

Minutes of the Transportation Committee Meeting

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, November 7, 2000 at 7:30 a.m. in Room 700, Law and Justice Center, 104 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bass, Members Hoselton, Lawlis

Members Absent: Members Emmett, Kinzinger

Staff Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Martha B. Ross, Executive Secretary, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads/
Elected Officials

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

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. and declared that a quorum was present. Chairman Bass presented the minutes of the October 3, 2000 meeting for approval.

Motion by Lawlis/Hoselton to accept and place on file the minutes of the October 3, 2000 meeting for approval. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass presented the bills, which have been reviewed and recommended for transmittal to the Transportation Committee by the County Auditor.

Motion by Lawlis/Hoselton to recommend payment of the bills as presented by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented the results of the letting from November 2, 2000 and the salt bids. He stated that Morton Salt was the low bidder at \$86,490.00 (\$28.83 per ton). He further stated that Stark Materials was the low bidder for gravel at \$7.83 per ton. The gravel price includes having the material hauled into place.

Chairman Bass asked how the price of salt presently compares to past years. Mr. Mitchell stated that the cost is approximately the same as in past years. He noted that the processes of using the state bid or continue bidding separately should be reviewed for next year, in the interest of economy.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he has spoken with representatives from both the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal, and found that they both utilize the state bid. He noted that both towns would be willing to consider a joint bid in the future.

Mr. Lawlis asked where the salt comes from. Mr. Mitchell stated that Morton Salt's terminal is located in Pekin, Illinois. The salt itself comes from Louisiana. Mr. Lawlis then asked how more salt is obtained if needed. Mr. Mitchell responded that the bid states that the County has the right to order 30% over the estimated amount at the original price.

Mr. Lawlis asked whether the County has sufficient storage for its seasonal salt supply. Mr. Mitchell responded that there is storage for just less than 2,000 tons. There are four (4) bays that hold approximately 400 tons each, making storage capacity approximately 1,600 tons.

Mr. Lawlis asked whether the County must pick up the salt order or is it delivered. Mr. Mitchell responded that the price includes delivery. The salt comes from Pekin and is usually delivered within one (1) to five (5) days.

Motion by Lawlis/Hoselton to approve the Resolution for salt bid by Morton Salt and the bid by Stark Materials on the MFT Maintenance Sections in Downs Road District. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Resolution for the sale of surplus vehicles and equipment. He explained that Lawndale Township was the successful bidder on the 1989 2654 International Tandem 6X4. The bid was \$15,000.00, over the minimum of \$12,500.00. He noted that this was the same truck that had previously received a bid of \$5,000.00, which was rejected as being too low. In the interim, a snowplow hitch and a used plow were added to the unit, which increased the value of the unit and resulted in a higher bid.

Chairman Bass asked whether there were many bidders present for this bid process. Mr. Mitchell stated that Lee Township was the only township that attended. There were four (4) bidders for the unit, but some were not serious participants.

Chairman Bass asked whether the townships are given any preference in the bidding. Mr. Mitchell stated that several years ago, items were offered only to the townships. Later it was decided to advertise items to the public and that practice has continued to date.

Mr. Mitchell presented the bid for the 1994 Ford F-250 pickup truck. It is \$3,200.00. The minimum bid was set at \$2,000.00. The 1993 Ford F-150 pickup truck bid was \$1,650.00. The minimum bid on this unit was set at \$1,000.00. The New Idea 708 Uni Tractor bid was \$550.00. It was previously bid at \$50.00, which was rejected at that time. He noted that the County Highway Department recommends the sale of the stated surplus equipment to the successful bidders.

Mr. Hoselton asked whether any of the successful bidders were employees of the County. Mr. Mitchell stated that some of the bidders were County employees, but none of the successful bidders are employed by McLean County.

Motion by Hoselton/Lawlis to approve the Resolution awarding the sale of surplus equipment to the stated successful bidders in the amounts specified in the Resolution. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Contract for Appraisal Services with Mr. Jay Heap. The parcels covered under the contract are located on Arrowsmith Road. He noted that one parcel will be condemned and therefore, must proceed through the Circuit Court process. An appraiser is required in such a situation, in order to testify as to the value of the property in question.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he took proposals from four (4) different appraisers who are certified by the State of Illinois. Mr. Jay Heap was the lowest bid.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the owner of the two (2) parcels, an investor in Florida, is not willing to settle on a purchase price at this time. Mr. Hoselton asked what the offer to purchase the property was. Mr. Mitchell responded that the offer was \$3,200.00 per acre, an offer that was accepted by all other property owners in the area.

