

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 404, Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Hoselton, Members Baggett, Dean, Cavallini, Caisley and Clark

Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator,
Ms. Christine Northcutt, Recording Secretary

Department Heads Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer

Others Present: Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer;
Ms. Connie Johnson, Accounting Clerk II,
Auditor's Office

Chairman Hoselton called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. He stated that the first item for action is approval of the minutes from the May 1, 2007 meeting.

Motion by Baggett/Cavallini to recommend approval
of the minutes from the May 1, 2007 meeting
of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton asked the Committee to review the bills from May, 2007. He advised that Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, would address any questions that the Committee may have. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

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

**Mr. Dean entered the meeting at 8:07 a.m.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer, and his wife had a baby boy on Sunday, June 3rd. The Committee congratulated Mr. Schmitt.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department held a letting on May 30, 2007 for Non-MFT County Maintenance Sections. This letting is for road stabilization work and seal coating to be completed on the Colfax-Weston Road. Mr. Mitchell reminded the Committee that this item was let last month, but the bids were rejected because they were much higher than the engineer's estimate. The Highway Department modified the criteria of the letting by removing the widening and the addition of the material. The Highway Department is planning to widen the road themselves and they will haul additional materials from the quarry. The Highway Department will rent a widener from the Dunn Company to complete the widening of the road. Dunn Company was the only bidder on this project. Their bid was for \$1,232,648.00, which is 0.46% under the engineer's estimate.

Mr. Caisley asked if the scarifying work will come before the widening. Mr. Mitchell responded that the Highway Department will complete the widening first, and then the stabilization project will take place. Dunn plans to subcontract the seal coat work. Next year, the Highway Department will take bids to hot-mix over this road, which will bring this road up to 80,000 lbs.

Mr. Dean asked how long is this stretch of road. Mr. Mitchell responded it is approximately 7½ miles.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department recommends award of this project to Dunn Company.

Motion by Dean/Cavallini to recommend approval of a Resolution and Letting Results from a May 30, 2007 Letting for Non-MFT County Maintenance Sections. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the next two items can be taken as a set. The contracts for both the K & R Gravel Road Use Agreement and the Sport Redi Mix Road Use Agreement were handed out to the Committee this morning. Assistant State's Attorney Brian Hug just finished negotiating the contracts last night.

Mr. Mitchell stated that Mr. Hug and the Highway Department have been working on the K & R Road Use Agreement for a couple of weeks. Several years ago, K & R Gravel was granted a Special Use Permit and a Road Use Agreement to allow K & R Gravel to operate a gravel pit. K & R did not follow through with the payment schedule as described in the previous Road Use Agreement. They have had various financial problems in the past. Currently, they have the opportunity to sell sand and rock to Sport Redi Mix for use by the Horizon Wind Farm in construct the bases for their towers. K & R Gravel had originally proposed supplying the material to the lay-down yard on 3500 East Road. They could not find water at that site. Therefore, K & R Gravel has proposed locating the concrete plant at their gravel pit site. That is the purpose for these agreements. In K & R Gravel's case, this will bring their business current with their original Road Use Agreement. They were \$40,000.00 behind in payments to the County. They were supposed to be paying \$10,000.00 per year and had failed to do so. The new Agreement proposes that K & R make a \$10,000.00 good faith payment, which has been received. They are further instructed to pay \$5,000.00 per month until February 1, 2008. In addition, K & R has agreed to give the Highway Department 6,000 ton of CA6 next year to help repair the two mile stretch of road on County Highway 15 that will be affected by their traffic. This opportunity could make this gravel pit viable. The road will also be widened at that time. The County will buy the material to widen the road.

In addition, in the original agreement, K & R Gravel was supposed to have a \$100,000.00 bond in effect. They have been unable to find an insurance company that will write the bond. Therefore, the County has agreed to take 1,000 ton of material per year in lieu of the bond. That material will be used to repair the roads in that area.

Mr. Mitchell stated the Sport Redi Mix Agreement basically states that Sport Redi Mix is giving the County \$90,000.00 to put an A3 surface over the top of the two mile stretch of County Highway 15. They have agreed to put the money up front.

Mr. Clark asked what are the plans if K & R Gravel gets behind in their payments to the County again. Mr. Mitchell responded that there is not much of a contingency. The agreement clearly states that if payments are not made on a timely basis they will be in breach of the contract. The positive side of this agreement for the County is that the Highway Department will have the funds and materials to upgrade the two mile stretch of County Highway 15.

Mr. Mitchell stated that it would be good for everyone if the pit is up and running because there is not another pit around for several miles.

Mr. Dean stated that this agreement is advantageous for the County, K & R Gravel and for Sport Ready Mix.

Mr. Mitchell added that Mr. Hug had spoken with the representatives with Sport Redi Mix and K & R Gravel as late as last night. Therefore, there may be some minor changes in the agreements. He stated that he would inform the Committee if there were any changes. If the Committee and the Board agree with the contracts, repair will begin on County Highway 15 right away. If there is a problem, construction will be halted.

