

## **Minutes of the Transportation Committee**

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, August 3, 2004 at 8:00 a.m., in Room 700 of the Law and Justice Center, 104 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: Member Cavallini

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: Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Regional Planning Commission, Ms. Christine Brauer, Regional Planning Commission

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. Chairman Bass advised the Committee that Mr. Dean had called to say that he would be late and that Mr. Cavallini had also called to say that he would not be in attendance at today's meeting.

Chairman Bass presented the Minutes of the July 13, 2004 meeting for approval.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to approve the Minutes of the July 13, 2004 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass presented the bills for approval.

Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, handed the bills to the Committee. Chairman Bass informed the Committee that there is a letter from Ms. Jackie Dozier, County Auditor, recommending payment of the bills.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he would be glad to answer any questions that the Committee may have. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to explain why there was a "purchase of right-of-way" from McLean County Title Company on page 5 of the bills. Mr. Mitchell replied that is a title search, which is done for all right-of-ways.

Minutes of the Transportation Committee  
August 3, 2004  
Page Two

Mr. Mitchell explained that there was some confusion regarding the last parcel of Stringtown Road. It ended up being a discrepancy in the title description.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to recommend approval of the bills for July, 2004 as submitted by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is the letting results from July 28, 2004 for County projects. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, to present this item. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that this letting is for the widening and resurfacing of Stringtown Road. Mr. Mitchell noted that Rowe Construction Company is the only bidder for this project and that their bid came in 4% over the County's estimate. This project also includes the bridge rail for this road. Mr. Mitchell advised the Committee that the Highway Department recommends award of this project to Rowe.

Mr. Mitchell advised the Committee that this letting also included the Dry Grove Road District project. This is a railroad crossing which needs to be gated and lighted as per an order from the Illinois Commerce Commission. The bids for this project came in much higher than anticipated so this project will have to be reviewed and re-bid.

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Mr. Hoselton stated that he is always surprised at the difference between unit prices on the Engineer's estimate and the company's actual bids. Mr. Hoselton stated that for certain items, there should be a "set" price. Mr. Mitchell stated that Rowe is the only bidder for the project on Stringtown Road. Competition always helps.

Mr. Mitchell stated that there are a number of reasons for the discrepancies, such as the cost of transportation of hot asphalt, etc.

\*\*Mr. Dean arrived at 8:21 a.m.

Motion by O'Connor/Hoselton to recommend approval of the bids as presented, from the July 28, 2004 bid letting for County Projects, as presented. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to present the next item on the agenda which is an Engineering Services Agreement with Rice, Berry and Associates for Hudson Road and Pipeline Road. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the Highway Department is hoping for deck replacement on both of these projects. The bridge on Pipeline Road will need a new deck but will need to have a new abutment driven behind the closed abutment that is already there. The bridge on Hudson Road was originally scheduled to be patched, but the bridge is too damaged to be patched. Mr. Mitchell noted that the Highway Department is planning on saving the abutments and the piers, if at all possible. That will not be determined until the work begins. Mr. Mitchell advised that the Highway Department recommends approval of this Engineering Agreement.

Motion by Hoselton/Dean to recommend approval  
Of an Engineering Services Agreement with Rice,  
Berry, and Associates for Hudson Road,  
Sec. 04-00135-06-BR and Pipeline Road,  
Sec 04-00073-07-BR. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item on the agenda is a Jurisdictional Transfer of Ireland Grove Road. Mr. Mitchell handed out additional information to the Committee regarding this item. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that after their last meeting, he spoke with Mr. Doug Grovesteen, City of Bloomington Engineer and Mr. Zeunik. Mr. Mitchell stated that Mr. Grovesteen spoke then with Mr. Tom Hamilton, City of Bloomington Manager. Mr. Mitchell stated that, together, he and Mr. Zeunik and the representatives from the City of Bloomington have put together a proposal for both governmental entities to consider.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that, for years, the Highway Department has wanted to transfer jurisdiction for three roads on the west side of Bloomington to the City of Bloomington. The roads are Bloomington Heights Road from Route 9 to Washington Street, Six Points Road and Oakland Avenue from Six Points to Euclid. The County currently maintains all of the aforementioned roads. If the County agrees to pay the City \$44,000.00 per year over 5 years to cover the estimated cost of the improvements to Ireland Grove, the City will accept Jurisdictional Transfer of the three aforementioned roads in addition to Ireland Grove Road from the current City limits to Streid Drive. Mr. Mitchell reminded the Committee that the City of Bloomington first approached the County requesting a Jurisdictional Transfer of Ireland Grove Road from the current City limits to Streid Drive. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that he thought this would be a good opportunity to compromise. Chairman Bass asked if the City of Bloomington has approved this yet. Mr. Mitchell replied that the City Council has not approved this yet.