Mr. Mitchell presented the second Contract for Appraisal Services with Mr. Jay Heap. He stated that this contract covers Section 113 of Towanda Barnes Road, from Route 9 to Fort Jesse Road. There are eleven (11) parcels there that need to be upgraded. The price for the eleven (11) parcels is \$13,750.00.

Mr. Lawlis asked what the price of appraisal was for Park-Stoutamoyer. Mr. Mitchell stated that they were approximately \$3,000.00 more than Mr. Heap. He explained that the 12th parcel is owned by the Central Illinois Regional Airport, which has signed an Intergovernmental Agreement stating that the parcel in question will be conveyed to the Highway Department. All

that remains is for the Airport to sign a statement noting that an appraisal is not needed to determine the fair market value of that parcel.

Mr. Hoselton asked whether any time in Court is anticipated in this matter. Mr. Mitchell stated that the amount of Court time in the matter is unknown at this time. To date, there have been no landowners who have refused to sell.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the third Contract for Appraisal Services relates to a federal project. Park-Stoutamoyer will provide appraisal services for the required review appraisal. The cost for the contract will be \$4,600.00.

Motion by Lawlis/Hoselton to approve the contracts for appraisal services with Mr. Jerry Heap for Arrowsmith Road and Towanda Barnes Road and with Park-Stoutamoyer for the review appraisal for Towanda Barnes Road.
Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell stated, with regard to the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan, that maps were provided to the Committee. Mr. Mitchell pointed out that the projects shown on the map were included within the County's Five-Year Improvement Plan. He noted that a motion is needed in order to recommend the projects to the full County Board.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the priority of the various projects currently under consideration might change over time.

Mr. Lawlis asked what the location of the new high school for Community Unit School District 5 would be. Mr. Mitchell responded that it would be located on Towanda-Barnes Road at 1700 North (Raab Road). Mr. Lawlis then asked what is the County's obligation for the road servicing the new school. Mr. Mitchell stated that there is no County obligation, and that the road is a township road. He noted that the Town of Normal is presently annexing out to that site. As the property is annexed, the road jurisdiction will transfer from Normal Township to the Town of Normal.

The Committee examined the maps and discussed which roads were currently under township jurisdiction and which roads were under the jurisdiction of either the City of Bloomington or the Town of Normal. The Committee discussed the road annexation process.

Mr. Lawlis asked about the west side of Bloomington, regarding the Apollo Acres area, and whether the Old Peoria Road in this area was a County road, and therefore, subject to the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Mitchell responded that the Old Peoria Road is a township road.

Mr. Lawlis asked how the residents on the west side of town would come in to town without using Route 9. Mr. Lindberg stated that Town of Normal was expected to accept jurisdiction as they continue to annex land on the west side of town. Mr. Mitchell noted that roads south of Stringtown Road are undetermined as to jurisdiction. The City of Bloomington, who will accept jurisdiction for roads built in that area, will annex North of Stringtown.

Mr. Lawlis asked how the various entities would work together. Mr. Mitchell stated that the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal, The Regional Planning Commission and the County Highway Department meet regularly to address developments with regard to road jurisdiction.

Mr. Lawlis asked whether there is a map that illustrates all of the activity slated for the near future. Mr. Mitchell stated that there is such a map available through the Regional Planning Commission.

Mr. Mitchell stated that every year there is a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) proposal submitted that outlines all of the projects that are underway in the metropolitan area and any federal projects that are being conducted adjacent to the metropolitan area. The state projects are listed in the proposal as well.

Mr. Mitchell stated that, with regard to the Old Peoria Road, right-of-way needs to be reserved in anticipation of future development. A minimum of 80 feet is needed. He noted that the Town prefers a minimum of 86 feet of Right of Way. In that way, a four (4) lane improvement can be added in the future, with an urban cross section.

Mr. Lawlis asked how a road goes from being a township road to a County road. Mr. Mitchell responded that action from the County Board is needed. A Resolution is needed to establish a road as a County road and an Intergovernmental Agreement with the township stating that both the township and the County are in agreement as to the action. The township also must agree to vacate jurisdiction.