Chairman Hoselton asked if the owners of K & R Gravel and Sport Redi Mix have seen these agreements. Mr. Mitchell responded that K & R's attorney has reviewed the proposed agreement and Mr. Merle Kirby, owner, has verbally agreed to the contract. The Sport Redi Mix contract is ready to go.

Mr. Caisley asked if the gravel meets the grade requirements. Mr. Mitchell responded that Mr. Kirby has been made aware that the gravel must meet Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) requirements. It was tested by IDOT several years ago and met requirements at that time.

Mr. Cavallini asked how long ago was this gravel pit established. Mr. Dean responded that it was first dug back in the 1950's or 1960's.

Motion by Dean/Cavallini to recommend approval of the K & R Gravel Road Use Agreement and the Sport Redi Mix Road Use Agreement. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the next item is consideration of the Sprint Right-Of-Way Permit Agreement. The Highway Department has been working with Mr. Hug for quite some time to upgrade its general utility permit. Sprint has asked to have their current permit upgraded. The Committee has been provided with a copy of the proposed General Utility Permit with Sprint as the applicant. This permit does allow for an \$850.00 fee for executing the agreement. The Highway Department had hoped to be able to charge a higher fee for the permit, but Mr. Hug has advised that the Highway Department can only receive actual costs for the permit. The cost will be uniform for all utility permits.

The permit states that the applicant must carry insurance, call J.U.L.I.E. before digging, make repairs to the right-of-way if damaged and other standard language. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would recommend approval of this Permit Agreement.

Motion by Caisley/Clark to recommend approval of the Sprint Right-Of-Way Permit Agreement and for the use of the Agreement as presented to be used as a template for all Utility Permits. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell gave a brief summary of the current project summary:

- The Reese Bridge project on Bentown-Holder Road is moving along quickly. The bridge and the approach slabs have been poured. The road is completely closed and this work is scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2007.
- The work is complete on the Arrowsmith Road. This was a Non-MFT Wind Farm project. The estimate has been submitted.
- The work on the Lexington overpass is moving along as scheduled. They are scheduled to begin pouring pavement at the end of this week or beginning of next week.
- The pay estimate was just submitted for the work on the LeRoy-Lexington Road. The surface is completed. This is a federal project. The County will be billed its 20% by the State.
- The Danvers-Carlock project is moving slowly. The bridge located by the treatment plat has been removed. They are replacing cross-road culverts. The silt fence has been installed.
- The bridge replacement on White Oak Road has been complete for some time. It is just awaiting final paperwork.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that there will be a meeting on Friday, June 8th of the East Side Highway Policy Committee and the Steering Committee. The May 22nd and May 23rd public meetings were cancelled. They have not yet been rescheduled. Hopefully, a new date will be scheduled for the public meetings at the Steering Committee meeting on Friday. The minutes of the last Steering Committee meeting were included in the Committee's agenda packet.

Mr. Schmitt gave a brief update of the Horizon Wind Farm. He stated that all of the wind turbines are mechanically complete in Phase I of the Wind Farm. One hundred fifteen of 120 turbines are producing electricity. The other five are being tweaked. The work on Phase II has just begun. They are starting to build the access roads off of County Highway 15.

Mr. Dean asked if there was a different contractor of Phase II. Mr. Schmitt responded that there is a different contractor. This is a joint venture between White and Michaels.

Mr. Caisley asked if all of the temporary radii been removed. Mr. Schmitt replied that all of the temporary radii have not been removed yet. They will be using some of the Phase I roads during Phase II. In addition, there is an agreement with a land owner on LeRoy-Lexington which states that the radii cannot be removed until fall.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the base has been put into place for the new garage at the Highway Department. The new roadway has been built. The architect reports that he will have a couple of drawings available to review next week.

Mr. Dean asked how this will impact the garage project's timeline. Mr. Mitchell responded that it will be close trying to get this project done before winter. The heat will need to be installed before it starts to get cold.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the only other thing that he has for the Committee's information is that Mr. Troy Aldridge, Engineering Technician II, has been hired by Entler Construction. Mr. Aldridge worked at the Highway Department for 17 years. The Highway Department has promoted Mr. Steve Krause, Engineering Technician I, to the Engineering Technician II position. The Highway Department has received seven or eight applications for the Engineering Technician I position. The position has been advertised in Bloomington, Champaign and Peoria for that position.

Mr. Dean asked if veterans are given special consideration for that position. Mr. Mitchell responded that they are not. That is a special consideration for State positions.

Mr. Baggett asked if it was within the Committee's right to make it a requirement that veterans be given preferential consideration. Mr. Zeunik responded in order to put that requirement into place, there would have to be an amendment to the County's Personnel Policy. However, there would only be a limited application of this requirement due to the fact that Countywide Elected Officials can choose to follow the County Personnel Policy or adopt their own.

Mr. Baggett stated that may be something that the County may want to consider at some point.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the July meeting is traditionally held the second Tuesday of the month due to the National Association of Counties annual conference and due to the July 4th holiday. He asked the Committee if there were any conflicts with that date. There were none. He announced that the July Transportation Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 10th.

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Chairman Hoselton asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, he adjourned the Meeting at 8:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt
Recording Secretary

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