

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, November 6, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 404, Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Hoselton, Members Dean, Caisley, Cavallini

Members Absent: Members Baggett and Clark

Other Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, Ms. Diana Hospelhorn, Recording Secretary

Department Heads Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer

Others Present: Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer, Mr. Mark Leake, County Highway Department

Chairman Hoselton called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. He stated that the first item for action is approval of the minutes from the October 2, 2007 meeting.

Motion by Dean / Cavallini to recommend approval of the minutes from the October 2, 2007 meeting of the Transportation Committee.

Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton asked the Committee to review the bills for October, 2007. The prepaid total is \$3,158,708.70.

Member Caisley stated \$20,000.00 seemed a little high for overtime in this season of the year.

Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Highway Engineer, explained that the County Highway Department's inspection overtime has increased due to the contractor for the Danvers/Carlock Road project working every Saturday.

Chairman Hoselton asked for any further comments or questions concerning the Bills.

Motion by Caisley / Cavallini to recommend payment of the October, 2007 bills as submitted by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton informed the Committee the first item for action to be presented is the White Oak Boat Launch Safety Grant Application. Chairman Hoselton recognized Mr. Bill Wasson, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Wasson referred the Committee to their copy of the proposed plan for the White Oak Boat Launch. He noted that funds have been budgeted to enhance the area and to make it safer. Mr. Wasson stated Mr. Mitchell, County Highway Department Engineer, has informed him that it may be possible to obtain a Safety Grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation. Competition for the Grant is high; however, Mr. Wasson believes due to the fatalities in 2002, the County has a good chance of receiving the Grant.

Even with improved lighting and signage, the problem with vehicles driving into the lake is still being encountered. All reported incidents are unfortunately with impaired drivers. Mr. Wasson expressed the Department's concern that persons using the boat launch are at risk. Because of this safety issue, the Department is

attempting to find an alternative to increase the safety and reduce the likelihood of endangering not only the impaired driver, but also the person using the boat launch.

Mr. Wasson stated that this current proposal is the best solution; however, the costs are fairly significant. Therefore if the Committee approves this solution, Mr. Wasson recommended that the County apply to the Illinois Department of Transportation for a Safety Grant.

Mr. Mitchell stated the Highway Department proposed in 2003 - 2004 placing attenuator barrels to stop traffic. This was not something the Committee wanted to do. The current proposal can be compared to a "Truck Catcher" as used on mountain roads. In 2004, the cost was \$200,000.00 and because of construction inflation, the cost has increased to an estimated \$300,000.00. He informed the Committee, Safety Funds are matched 90 – 10 and if approved the cost to the County would be \$30,000.00, 10% of the estimated \$300,000.00. When or how the money is received would not be known until the application was submitted and the agreement established.

Mr. Cavallini asked, if the main issue is the location of the boat launch and the danger to persons using the boat launch, has the repositioning of the boat launch been considered as an option.

Mr. Wasson responded that the Department evaluated the repositioning of the boat launch as an alternative and found it to be as costly as this project. He stated that by simply repositioning the boat launch, the County would not be eligible to apply for the Safety Funds.

Mr. Dean asked if the County highway runs right up to the water.

Mr. Mitchell replied the County highway stops at the triangular road signs. Mr. Mitchell noted that all the work proposed to be done would be on County Highway property.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that they also would be expanding the current parking lot to provide for the increased boat trailer parking. The additional parking would increase safety by getting the boats and boat trailers off the shoulder of the road.

Mr. Caisley questioned if the White Oak Boat Launch Safety Application is the best use of \$300,000.00.

Chairman Hoselton responded that if it saved one life, it is worth the money. He reminded the Committee that, at this time, they are considering whether or not to apply for a Grant. It is his opinion that the Committee should approve the grant application. After the Grant is approved, the Illinois Department of Transportation may have alternative ideas. Mr. Wasson, at that time, will return to the Committee. Chairman Hoselton stated that he recommends the approval of the application for the White Oak Boat Launch Safety Grant.

Mr. Wasson reiterated that Safety projects need to take a higher priority.

Mr. Dean noted the aesthetic impact of the attenuators was the reason the Committee did not approve the project in 2003. He asked if this project will be as effective as the attenuators.

Mr. Mitchell responded that this project would be more effective than the attenuators and less expensive to maintain due to the replacement cost of the barrels.

Mr. Cavallini asked for an explanation of the proposed access lane. He also questioned if the State, at the Grant level, is authorized to change the project plan.

Mr. Mitchell answered that the Department of Transportation would only make suggestions.

Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer, explained the access and elevation of the new road.