Mr. Lawlis asked how this process works with regard to Springfield Road, wherein development will follow once adequate roads are in place. He cited Towanda Road in Normal as an example of this situation. Mr. Mitchell responded that either the County or the township might initiate the process of upgrading the roads in anticipation of future development.

Mr. Mitchell asked whether there are any changes in the proposed Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. There were no proposed changes stated.

Motion by Hoselton/Lawlis to accept the proposed Five-year Capital Improvement Plan. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented a letter he received from Mr. Maurice Howe, Chairman of the Piatt County Road and Bridge Committee, requesting a joint meeting between the Highway Committees of the two (2) counties. The issue of the roads that will be subject to upgrade if the proposed Kasbergen Dairy operation is accepted, will be the topic of the meeting. Mr. Mitchell stated that he previously met on October 13, 2000 with Mr. Kasbergen, his attorney, the McLean County Farm Bureau representative, the Illinois Dairy Association representative, Mr. Howe of Piatt County and another member of the Piatt County Board. It was noted at this meeting that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) denied funding to upgrade the roads to be utilized by the dairy, in the event that it will locate near Bellflower in McLean County.

Mr. Mitchell stated that Mr. Kasbergen is currently exploring other avenues of funding in order to achieve the necessary upgrades of the roads. Mr. Mitchell stated that a joint meeting to discuss the status of the roads in question and determine Mr. Kasbergen's progress in finding alternative funding would be appropriate. Mr. Mitchell stated that Mr. Kasbergen desires access down Interstate 74 at Mansfield. He could accomplish that access going north to Route 136 if he is planning to transport cargo either north or west. Should Mr. Kasbergen desire to transport cargo either south or east, then travelling south to Mansfield would be the most appropriate route. Mr. Mitchell explained that Mr. Kasbergen owns Section 10.

Mr. Lawlis asked where the roads would need to be upgraded in order to accommodate Mr. Kasbergen's agricultural operation. Mr. Mitchell responded that the Mansfield Road from Route 136 to the McLean County line would be under the jurisdiction of McLean County. It is a two (2) mile stretch of road. Mr. Lawlis then asked how much road is under the jurisdiction of Piatt County in this matter. Mr. Mitchell responded that Piatt County has jurisdiction over four (4) miles of road within that county.

Mr. Mitchell explained that the road in McLean County would require a larger right-of-way, widening of both the road itself and the shoulders and regrade the ditches. He stated that the estimated cost for this work that was submitted to Mr. Kasbergen was approximately \$600,000.00. Mr. Mitchell noted that Piatt County's road and Right of Way are already wider, therefore making their cost per mile to upgrade less than that of McLean County.

Mr. Hoselton stated that the Department of Agriculture has not rejected other such livestock operation permits unless the public sentiment in the county in question is decidedly against such an operation.

Mr. Lawlis remarked that the initial number of cows expected to be located at Kasbergen's proposed Bellflower dairy operation is 3,200 cows. However, that is only the "wet" cow count; the total count might be 6,000. Additionally, Mr. Lawlis further remarked, every two (2) years, Mr. Kasbergen can expand the number of cows at his own prerogative.

Mr. Mitchell asked whether he should go forward in scheduling a meeting with his counterparts in Piatt County. Mr. Hoselton responded that he would prefer to wait until after the Special Board meeting on November 14th. Mr. Lawlis agreed.

Mr. Hoselton requested a complete breakdown of the engineering costs for the necessary roadwork. He stated that he wanted to be kept fully informed as to the costs involved. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would prefer not to announce preliminary figures, but rather would prefer to wait until final numbers are available.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he would attempt to schedule the meeting with Piatt County Highway Committee members for November 16, 2000.

Mr. Mitchell explained that a copy of a Resolution pertaining to engineering charges has been provided to the Committee in response to a request for this information.

Mr. Mitchell noted that The Pantagraph reported recently that the County received \$225,000.00 for Phase I engineering for the Route 66 Bikepath from McLean to Towanda. He explained that there are no further commitments beyond this allotment and it will be into the year 2004 before more funds are available.

Motion by Parker/Hoselton to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman Bass adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha B. Ross
Recording Secretary