

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, November 2, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 404 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: None

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

Department Heads Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer

Others Present: Mr. Lafe Epperson, Fleet Manager, County Highway Department, Mr. Mark Leake, Highway Maintenance Coordinator, County Highway Department; Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Regional Planning Commission; Ms. Christine Brauer, Regional Planning Commission

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Chairman Bass presented the Minutes of the October 5, 2004 meeting for approval.

Motion by Owens/Cavallini to approve the Minutes of the October 5, 2004 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass informed the Committee that the next item on the agenda is the payment of the October 2004 bills. Chairman Bass noted that he has a letter from Ms. Jackie Dozier, County Auditor recommending payment of the bills.

**Mr. Dean entered the meeting at 8:03.

Mr. Cavallini asked what the expense was to Lakeland Community College. Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, replied that Lakeland Community College is the institution that has been awarded the contract by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for their Quality Control / Quality Assurance certification program. Mr. Mitchell stated that in order for his workers to be qualified plant inspectors, they must complete classes at Lakeland Community College. Chairman Bass asked what area of the State do those classes cover. Mr. Mitchell replied that they provide the service for the entire State of Illinois.

Motion by Owens/Cavallini to recommend approval of the bills for October, 2004 as submitted by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item on today's agenda is the Audit Report to be filed with the County Board for the Township Bridge Program, County Road Districts, January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that every year the IDOT Auditor comes to audit the County Motor Fuel Tax (MFT), Township MFT and Township Bridge Program Funds. Mr. Mitchell noted that this particular audit is the Township Bridge Program Audit. Mr. Mitchell noted that his office has not yet received the other two audits, but they are anticipated to be received in time to be presented at the next Transportation Committee meeting.

Mr. Owens asked how long does the audit process take. Mr. Mitchell responded that the representative is usually at the Highway Department for a couple of weeks. Mr. Dean asked what State office does the IDOT representative work in. Mr. Mitchell responded that she works in the Ottawa office.

Motion by O'Connor/Cavallini to accept and place on file the audit report for #51 Township Bridge Program for County Road Districts for January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item on the agenda is a bridge engineering agreement and two bridge petitions. There are two bridge petitions. The first is from the Lexington Township Road Commissioner and the other is from the Downs Township Road Commissioner. Mr. Mitchell stated that as a result of the timber bridge inspection which was done earlier this year, there were four bridges identified which need to be posted. Mr. Mitchell explained that the worst of the four is in Downs. The bridge is posted at 8 ton from the bridge rating, so the Township has requested that the Highway Department begin designing a new bridge. Another of the timber bridges is in Lexington. It is posted at 11 ton for single axle, 17 ton for triple axle and 18 ton for four or more axle. Both Bridge Petitions are located in your packets. The Engineering Agreement with Rice, Berry and Associates is for the engineering and design for these two bridges. The estimate for the bridge in Downs is for \$220,000.00 and the one in Lexington is estimated at \$200,000.00. The bridge in Downs will require some additional approach work. They are both relatively the same size, around 80 feet long. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department recommends approval of both Bridge Petitions and the Engineering Agreement.

Motion by Owens/Cavallini to recommend approval of the Bridge Petitions for the Lexington Road District and for the Downs Road District and the Engineering Agreement between McLean County and Rice, Berry and Associates. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item on the agenda is the 2005 budget review. Mr. Mitchell stated that there were two items left for consideration. The first was a question by Mr. Owens regarding the \$55,000.00 appropriation this year in the Engineering and Design line item. Mr. Mitchell explained that this is for a purchase order that was carried over from a project that got cancelled before it began. Mr. Mitchell stated that this is a reappropriation of an open purchase order that is still showing on the budget presently, but will not be carried over into FY'2005. Mr. Owens stated that he appreciated Mr. Mitchell checking into this item.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to recommend tentative approval of line item 0716-0002 in the FY'2005 Recommended Budget as submitted. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the other item that the Committee held over was the equipment list. The total dollar amount of equipment requested was \$554,000.00.

Mr. Dean informed the Committee that he and Mr. Hoselton went out to the Highway Department to view the equipment and gather information on October 29, 2004. Mr. Dean stated that he also spoke with individuals in other Counties. Mr. Dean explained that McLean County is one of the few Counties that are still using maintainers to remove snow. Mr. Dean stated that it makes sense to make the change to trucks for snow removal. Mr. Hoselton added that he and Mr. Dean had spoken with Mr. Mitchell about eliminating some equipment on the list of new equipment. They had all agreed to eliminate the 6" wood chipper for \$11,000.00 and the cab and chassis for the sign truck at \$50,000.00, making the total for new equipment \$493,000.00. Mr. Mitchell stated that they had discussed putting the savings of \$61,000.00 toward road construction.