Motion by Dean / Cavallini to recommended approval
of the White Oak Boat Launch Safety Grant Application.
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton informed the Committee the next items for action are Emergency Appropriation Ordinances. He recognized Mr. Mitchell to review each item.

Mr. Mitchell stated the Emergency Appropriation Ordinances distributed to the Committee are revised copies of the original Ordinances included in Committee packet.

He stated the County Highway Department will receive \$2,153,215.80 in 2007 from the Horizon Wind Farm for construction of roads. This amount was not

included in the Revenue side (410) or the Expenditures side (810) of the Fiscal Year 2007 budget. The County Highway Department is asking for approval to add to the appropriation budget of the County Highway Department Fund 120, Highway Department 0055 the following appropriation:

County Highway Department
Construction Maintenance
0120-0055-0056-0410-0010

<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Add</u>	<u>Amended</u>
\$530,000.00	\$1,666,541.00	\$2,196,541.00

County Highway Department
Const. Roads/Bridges/Culverts
0120-0055-0056-0810-0001

<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Add</u>	<u>Amended</u>
\$822,459.00	\$1,666,541.00	\$2,489,000.00

Mr. Mitchell explained the construction amount is slightly different from the \$2,153,215.80 received from the Horizon Wind Farm because the Construction money was spent on other County Highway projects.

Mr. Cavallini asked if the money received from the Horizon Wind Farm is the amount of money the County expected to receive.

Mr. Mitchell answered that the money received from the Horizon Wind Farm is more than expected because of the deterioration of the Colfax / Weston road. This was not covered under the initial agreement. An additional \$1,455,000.00 was received from the Horizon Wind Farm for this project.

Motion by Caisley / Dean to recommend approval of An Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance McLean County Highway Department Fund 0120, McLean County Highway Department Fund 0055 and to take into consideration the increased revenue received from the Horizon Wind Farm. Motion carried.

Mr. Caisley asked Mr. John Zeunik, McLean County Administrator, when appropriations lapse in the fiscal year.

Mr. Zeunik replied that a purchase order or contract must be submitted to the Auditor's Office by the end of November in order for the Auditor's Office to encumber the money into the following fiscal year. If this does not happen, when

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the County Auditor finishes making year end adjustments, on or before January 31st, at that point, any funds not encumbered would drop into the fund balance.

Mr. Mitchell stated Highway Funds 0121, 0122, 0123 are a result of carrying County Highway Projects over from the FY' 2006 Budget into the FY' 2007 Budget. The anticipated job did not go to a letting until year 2007. He presented the following Emergency Appropriations:

Fund 0121

He stated the County Highway Department is asking for approval to make an Emergency Appropriation from the unappropriated fund balance of the McLean County Highway Bridge Matching Fund 0121 in the amount of \$930,000.00 and to amend the Fiscal Year Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance as follows:

County Highway Department
Unappropriated Fund Balance
0121-0055-0056-0400-0000

<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Add</u>	<u>Amended</u>
\$ 0	\$930,000.00	\$930,000.00

The County Highway Department is asking for approval to amend the Fiscal Year 2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance by increasing the following line item appropriation in the McLean County Highway Bridge Matching Fund 0121, Highway Department 0055:

County Highway Department
Construction Roads / Bridges / Culverts
0121-0055-0056-0810-0001

<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Add</u>	<u>Amended</u>
\$1,140,818.00	\$930,000.00	\$2,070,818.00

Fund 0122

The County Highway Department is asking for approval to make an Emergency Appropriation from the unappropriated fund balance of the County Matching Fund 0122 in the amount of \$1,872,200.00 and to amend the Fiscal Year Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance as follows:

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County Highway Department
Unappropriated Fund Balance
0122-0055-0056-0400-0000

<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Add</u>	<u>Amended</u>
\$ 0	\$1,872,200.00	\$1,872,000.00

The County Highway Department is asking for approval to amend the Fiscal Year 2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance by increasing the following line item appropriation in the McLean County Matching Fund 0122, Highway Department 0055:

County Highway Department
Construction Roads / Bridges / Culverts
0122-0055-0056-0710-0001

<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Add</u>	<u>Amended</u>
\$1,105,800.00	\$1,872,200.00	\$2,987,000.00

Fund 0123

The County Highway Department is asking for approval to make an Emergency Appropriation from the unappropriated fund balance of the McLean County Highway Department Motor Fuel Tax Fund 0123 in the amount of \$2,149,000.00 and to amend the Fiscal Year Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance as follows:

County Highway Department
Unappropriated Fund Balance
0123-0055-0056-0400-0000

<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Add</u>	<u>Amended</u>
\$300,000.00	\$2,149,000.00	\$2,449,000.00

