

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, October 3, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bass, Members Hoselton, Baggett, Dean, and O'Connor

Members Absent: Member Cavallini

Other Members Present: None

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

Department Heads Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer,
Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer

Others Present: Ms. Connie Johnson, Accounting Specialist II,
Auditor's Office; Ms. Karen Swick, Senior
Accounting Specialist, Highway Department;
Mr. Mark Leake, Highway Maintenance
Coordinator; Ms. Christine Brauer, Member,
Regional Planning Commission; Ms. Jennifer
Sicks, Transportation Planner, Regional
Planning Commission

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. He stated that he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2006 meeting.

Motion by Hoselton/Dean to recommend approval
of the minutes of the September 5, 2006 Transportation
Committee Meeting. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is the approval of the bills from September, 2006.

Motion by Dean/O'Connor to recommend approval of the bills for September, 2006 as submitted by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass informed the Committee that the first item for action is a Resolution and Letting Results from a September 27, 2006 County sale of surplus equipment. Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, informed the Committee that every year the Highway Department purchases pick-up trucks early in the year. The older trucks are kept through the summer to get optimum use out of them and they are sold in the fall. The Highway Department held an auction last week and sold a 2001 Dodge Ram extended cab ½ ton and a 1991 GMC C2500 ¾ ton standard cab. The 2001 was sold for \$4,500.00 and the 1991 was sold for \$450.00. The 1991 pick-up had very high mileage and had been used mainly to pull the broom.

Mr. Dean asked who was the auctioneer. Mr. Mitchell responded that he was absent that day and that Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer, was the auctioneer in his place. Mr. Dean asked if the bidders have an opportunity to raise their bids. Mr. Schmitt replied that the bidders do have an opportunity to raise their bids.

Mr. Baggett asked if it is usual to have such a wide spread on the age of the vehicles. Mr. Mitchell replied this is unusual. The 1991 GMC was only kept to pull the broom. The broom tends to cause debris to fly up and chip the vehicle that is pulling it.

Motion by Hoselton/Dean to recommend approval of a Resolution and Letting Results from a September 27, 2006 Sale of Surplus Equipment. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item for action is the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 County Highway Department budget. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that he will start out by going through Fund 0120, County Highway Fund. Property taxes make up 60% of the revenue in this fund. The Charges For Services Line items have an estimated increase of 122% over FY 2006. The increase in revenue is due to increased permit fees from construction of the wind farm and reimbursement from the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington for their portion of the East Side Study.

On the expense side, the Capital Assets are 44% of the budget, salaries are 25%, services are 18%, and supplies are 13% of the budget. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the Full-Time Salaries comprise 75% of the 0500 line items. The 0600 line items are Supplies. The majority of the Supplies cost comes from the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel which is 44%, and Group Purchasing accounts for 33% of the 0600 line items. Ms. O'Connor asked what is Group Purchasing. Mr. Mitchell stated that the group purchase line item is for the purchase of materials, mainly culverts and pipes, which are stocked piled at the Highway Department. These materials are sold to townships and villages and are used in County road projects.

The 0700 line items are Contractual Services. The large items in this category are equipment maintenance and engineering design. The engineering design has a 500% increase in FY 2007. This increase is due to the engineering work that is being done on the East Side Study. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that \$200,000.00 will go toward the study and 2/3 of that cost will be reimbursed by the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington.

The 0800 line items are the Capital Assets. The largest item in this category is Road Construction at 49%. The Purchase of Machinery and Equipment is 23% and the proposed new garage is 24%. The Highway Department is proposing to build a new "Morton-style" cold storage garage, which could be built at the existing location on Towanda-Barnes Road or at the McLean County East site. In addition to the new cold storage building, the Highway Department would retrofit the existing cold storage building with insulation, electricity, a new floor, and heat, thus providing the Department with additional heated storage. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would prefer that the new garage be placed at McLean County East. Mr. Mitchell stated that it still remains uncertain whether the Highway Department will relocate their office to the McLean County East site or if they will stay where they are. The decision will depend upon the results of the East Side Highway Study. He noted that he does not think that a decision should be made regarding relocating the office until after the study is completed. Mr. Mitchell introduced Mr. Mark Leake, Highway Maintenance Coordinator and asked if he would like to comment on the garage. Mr. Leake stated that the Highway Department's graders have many electronic

parts. If that equipment is supposed to last for 12 - 15 years, it will need to be stored in a heated facility. If it is not stored in a heated facility, the equipment will have ongoing maintenance issues. Mr. Dean asked that if the facility is built at the McLean County East site, will there be man hours racked up traveling between each of the facilities. Mr. Mitchell replied that his proposal is to just place cold storage on the McLean County East site and keep the heated garage on the Towanda-Barnes Road site. Therefore, there wouldn't be a lot of traveling between sites.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the Committee doesn't need to make the decision where to build the facility at this point. They can appropriate the funds in the FY 2007 budget and decide where to build it later on this winter.

