

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Hoselton, Members Caisley and Cavallini

Members Absent: Members Baggett and Clark

Other Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, Mr. Bill Wasson, Director of Administrative Services, Ms. Diana Hospelhorn, Recording Secretary

Department Heads Present: Mr. Eric Schmitt, County Engineer;

Others Present: Mr. Jerry Stokes, Assistant County Engineer
Ms. Karen Swick, County Highway Department, Mr. Mark Leake, County Highway Department, Ms. Michelle Anderson, Financial Reporting Specialist, county Auditor

Chairman Hoselton called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. He stated that the first item for action is approval of the minutes from the September 2, 2008 meeting.

Motion by Caisley/Cavallini to recommend approval of the minutes from the September 2, 2008 meeting of the Transportation Committee.
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton asked the Committee to review the bills for September, 2008. The prepaid total is \$1,583,012.35.

Motion by Caisley/Dean to recommend payment of the September, 2008 bills as submitted by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton stated that the first item to be presented for action is an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2008 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance McLean County Highway Department Fund 0120. He invited Eric Schmitt, County Engineer to address the Committee.

Mr. Schmitt stated that the Emergency Appropriation shows the revenue and expenditures for the pre construction work on the White Oak Wind Farm.

Mr. Cavallini asked if Invenergy LLC was taking a risk to go ahead with the preconstruction. Mr. Schmitt responded that Invenergy feels optimistic that the lawsuit will soon be settled.

Motion by Caisley / Dean to recommend approval of the Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2008 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance McLean County Highway Department Fund 0120.
Motion Carried

Mr. Schmitt continued with the Resolutions for improvement to the Pipeline Road – Section 05-00073-08-RP. He stated that the Pipeline Road is a project through the Town of Normal. The County has an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Normal for a portion of the project. The project will be paid for by the County, Town of Normal and the subdivision developer. The Resolutions will appropriate the money through the following funds:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Matching Funds | \$470,000 |
| 2. MFT Funds | \$370,000 |
| 3. County Highway Funds | \$80,000 |
| 4. County Bridge Fund | \$125,000 |

Mr. Caisley noted that the Pipeline Road is on the five year plan for 2009. Another section of Pipeline road is on the five year plan for 2011 and 2012. He questioned if construction of the road in segments is cost effective. Mr. Schmitt responded that the current project is a rebuild of the road with a concrete overlay. When completed, this section of the road will be transferred to the Town of Normal jurisdiction. The 2011 and 2012 projects are federally funded projects and it has not yet been determined if the materials used will be concrete or asphalt overlay. Mr. Schmitt stated that the projects in 2011 and 2012 could be combined into one project done in 2012 when the federal funds are available.

Motion by Dean / Cavallini to recommend approval of the Resolutions for Improvement to Section 05-00073-08-RP – Pipeline Road from the Motor Fuel Fund, the Matching Tax Fund, the County Highway Fund and the County Bridge Fund.
Motion Carried.

Chairman Hoselton recognized Mr. Schmitt, County Engineer, to present the FY' 2009 Recommended Budget. Mr. Schmitt stated that the County Highway Department has not requested any additional full time employees. The County Highway Department is asking to reclassify the Heavy Equipment Mechanic and the Fleet Manager by one grade. The pay ranges for these positions are behind neighboring counties.

Mr. Schmitt continued with the FY 2009 Recommended Budget. He stated the first fund to be addressed is the Highway Fund

County Highway Fund 0120-0055 The revenue can be found on page 207 of the FY 2009 Recommended Budget and pages 1-2 of the Highway Department Revenue print out. The Highway Department Fund property tax levy totals \$2,496,000.00, which represents an increase of \$118,218.00 or 4.97% over the

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FY' 2008. This will produce a tax rate of \$0 .07316, which is slightly less than the maximum rate of \$0.075 per \$100.00 of equalized assessed value.

Mr. Schmitt noted that line-item 410.0010 Construction/Maintenance still includes \$467,000 Wind Farm funds to be used for the completion of post construction work on County Highway 36 in 2009. He stated that line item 0410.015 Engineering is decreasing \$67,000 because the East Side Highway has been completed. The total Revenue generated by the County Highway Department Fund 0120 is \$3,764,000. Mr. Schmitt asked if the Committee had any questions.

Mr. Cavallini asked if the revenue listed line item 0415.001 Interest and Investments was realistic. Mr. Schmitt responded that this is an estimate of interest received.

The Highway Department Fund expenditures can be found on pages 208-212 of the FY' 2009 Recommended Budget and pages 3-7 of the Highway Department Expense print out.