The County Highway is asking for approval to amend the Fiscal Year 2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance by increasing the following line item appropriation in the McLean County Highway Department Motor Fuel Tax Fund 0123, Highway Department 0055:

County Highway Department
Construction Roads / Bridges / Culverts
0123-0055-0056-0810-0001

<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Add</u>	<u>Amended</u>
\$1,250,555.00	\$2,149,000.00	\$3,399,555.00

Motion by Caisley / Cavallini to recommend approval of the following: An Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance McLean County Highway Department Bridge Matching Fund 0121, An Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance McLean County Highway Department County Matching Fund 0122, An Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2007 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance McLean County Highway Department Motor Fuel Fund 0123 to cover the lapsed appropriations. Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton informed the Committee the next item for action to be presented is the Fiscal Year Recommended 2008 Budget and the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan. He invited Mr. Mitchell to address the Committee.

Mr. Mitchell reviewed the following changes to the FY 2008 Recommended Budget:

County Highway Fund 0120-0055 line item 0599-0002 from \$132,600.00 to \$122,400.00, net change of (\$10,200.00).

Mr. Mitchell explained the Highway Department originally submitted a request for three new employees. The Recommended Budget does not include the three new positions. The Employee Medical expense line item is calculated on the basis of the number of full-time equivalent employees. Therefore, the line item needs to be reduced by \$10,200.00.

County Highway Fund 0120-0055 line item 801-0001 from \$220,000.00 to \$240,000.00, a net change of \$20,000.00. The amount budgeted for the new garage would increase from \$100,000.00 to \$120,000.00. This increase is recommended based on the low bid for the garage.

County Highway Fund 0120-0055 line item 851-0001 from \$710,562.00 to \$700,762.00, a net change of (\$9,800.00).

Mr. Mitchell stated this adjustment balances changes to line item 0599-0002 and line item 0801-0001.

Mr. Mitchell noted that there is one recommended reclassification. One of the Highway Maintenance Coordinator positions has been reclassified to a Highway Maintenance Supervisor.

Mr. Mitchell asked the Committee for further questions on Fund 0120.

Mr. Dean, who chaired the October meeting, informed Chairman Hoselton that all proposed equipment purchases were addressed in detail during the October meeting. Mr. Dean stated leasing mowing equipment was also discussed.

Mr. Mark Leake informed the Committee that Parks and Recreation does not lease the Park's yard mowers. He stated only tractors are leased.

County Highway Fund 0121 Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee there are no changes being made to this fund.

County Highway Fund 0122 line item 810-0001 from \$1,145,500.00 to \$95,500.00 a net change of (\$1,050,000.00).

County Highway Fund 0122 line item 851-0001 from \$0.00 to \$1,050,000.00.

Mr. Mitchell explained all Capitol Assets were previously budgeted in line item 810-0001. Most of these funds need to be budgeted as Capital Assets - Infrastructure, line item 851-0001. This line item accounts for the Construction of roads and bridges with a cost greater than \$250,000.00.

County Highway Fund 0123 Mr. Mitchell stated that there are no changes being made to this fund.

Chairman Hoselton asked the Committee for a motion to recommend tentative approval of the Fiscal Year 2008 Recommended Budget for the Highway Department funds as amended.

Motion by Dean / Cavallini to recommend tentative approval of the Fiscal Year 2008 Recommended Budget for the Highway Department Funds as amended. Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton asked for additional comments. Hearing none he, continued with the Highway Department's 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Chairman Hoselton explained that, historically, the 5 Year Plan is a guideline. Because of unexpected emergencies, projects can be moved.

Mr. Mitchell explained that the only project that will carry over from 2007 is a Pipeline Road project with Normal. Because of gas and right of way problems, the project did not go to letting in 2007.

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Mr. Caisley asked, concerning the Towanda Overpass, to what extent is the County required to maintain State overpasses.

Mr. Mitchell stated that this has been an ongoing argument with the Illinois Department of Transportation. The bridge structure is the responsibility of IDOT. The bad concrete leading up to the bridge is the responsibility of the County.

Chairman Hoselton asked the Committee for a motion on the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Motion by Cavallini / Dean to recommend tentative approval of the County Highway Department 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan.
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton stated the next items to be presented are items for Information.

Mr. Mitchell presented the following Project Summaries:

Danvers / Carlock Rd – CH 53 – Combined Sections
Sec 03-00148-02-AS & Sec 03-00148-04-BR

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee the road is nearly ready to open to traffic. The road is paved and the shoulders are finished from 600 East to Danvers. The November 30th deadline will be met allowing for 20 days next spring to finish up the final shaping of the dirt and seeding.