Ms. O'Connor stated that the property on Towanda-Barnes Road will be worth a lot of money in the next 10 years. It is likely that when it is purchased, the new owner will bulldoze all of the existing buildings and develop it for residential use. She commented that it would be a waste to build the new garage at the Towanda-Barnes site.

Mr. Hoselton stated that he disagrees with Ms. O'Connor. He noted that the County cannot base its plans on speculation. It would be very expensive to retrofit the existing cold storage facility on the Towanda-Barnes site. It seems more economical and to build the heated garage at the Towanda-Barnes site. He added that solar heat could be implemented in the new garage. Ms. O'Connor stated that you could use geothermal heating. Mr. Mitchell stated that geothermal heat is much more expensive up front and he does not know if he has enough budgeted implement geothermal heating.

Mr. Hoselton asked what are the dimensions of the proposed garage.
Mr. Mitchell responded that it would be approximately 72 feet X 102 feet.

Mr. Hoselton asked Mr. Zeunik which location he feels would be the most economical. Mr. Zeunik stated that the Highway Department has not taken the time to get formal quotes or bids. The budget was prepared for a split in expenses between a cold, Morton-style building on McLean County East property and retrofitting the existing cold storage building on Towanda-Barnes Road. As Mr. Mitchell stated, it can be done either way. Mr. Zeunik stated that both sites are valuable today and will likely increase in value in future years. This decision is up to the Committee.

The Committee discussed all aspects of locating the building at the Towanda-Barnes Road location and at McLean County East location. Mr. Mitchell

reminded the Committee that the decision as to where the garage will be located can be made at a later date.

Mr. Dean asked if there was any way that any other storage facility could be retrofitted and utilized so a new building wouldn't have to be built.

Mr. Mitchell stated that they had talked about retrofitting the salt building and then building a new salt building. After taking preliminary estimates, it was discovered that retrofitting the salt building would be a much more expensive option.

The only other item in the 0800 line items that is substantial is the Purchase Machinery and Equipment at \$29,000.00. That is the equipment that can be purchased for under \$20,000.00. The proposed purchases are two snow plows, three new radios, two prewet kits, and test equipment totaling \$29,000.00. In addition, there is the regular equipment list which includes: two tandem dump trucks, one motor grader, one backhoe loader, one 1-ton dump truck, one ¾ ton service truck and two hydraulic snow wings for a total of \$391,000.00.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he would be happy to answer any questions regarding Fund 0120.

Motion by O'Connor/Baggett to recommend tentative approval of the FY 2007 Recommended Budget for the Highway Fund 0120.

Mr. Hoselton asked if he could amend the motion to include the stipulation that additional funding for the garage be included in the budget if it is built on the Towanda-Barnes site. Mr. Zeunik responded that you can amend the motion if it is acceptable to the person who make the motion and the person who seconded the motion. Ms. O'Connor stated that the placement of the garage can be decided at a later date and she does not want to amend the motion. There was a discussion regarding the placement of the proposed garage.

Chairman Bass called for the question.

Motion carried 4-1. Member Hoselton voted "No".

Mr. Hoselton stated that he would like to make a motion about the placement of the proposed garage.

Motion by Hoselton/Baggett to recommend approval of the funding for the proposed garage only if it is constructed at the Towanda-Barnes site.
Motion carried 4-1. Member O'Connor voted "No".

Mr. Mitchell stated that the next fund is the Bridge Matching Fund 0121. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that this fund is funded 93% by property taxes.

The revenue in this fund is \$1,528,497.00, which represents a 5% increase over last year. The interest is projected at \$14,000.00, which brings the total revenue to \$1,644,497.00.

The 0500 line items include the full time salaries, which are up 10%. The 0700 line items include a large increase in Drainage Structures. The Highway Department is spending a lot more on maintenance of bridges. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have on Fund 0121. Hearing none, Chairman Bass called for a motion.