Ms. O'Connor asked if the County is still paying the \$220,000.00 for the repairs for Ireland Grove Road. Mr. Mitchell replied the County will still be paying that amount, but the County will not be footing the bill for maintenance for Bloomington Heights Road, Six Points Road and Oakland Avenue. Ms. O'Connor asked if any of the County Roads need improvement. Mr. Mitchell replied that Bloomington Heights does not need any improvement, but that Six Points Road will need major improvement. It will need to be widened to a four-lane road from Morris Avenue to Alexander Road, and drop to three-lanes to Oakland Ave. This project will probably be done as other similar projects have been done in the past. The City will pay for the preliminary engineering and the right-of-way. The County will then match the Federal Aid Urban Funds at the 80/20 ratio. Mr. Mitchell explained that the big advantage to this proposal is the fact that the Jurisdictional Transfer will happen now rather than to when the project begins.

Ms. O'Connor asked if the County will be putting money into all of these roads even though they are being transferred, except for Bloomington Heights. Mr. Mitchell replied that is correct. Mr. Mitchell stated that the advantage to the County is transferring the maintenance and liability of these roads to the City of Bloomington.

Mr. Dean asked Mr. Mitchell what kind of feed back Mr. Mitchell has had from the City officials who have reviewed this proposal. Mr. Mitchell stated that Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Grovesteen had some concerns, but were both were receptive to the idea. Mr. Zeunik added that he and Mr. Hamilton spoke and Mr. Hamilton is in favor of this proposal. Mr. Zeunik also noted that this Jurisdictional Transfer would also give the City jurisdictional control of these four roads within the City, rather than the County having control of portions of them.

Mr. Hoselton stated that he thinks that this is a fair trade. It is a good idea to transfer roads that exist within the City limits to the City. It is advantageous for both entities.

Motion by Hoselton/Owens to recommend approval of the proposed Jurisdictional Transfers of certain County roads to the City of Bloomington as outlined in the memo distributed to the Committee.

Mr. Owens stated that the County should be able to review the plans for the Six-Points Federal Aid Urban project. Mr. Owens explained that if the County transfers this road to the City of Bloomington, the County should be certain that they see the plans before the construction takes place. Mr. Mitchell stated that may be a good idea, but reminded Mr. Owens that these projects are completed to state and federal standards. Mr. Mitchell explained that the costs are not scalable. Mr. Mitchell stated that he will add that language into the agreement.

Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is the roadwork status. Mr. Mitchell stated that the asphalt and shoulder work is done on both Randolph Road East and on the BNWRD Section of Randolph Road.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the contract work is done on Weston-Colfax Road.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the Section V Bridge on Townline Road is being done in stages with signals to keep the road open to traffic.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the contract work is completed on Towanda-Gridley Road.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the PJ Keller Highway is the County's federal project. The crossroad culverts have been completed. There are a couple of guardrail terminals that must still be flared. The County completes the guardrail work. Mr. Mitchell stated that Rowe Construction is supposed to begin paving the road on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Hoselton asked Mr. Mitchell if the Highway Department would be putting up deer crossing signs on PJ Keller Highway, as he had previously discussed with him. Mr. Mitchell stated that his employees pulled up that road on the GIS map and did find that there were several accidents there due to deer crossing the road. Mr. Mitchell assured Mr. Hoselton that the Highway Department will be placing signs on that road soon.

Minutes of the Transportation Committee  
August 3, 2004  
Page Six

Chairman Bass informed the Committee that they could find the budget report in their packets on pages 19-30.

Mr. Owens stated that the Seasonal Employees line item is 7% over budget. Mr. Mitchell responded that the Highway Department has been able to charge more for seasonal help under the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Fund, but they are still well under budget under the seasonal help line item in the Highway Fund.

Chairman Bass stated that the last item on the agenda is the Bridge Petition for the Saybrook Joint Culvert. Mr. Mitchell explained that he added this on the agenda for the Committee's information. Mr. Mitchell advised the Committee that the Village of Saybrook neglected to place this item on their agenda last month so they will place it on their August agenda. Therefore, it will appear on the August 17<sup>th</sup> County Board Agenda. Mr. Mitchell reminded the Committee that they approved this item last month.

Chairman Bass asked if there was anything further from the Committee. Mr. Owens stated that, at the NACo Convention last week, the largest topic of conversation was the reauthorization of Bill T-21. Mr. Owens stated that he spoke with Ms. Berglund, Chairman of the Legislative Committee and she agreed that it is a good idea to continue to pursue funding and authorization of this bill with our Congressmen.

Ms. O'Connor informed the Committee that she recently had dinner with the Principal of Normal Community High School and she reiterated that the caution light that was placed at the intersection of Raab Road and Towanda-Barnes Road is working out very well.

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 Hoselton/Dean to adjourn  
at 9:07 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt  
Recording Secretary

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