Chairman Hoselton questioned if the County had encountered any problems with Entler Excavating as a contractor.

Mr. Mitchell responded that Entler Excavating is slower and not as organized as other contractors, however, the problems have disappeared as the road is being completed.

Bentown / Holder Rd – CH25-04-00040-03-WR

Mr. Mitchell stated the stabilization and curb are completed. The binder should be put on in a couple of weeks, but the surface will carry over until next summer because of the Railroad Insurance being approved.

Chairman Hoselton asked if construction is subject to date deadlines or weather conditions.

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Mr. Mitchell answered construction is mainly controlled by weather and temperatures.

Lexington / LeRoy Rd – CH 21 & Ellsworth Rd – CH 17
(Wind Farm) Sec 07-00044-11-CG & 07-00134-08-SM

Mr. Mitchell stated the temporary radii have been removed and the ditches regraded with the curb being installed. Paving will carry over until next year.

Mr. Mitchell continued with the East Side Highway Study. He stated the Citizens Advisory Group Meeting went well. The project is behind schedule because of the Context Sensitive Solutions process.

Mr. Mitchell reported the Project Purpose Statement reads, “The Project Purpose is to Provide Transportation infrastructure on the east side of Bloomington Normal defined by the Project Study Area Map that will accommodate managed growth and addresses future mobility and safety needs.”

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee the East Side Highway Study is \$100,000.00 over budget. He stated this amount could reduce or increase as the study continues

Mr. Mitchell asked Eric Schmitt to report on the Horizon Wind Farm.

Mr. Schmitt reported 118 of the 120 foundations of Phase II have been poured, 85 bases (2 bottom pieces of the turbine) are up, 74 turbines have been completely erected and 64 turbines have been commissioned and are ready to deliver power to the grid.

Chairman Hoselton requested that they continue with the Bridge Condition Map.

Mr. Mitchell stated that with the collapse of the Minneapolis Bridge, he wanted the Committee to know the condition of the County’s 89 Bridges and the Township’s 281 Bridges. A bridge is defined as any structure over 20 feet in length. They are as follows:

- Structurally Deficient – 4 County Bridges, 6 Township Bridges
- Functionally Obsolete - 2 County Bridges, 5 Township Bridges

Mr. Mitchell explained 17 deficient bridges out of a total of 360-370 bridges in McLean County is a low percentage. He stated the County has 2 posted bridges one just south of Gridley for 34 ton and the other between Saybrook and Arrowsmith at 22 ton. Mr. Mitchell noted that a bridge can be structurally deficient and not be posted (controlled weight limit).

Mr. Mitchell explained that the inspection of bridges, which began in the early 1970's, requires the County to inspect all older bridges every two years and the newer bridges every 4 years. A consultant is hired to inspect the County's 17 timber bridges.

Chairman Hoselton expressed his concern for the high traffic and condition of the bridge on the Hudson - Stuckey road.

Mr. Mitchell stated the bridge is structurally sound and it does not have to be posted. It does have deck deterioration and the County is currently designing the bridge. He informed the Committee the bridge is included in the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Mitchell explained there is a legislative package currently being worked on which contains a bridge program for counties and municipalities. The program would increase the Township Bridge Program from \$15,000,000.00 to \$30,000,000.00.

Mr. Mitchell asked if the Committee had any further questions concerning the bridges.

Chairman Hoselton stated the next item of information is the Garage Bids. He asked Mr. Mitchell to address the Committee.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee the County Highway Department received bids for the Vehicle Storage Building on October 23, 2007. The bids are as follows:

- Tarter Construction \$500,300.00
- SCI Construction \$526,469.00
- Anderson-Spencer Co. \$620,250.00
- Felmley Dickerson Co. \$625,000.00

He stated the recommendation is to accept the Tarter Construction bid of \$500,300.00. Harry Riddle has investigated the bid and recommends the County accept Tarter's low bid. He noted that the County is assured that this bid does comply with all specifications for the project.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the Property Committee has recommended approval of an Award Resolution to Tarter Construction.

Mr. Mitchell assured the Committee that County Staff along with Harry Riddle, Architect, will oversee the construction on the building. The County Highway Department will do all concrete testing and inspections.

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Chairman Hoselton expressed concern that with the heat in the floor, the cracking of the floor could create a problem. He stated the warranty does not address this.

Mr. Dean assured him that the heat in the floor is a proven technology and is very successful.

Mr. Mitchell stated he is satisfied that all specifications will be met.

Chairman Hoselton stated he would like to be present when Tarter Construction makes their submittals.

Chairman Hoselton asked if there was any other business to come before the Committee. Hearing none; he adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Hospelhorn
Recording Secretary