Mr. Schmitt stated salaries are paid from the County Highway Fund, Motor Fuel Tax Fund, and County Bridge Matching Fund. Mr. Caisley asked why line item 0516.0001 has increased 7%. Mr. Schmitt explained that part of the reason is how the full time employees are shown. The salaries of summer employees and the employees that plow snow are included in the Highway Fund, rather than in the Bridge Fund's occasional seasonal employee, which has decreased. He stated that includes the 3 snowbirds. Mr. Caisley noted the modest overtime pay compared to 2007.

Mr. Schmitt noted the 71% increase to line item 0608.0001 Gasoline / Oil / Diesel Fuel. This is a \$160,000 increase over the FY 2008 Approved Budget. Mr. Schmitt referred the Committee to the enclosed Fuel Budget Calculation sheet comparing the average gas usage over years 2005, 2006, and 2007. The price was based on the May prices with 30 cents per gallon added because the prices were still increasing.

Mr. Cavallini asked the difference between Clear and Dyed Diesel. Mr. Schmitt explained that the dyed diesel is off road use only. Some taxes are not included in the price of the dyed diesel.

Mr. Schmitt stated that the County has 10,000 gallons of storage for the clear diesel, 3,000 gallons of dyed diesel and 3,000 gallons of gasoline. Additional tanks for storage are an option that could be considered in the future. Buying in bulk does help to reduce the cost.

Mr. Zeunik stated the County has an agreement with the City of Bloomington. All County owned vehicles located in downtown offices are able to refuel at the City pumps, and take advantage of the bulk purchasing by the City of Bloomington. The City of Bloomington bills the County for the gasoline used.

Mr. Dean suggested that the County research the possibility of using natural gas to fuel the County vehicles. Mr. Caisley stated the Bloomington – Normal Transit District is currently discussing the use of natural gas.

Mr. Schmitt continued with 701.0001 Advertising / Legal Notice. This line item has increased 15%. Due to the projected number of employees who plan to take advantage of early retirement, there has been an increase in advertising for open positions in the Engineering staff.

Line item 716-0001 Maintenance Road / Drainage Structure is increased by 5% due to the escalating cost of oil based materials.

Line item 716-0002 Engineering / Design expense is broken down into regular engineering and water main design. Mr. Schmitt stated that now that the City has installed a water main across the road from the Highway Department, the Department would like to connect to the City water service and install fire hydrants for fire protection. This \$15,000 would pay for the design of the project. The County Highway currently uses a well, which would be abandoned after the completion of the project.

Line item 740-0002 Equipment Maintenance / Repair has increased 3% to help account for increase in petroleum and steel. Cost to maintain the equipment has also increased.

Line item 750-0001 Equipment Maintenance Contracts is the annual maintenance cost of the copiers which was shown in the wrong place in the FY' 2008 Approved Budget. This number has increased to cover those costs.

Line item 810-0001 Construction Roads / Bridges / Culverts shows a 612 % increase. Last year this was divided between line item 810-0001 and line item 851-001. For the FY' 2009 budget, all of the funds are budgeted in this line item account.

Line item 838-002 Purchase of Machinery / Equipment for Highway decreases 33%. This is for purchases under \$10,000. Mr. Schmitt referred to the handout McLean County Highway department 2009 Equipment Budget. The following is a list of the equipment to be purchased:

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- One new snow plow \$9,000
- 3 new Radios \$1,667 each
- ,Retroflectometer \$9,900
- Miscellaneous equipment \$5,000
- Survey equipment \$6,000

The Federal Highway Administration now requires a program to implement the retro reflectivity of signs. This equipment will assist in setting up this program by measuring the retro reflectivity of the different colors on each sign. The grade of signs used by the County is high intensive prismatic with a 10 year warranty on the sheeting material. There is a sign upgrade program through the State which picks one county from each district per year. McLean County will be chosen for 2010 – 2011. We are required to inventory every sign in the township and villages in the county to be eligible for the program. Maps have been given to each township and village. They will be responsible for their inventory and the County will create a spreadsheet to be sent to the state.

In Line item 850-0001 – Major Equipment, the following equipment is budgeted in FY' 2009:

		Est. Trade Price	Net Cost
		Est. Sell Price	
• Tandem Dump Truck	\$105,000	\$18,000	\$87,000
• Tandem Dump Truck	\$125,000	\$18,000	\$107,000
• Loader	\$150,000	\$57,500	\$92,500
• ½ Ton Technician Truck	\$20,000	\$3,000	\$17,000
• ¾ Ton Technician Truck	\$23,000	\$3,000	\$17,000
• Right-hand Half Batwing Mower	\$13,000	\$500	\$12,500
• Left-hand Batwing Mower	\$13,000	\$500	\$12,500
• Pull-type Street Broom	\$30,000		\$30,000
• 2 New Hydraulic Snow Wings	\$25,000		\$25,000

Mr. Schmitt noted that one stainless steel box will be removed from an existing Tandem truck and placed on the new one. He stated that it is County policy to rotate Tandem trucks every 10 years.