Motion by Dean/O'Connor to recommend tentative approval of the FY 2007 Recommended Budget for the Bridge Matching Fund 0121. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell stated the next fund is the County Matching Fund 0122. This fund is funded 99% by property taxes. The revenue is \$1,140,000.00. Interest expected is \$6,000.00, bringing the total revenue to \$1,147,000.00. On the expense side, the total expenses are \$1,115,800.00. The bulk of the expenses are in construction. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee funds in the Matching Fund can only be spent to match federal aid projects or Motor Fuel Tax projects. Chairman Bass asked if there were any questions on the County Matching Fund. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

Motion by Hoselton/O'Connor to recommend tentative approval of the County Matching Fund 0122. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the next fund is the Motor Fuel Tax Fund 0123. On the revenue side, taxes on fuel contribute \$3,060,000.00; the Airport Authority contributes \$35,000.00 per year and interest is approximately \$15,000.00. Mr. Mitchell stated that revenue in the MFT Fund dropped a bit last year, so that is reflected in the revenue projections for FY 2007. Now that gas prices have fallen, hopefully, usage will go up and revenue will follow. The revenue total in MFT Fund 0123 is \$3,420,000.00.

Mr. Hoselton asked how much the Airport Authority has paid the County thus far. Ms. Karen Swick, Senior Accounting Specialist, County Highway Department, stated that this is their second annual payment of \$35,000.00. Therefore, they have paid \$70,000.00.

On the expense side, the largest expense is road construction. The second largest expense is services, which is primarily maintenance of roads. The third is salaries. Mr. Mitchell asked if there were any questions on the MFT Fund 0123.

Mr. Hoselton stated that the Highway Department Funds are charged an administrative fee. Mr. Hoselton asked where that is reflected in the budget. Mr. Zeunik responded that is not shown in the MFT Fund because under state law we are not allowed to assess a fee against the MFT Fund. In the other three funds it is line item 778.0002, which is referred to as an Administrative Surcharge. It is an indirect cost charge that is assessed against all of the special revenue funds. That fee covers expenses budgeted in the General Fund; for example, the County Treasurer's Office which handles investments and payroll, the County Auditor's Office, which is responsible for paying bills, Information Services which is responsible for technology support, the County Administrator's Office which is responsible for collective bargaining and other administrative services.

Motion by O'Connor/Dean to recommend tentative approval of the FY 2007 Recommended Budget for the Motor Fuel Tax Fund 0123. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he has one other item under the budget. He distributed a copy of the revised five year plan. The first couple of years of the plan do not agree with what was printed in the five year budget that was distributed at the Board Meeting. A few projects had to be rearranged due to timing factors with state funding, wind farm construction, and right-of-way acquisition. Mr. Mitchell stated that the first item on the list of next year's work is the Lexington interchange. Invenergy's proposed new wind farm could also cause some changes in the five year plan.

Chairman Bass asked why the County is involved with repairing Old Route 150 at Martin Luther King Drive since that would appear to be under the City of Bloomington's jurisdiction. Mr. Mitchell replied that the County has jurisdiction of Old Route 150 from Locust Street north to new Route 150. The City of Bloomington owns the leg from Locust Street South. The traffic signals are split by the number of legs that are in each jurisdiction. Half are located in the County's jurisdiction and half are in the City of Bloomington. The City of Bloomington wanted to use Safety Funds to meet the federal share. They did not have enough funds to cover that, so they decided to use the Urban Funds to finish the federal share. The City of Bloomington and the County will split the 10% local match. The County's portion of the match is \$80,000.00.

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Mr. Mitchell stated that the Committee can choose to approve the proposed five year plan now or can revisit this plan at a later date. Mr. Hoselton stated that he would like to take a closer look at the plan and consider it at the next Transportation Meeting.

Chairman Bass stated that the only items left were the items for information. Mr. Mitchell explained that he had touched on most of the projects as we went through the budget. He informed the Committee that the Fairfield culvert is open to traffic and they are awaiting final payment. Work on the LeRoy School Road has been started.

Mr. Mitchell stated that there has been no progress on the East Side Highway Study. The Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Audit Division is still making inquiries of the consultant. As soon as this is approved by IDOT, it will be forwarded on to the Federal Highway Administration.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he distributed a local agency agreement for the interchange work at Lexington. It was received too late to be included in the Transportation Committee's packet. It will need to be acted on at a Stand-up Committee Meeting prior to the County Board Meeting on October 17th. If this is approved, it can be scheduled for a winter letting.

Mr. Mitchell stated that both Chairman Bass and Mr. Cavallini have asked if the Committee can take a field trip out to the wind farm to view the construction. Mr. Schmitt spoke to the wind farm's representatives today, and they stated that they would be happy to have the Committee come view the construction. They noted that the only times that were inconvenient for them is Tuesday mornings between 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. They also mentioned that the Committee members would need to sign a waiver before entering the site. The Committee agreed that they would like to take the field trip and asked if Mr. Mitchell would set a time and let them know when and where to meet.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that he was at an ARTBA meeting in San Diego, California and he was presented with the Ralph Bartlesmeyer Award. He thanked the Committee for their continued support of his participation in the ARTBA.

Chairman Bass asked if there were any other questions or comments. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 9:49 a.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt
Recording Secretary

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