Mr. Owens asked if that money was going to be earmarked for any particular project. Mr. Mitchell responded that the money would go toward one of the several unfunded projects. Ms. O'Connor asked why would the Committee want to cut equipment if they are not reducing the overall budget. Mr. Mitchell responded that there are several projects that need to be completed and no money available for them, this will help that cause. Ms. O'Connor asked Mr. Mitchell if the Highway Department will be paying out more in labor and or overtime if they do not purchase the wood chipper. Mr. Mitchell responded that they will probably request the wood chipper another year when the new equipment requested is not as costly as this year's list. Ms. O'Connor asked Mr. Mitchell if the wood chipper was a necessity. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department would realize a savings in labor when the wood chipper is purchased. Ms. O'Connor asked Mr. Mitchell if he is agreeing to this proposal as a compromise in order to get the additional trucks. Mr. Mitchell replied that is an accurate assessment.

Mr. Owens stated that the Committee needs to start planning for the day when the County's three interstate overpasses will need to be overhauled. He noted that there are no funds earmarked for this intended project. Mr. Cavallini asked which overpasses Mr. Owens was referring to. Mr. Mitchell responded the overpasses in Lexington, Towanda and Shirley.

Chairman Bass asked the Members of the Committee if anyone was ready to make a motion.

Mr. Hoselton stated that he and Mr. Dean were under the impression that by removing the wood chipper and the chassis for the sign truck, they would reduce the Highway Department's overall budget by \$61,000.00. Mr. Dean agreed.

Mr. Owens asked if the overall budget is reduced by \$61,000.00, the tax levy must be reduced. Mr. Zeunik responded that is correct. The only way the tax levy can remain unchanged is if the \$61,000.00 is appropriated to another line item account.

Motion by Dean/Hoselton to recommend tentative Approval of the line item 838-0002 (new equipment list minus) the 6" wood chipper (\$11,000.00) and the chassis for the sign truck (\$50,000.00) for a total of \$493,000.00 in equipment and a reduction the tax levy by approximately 2/10 of a cent or \$61,000.00. Chairman Bass called for a voice vote.

Member Dean "Yes"
Member Hoselton "Yes"
Member Owens "Yes"
Member Cavallini "No"
Member O'Connor "No"

The motion carried by a vote of 3-2.

Chairman Bass stated the next item is for information. It is the response to Ms. Zimmerman regarding her complaint letter about run/jog events on rural roads. Chairman Bass stated that he believes that Ms. Zimmerman's concerns are justified. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that he wrote a letter in response to Ms. Zimmerman and that a line has been added on the permits that are issued for these events. The line states that participants must remain in a single lane of traffic, leaving the additional lane open to traffic. Mr. Hoselton stated that the Sheriff's signature should be on the response letter to Ms. Zimmerman along with Mr. Mitchell's. Mr. Mitchell noted that he has scheduled a meeting to discuss this matter with the Sheriff in the near future. Mr. Mitchell noted that he and the Sheriff will discuss this complaint as well as how these events are handled in general. Chairman Bass added that he has noticed that after these events in the past, the roads have been left rather unkempt. This should be addressed as well.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is the roadwork status for Stringtown and McLean Roads. Mr. Mitchell stated that Rowe has completed the widening of Stringtown Road. Weather permitting, the Highway Department can get the binder on this road soon. Mr. Mitchell stated the construction work is 90% complete on McLean Road. Mr. Owens asked if the pay estimate is under the

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projected \$290,000.00. Mr. Mitchell replied that he is not certain, but that it will be very close to the projected price.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the monthly budget report can be found on pages 30-41.

Ms. O'Connor asked Mr. Mitchell if the Highway Department is presently working on Linden Street. Mr. Mitchell replied that Mr. Mark Leake, Highway Maintenance Coordinator and his crew are currently doing that work. Ms. O'Connor stated that what they are doing is helping immensely.

Chairman Bass thanked Mr. Lafe Epperson and Mr. Mark Leake, County Highway Department for attending the meeting and for their assistance with the budget preparation.

Chairman Bass asked if there were any other items to be brought to the Committee's attention. Mr. Mitchell stated that he wanted to let the Committee know about a rumor that has surfaced at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). There may be a major reorganization of districts and shifting of Counties within certain districts. They may combine Districts 2 and 3, and Districts 4 and 5 and Districts 6 and 7. Mr. Mitchell explained that the McLean County Highway Department is in District 3, which is headquartered in Ottawa, IL. The proposal is to have the McLean County Highway Department move to District 4 or 5. The whole point of the reorganization is to eliminate District Engineers and Bureau Chiefs.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman Bass stated that he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Cavallini/Owens to adjourn
at 8:55 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt
Recording Secretary

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