Chairman Hoselton asked at what point we decide it is more cost effective to maintain a truck rather than replace it. Mr. Mark Leake replied that it is a partially a safety issue. Another factor is the salt and chloride eats away at the frame, motor and electrical connections. Mr. Dean pointed out that the County has a sound 10 year rotation plan for replacing vehicles.

For the Bridge Matching Fund 0121, The revenue can be found on page 211 of the FY 2009 Recommended Budget and pages 1 of the Highway Department Revenue print out. The property tax levy for the Bridge Matching fund has increased from \$1,581,000 to \$1,660,000, an increase of \$79,000 or 5.00%. The tax rate has decreased slightly from FY'2008. Each fund has a maximum tax rate that can be levied. The Highway, the Bridge Matching and the County Matching fund all have a different maximum tax levy rate. The County Highway is below the maximum rate for all three funds. The Bridge Matching Fund includes an appropriation of \$1,257,154 for the Construction of Bridges and Culverts.

Mr. Caisley asked how the County knows when the Villages, Cities or Township are going to request a new bridge requiring the County to match funds. Mr. Schmitt responded that the County has a list of bridges that is outstanding. The County cannot fund as many as are requested. Projects can be funded 3 ways: Matching Project, which is 50-50 between the County and the Township, TBP Fund, which is 80% funded by TBP, 10% by the County and 10% by the Township. This is the process by which most Township bridges are funded. The Bridge Replacement Rehabilitation program which is federal money also funds 80% Federal, 10% County and 10%. The County currently has bridges through TBP and the Bridge Replacement Rehabilitation Program for at least 4 years.

Mr. Caisley questioned the safety of some of the bridges waiting for repairs or replacement. Mr. Schmitt replied that most of the bridges on the waiting list have a weight limit posted. There are 10 bridges posted and in need of repair currently in McLean County. Illinois Department of Transportation and the State Legislature are trying to get the TVP Program funds tripled. The program has been locked at \$15,000,000 since it stated in the 1970's.

The Bridge Matching Fund 0121 expenditures can be found on page 214 of the FY' 2009 Recommended Budget and pages 2-3 of the Highway Department Expense print out.

Line Item 810-0001 Construction Roads / Bridges / Culverts shows an increase of 320%. This is removing the money form line item 851-0001 and placing it in line item 810-0001. Last year it was divided between the two line item accounts.

For the County Matching Fund 0122, the revenue can be found on page 217 of the FY 2009 Recommended Budget and pages 1 of the Highway Department Print out. The property tax levy has increased from \$1,177,000 to \$1,235,000 and increase of \$58,000 or 4.93% over the FY' 2008 Adopted Budget. The tax rate has decreased slightly from last year.

Mr. Dean asked for an explanation on maximum tax rates. Mr. Zeunik explained that not all funds are capped with a maximum rate. Social Security, IMRF are not capped. We are not a tax cap County so we do not have the PTELL restrictions. The other funds that are not capped are the debt services funds and the Risk Management fund. All other operating funds, the General Fund, the 3 Highway funds, the three Health Department funds, the Children's Advocacy Center funds and all the other funds have a statutory maximum rate. Mr. Zeunik referred the Committee to page xx of the FY'2009 Recommended Budget book. This shows the different funds and their maximum tax rate. It also shows the funds that do not have a maximum rate.

The County Matching Fund 0122 expenditures can be found on page 218 of the FY 2009 Recommended Budget and pages 2-3 of the Highway Department Expense print out.

Line Item 810-0001 Construction Roads / Bridges / Culverts appears to have a 1,160% increase. It is actually is taking all the funds from the 851-0001 line item and placing them in the line item 810-0001. County Matching funds can only be used for County projects with MFT money or Federal dollars.

For the Motor Fuel Tax Fund 0123, The revenue can be found on page 219 of the FY' 2009 Recommended Budget and pages 1 of the Highway Department Print out. The MFT FY' 2009 Recommended Budget totals \$2,830,000 which has decreased 8% from FY'2008 Adopted Budgeted amount of \$3,060,000. The MFT Fund is a cent per gallon tax. As the price of gas increases the County's revenue does not increase. County revenue has actually decreased because people are using less fuel and purchasing more fuel efficient vehicles. The County allotments received in July and August were significantly lower than last year's average.

