating employees from department to department. Right now, he does not really see the need for an additional position. Chairman Bass asked if the salaries of the individual being rotated around would change, depending upon the job. Mr. Mitchell explained that the individuals who are rotated will stay at their current salary. Chairman Bass asked what happens if the individual is rotated to another position that pays more. Chairman Bass asked if, in this circumstance, would the salary of the individual increase. Mr. Mitchell reported that salaries of the individuals being rotated do not change and will remain at the same level. Chairman Bass asked if all of the Engineers are at the same salary level. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Engineers are not at the same salary rate, but are in the same job classification and pay grade. The actual salary rate could be different because of the number of years that an individual has been employed by the County.

Chairman Bass advised that he still has a problem with rotating Engineers from job to job. By the time an individual gets familiar with a particular job, he is then rotated to another job.

Mr. Hoselton commented that he does not believe that this situation occurs as often as it may seem.

Chairman Bass asked how often are the Engineers rotated. Mr. Mitchell replied that the last time the Engineers were rotated was approximately five years ago. Mr. Mitchell explained that the technician position will not be involved in the rotation system. This individual will work for the engineer who performs the subdivision inspection work at a lower pay grade.

Mr. Hoselton asked if the salary for the Technician position could be set at a not to exceed figure of \$16.00. Mr. Mitchell advised that a Full-Time Equivalent Resolution is being presented to the Finance Committee this evening. The Finance Committee is the proper Oversight Committee to make this determination. Mr. Mitchell advised that he will present a status report to the Committee at next month's meeting regarding the decision made by the Finance Committee.

Chairman Bass asked if there were any qualified employees who could be promoted from within for the position. Mr. Mitchell commented that there are two individuals already on staff who would qualify for the position. The position will be posted in-house as well as published in the newspaper.

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Motion by Kinzinger/Anderson to recommend approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance for an Engineer Assistant position, County Highway Department. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented a request for approval of an Ordinance Establishing a Speed Zone on the Colfax/Weston Blacktop Road. Mr. Mitchell reported that the Department has received numerous complaints about the speed limit along this Road. A speed study was performed and staff is proposing to lower the speed limit to 45 mph through the one-half mile Township Road near the north edge of Weston.

Motion by Hoselton/Kinzinger to recommend approval of an Ordinance Establishing a Speed Zone on the Colfax/Weston Blacktop Road. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented a request for approval of a Resolution for the Improvement of a Portion of County Highway 12 also known as the Hudson Road. The proposed Resolution will allow the County to proceed to condemnation, if the need should arise along this portion of Highway.

Motion by Anderson/Emmett to recommend approval of a Resolution for the Improvement of a Portion of County Highway 12 also known as the Hudson Road. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell reported that the Highway Department recently was donated a grader by Funk's Farm. The donated grader will sit in a small gravel road exhibit on the south side of the driveway at the Highway Department.

Mr. Mitchell reported that a stand-up meeting will need to be scheduled prior to the County Board meeting on May 18th to award sign bids. Also, immediately following the County Board meeting, an Open House will be held at the Highway Department inviting County Board members, Road Commissioners, Mayors of the Villages and other appointed and Elected Officials to tour the addition and renovation of the Highway Department Offices.

Mr. Mitchell advised that the engineering work has now been started on the Towanda-Barnes Road from Route 9 up to Fort Jesse Road. The consultant is in the process of performing an intersection design study at GE Road and Fort Jesse Road. This will identify whether the intersection needs to have stop signs or be signalized.

Mr. Mitchell advised that several things are occurring in the Legislature right now. As the Committee members will recall, the County asked Senator Maitland to include a provision in a "Quick Take" Bill to allow the County to have "quick take" authority on the section of the Towanda-Barnes Road from Route 150 to Fort Jesse Road. Mr. Mitchell stated that Senator Maitland informed him yesterday that this provision has been included in the Bill. Senator Minutes of the Transportation Committee

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Maitland is also requesting that the County receive approximately \$2 million dollars from the infrastructure bill for highways. The \$2 million dollars will equal the 25% federal funding reduction for the Towanda-Barnes Road project. In addition, there is approximately \$50 million

dollars available for special assistance programs. If the special assistance program is approved, the County will receive approximately \$400,000 a year to be used on County Highways. There is also discussion concerning doubling the cost of annual vehicle registration fees from \$48.000 to \$96.00.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman Bass adjourned the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer L. Drummond  
Recording Secretary