Mr. Caisley asked for an explanation on the distribution of the MFT Funds. Mr. Schmitt responded that there is a formula which distributes the Motor Fuel Tax. The Local Governments receives 55% and the State receives 45% of the Motor Fuel Tax receipts collected. Motor Fuel Tax funds are distributed in the following manner:

- County based on vehicle registration
- Village based on population
- Township based on Road miles
- City based on population

There has been a decrease in the number of truck registration in McLean County. This reflects a significant decrease in the revenue the County receives.

Line item 407-0146 IDOT shows revenue of \$296,000. This is money received from the State for the Towanda Overpass project.

Mr. Dean asked why is the Airport Authority Road Reimbursement listed. Mr. Schmitt answered that this is the \$35,000 agreed to by the Board for the Towanda / Barnes project. This is the Airport Authority's annual payment. The agreement was for 10 years and we are currently in the 4th year.

The Motor Fuel Tax Fund 0123 The expenditures can be found on page 220 of the FY' 2009 Recommended Budget and pages 3-4 of the Highway Department Print out.

Line Item 716-0001 Maintenance Road / Drainage Structure shows an increase of \$10,000 over last year. The increase is due to the increase in material costs. This fund is used to purchase salt and general maintenance items such as oil and chip materials. The breakdown of the MFT funds will be in the MFT Maintenance Budget presented to the Committee in November.

Line Item 795-0002 Gas Services has increased 17% or \$600.00 to help cover the heating cost for the new storage garage.

Line Item 810-0001 Construction Roads / Bridges / Culverts again moves the money from line item 851-0001 to 810-0001.

Mr. Schmitt asked if there were question concerning the Motor Fuel Tax Fund.

Motion by Caisley / Cavallini to Recommend
tentative approval of the Fiscal Year 2009
Recommended Budget for all of the Highway
Department funds.
Motion Carried.

Mr. Schmitt presented the McLean County Highway Department 5-Year Plan 2008-2012. He referred the Committee to the hand out. He stated that due to the rise in expenses and the uncertainty of the MFT funds, one project was added to the program and two projects were lost. The majority of next year's work will be the Saybrook / Arrowsmith Road Bridge, the Gridley Road Bridge, the overpass at Towanda, the Dawson Lake Road (funded by the Wind Farm) and the project with the Town of Normal on the Pipeline Road.

Motion by Caisley / Dean to Recommend
approval of the County Highway 5-Year Plan
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton stated that the first items of information to come before the Committee are the Project Summaries.

Mr. Schmitt reported on the Colfax / Weston Road (CH13) Section 05-00130-14-Rs. He stated that the intersection at US Route 24 has been rebuilt to accommodate semi-truck turning movements. The level binder, crack-control treatment and binder are complete and the contractor is working on replacing the surface. The project should be completed by the end of the week. This project is completely Federal and TARP money.

Mr. Schmitt stated that the Towanda Barnes Road and Oakland Avenue Signal Project is now complete. Final payment has not been made. The County has a contract with the City of Bloomington to maintain the signals.

Mr. Schmitt informed the Committee that the Equipment Storage Building is nearing completion, with primarily plumbing, electrical and heating work remaining. The boilers still need to be installed.

Mr. Schmitt stated that the East Side Highway Project Study Group has selected a preferred corridor for final recommendation. The recommended corridor was presented to a Joint Council Meeting. The preferred corridor contains segments N1, M2 and S2M. Final approval will be presented to the Committee in November or December.

Mr. Schmitt updated the Committee on the electrical work associated with the Highway Department Standby Generator. The standby generator has required some additional work. The disconnect fee of \$6,300 was added due to a difference of interpretation of the code between the designer and the contractor. The point of service had to be changed to the Automatic Transfer switch.

Mr. Schmitt presented the salt bid information for winter 2008/2009. The State bid for salt is \$55.88/ton. This is a 45% increase over our bid price of \$38.42/ton from last winter. The County's State bid quantity is 7000 ton. You are required to take 70% of bid, which is the same this year. Last year, the State allowed departments to purchase up to 130% of the bid, which the department did last year. This year, the department will only be able to purchase over 100% if the supply is available. If the State price to deliver goes up more than 5%, they can renegotiate the cost per ton. It is going to be a definite change. To try to conserve salt the County will be using a little more calcium chloride on the salt. The calcium chloride lowers the temperature the salt will work by 10 degrees. Salt brine is something the County will be checking into for next year. Salt brine will help to get the salt to work quicker and allow us to cut back on the salt used. It is also much cheaper to purchase. Calcium Chloride runs around \$.40-.45 per gallon. Salt brine can be produced at around \$.04-.06 a gallon. Mr. Schmitt

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stated that the Highway Department is going to try to conserve money and try some different methods of snow and ice removal and still maintain the safe surfaces of the roads

Chairman Hoselton asked if there was any other business to come before the Committee. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Hospelhorn
Recording Secretary