

## **Minutes of the Transportation Committee**

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on March 2, 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 Cavallini, O'Connor, and Dean

Members Absent: Member Hoselton and Owens

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; Mr. Eric Schmidt, Assistant County Engineer

Others Present: Ms. Christine Brauer, Regional Planning Commission; Mr. Bob Yoder; Mr. Kenneth Yoder; Mr. Gordon Bidner

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. Chairman Bass presented the Minutes of the February 3, 2004 meeting for approval.

Motion by Dean/Cavallini to approve the Minutes of the February 3, 2004 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass presented the bills for approval.

Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer passed out the bills to the Committee. Mr. Cavallini asked why the Highway Department is paying so much additional overtime recently. He asked if this was all due to the snow removal. Mr. Mitchell replied that he has not compared these overtime figures to figures in years past. Mr. Mitchell did state that the Highway Department has paid considerably more overtime in the past two seasons for "snowbird" and temporary help. Mr. Mitchell added that snow removal on Towanda-Barnes, Ireland Grove, Old Highway 150 and Six-Points Roads has been a large undertaking. Mr. Dean asked how many "snowbirds" the County employs. Mr. Mitchell replied that there are three.

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

Chairman Bass informed the Committee that the next item on the agenda is appearance by the members of the public. Chairman Bass informed the Committee that there are three residents who would like to address the Committee. The first resident is Mr. Bob Yoder.

Mr. Yoder stated that the Danvers-Carlock Road has been of concern to many residents who live on it. Mr. Yoder stated that he has spoken to Mr. Eric Schmidt from the Highway Department and he has a few concerns with the proposed road improvement plan. Mr. Yoder stated that the proposed improvements will affect around 1¼ miles of his property. It also will affect the land of Ms. Susan Hoover, who has her permanent residence in Connecticut. Mr. Yoder informed the Committee that he farms Ms. Hoover's land. Mr. Yoder stated that he is aware that the road needs work. Mr. Yoder advised the Committee that he did not believe that the traffic count on the road merits the cost to fix it. Mr. Yoder noted that when Interstate 74 was built, the traffic count drastically dropped. Mr. Yoder also informed the Committee that when he spoke previously with Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Schmidt mentioned that the road will be built with at least 10 feet of right-of-way on each side. Mr. Yoder stated that on Ms. Hoover's farm, there is a well that is just off the right-of-way. Mr. Yoder stated that he is concerned as to what will happen to the well.

Mr. Yoder commented that another concern is the main gas line that runs into Danvers on the west side of the road. If there is 10 feet of right-of-way on each side of the road, the gas line may be affected. Mr. Yoder stated that the power lines will also have to be moved. Mr. Yoder stated that he understands that the proposed improvements will include 50-mph curves, which will cut up his farmland into three patches. Mr. Yoder explained that today's farm equipment is very large and it would be very difficult to farm small, irregular patches. Breaking up farmland into small, irregular shaped pieces also devalues the land. Mr. Yoder added that the widening of the right-of-way will cause the residences along the road to lose trees. Mr. Yoder thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak about these issues.

Chairman Bass stated that another of the gentlemen that is in attendance today is Mr. Kenneth Yoder. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Kenneth Yoder if he would like to address the Committee. Mr. Kenneth Yoder stated that the Highway Department should research the gradient of the road on the hill where he lives. He added that the Highway Department should also look at how to deal with the surface water across the road. Mr. Kenneth Yoder stated that the Highway Department has probably looked into these issues. He would like to have that information when it becomes available.

Mr. Gordon Bidner, who was also in attendance at the meeting, stated that he lives on the first curve in the road just west of Carlock. Mr. Bidner informed the Committee that the proposed changes in the curves in the road will benefit him, as they will move the road farther from his home. Mr. Bidner stated that his only concern is what will be done with the area directly in front of his home. Mr. Bidner stated that he takes pride in maintaining his home and yard. He noted that he would not want to see the area become an eyesore. Mr. Bidner asked, in closing, how the process will move forward from here.

Chairman Bass stated that he does not want to speak for the entire Committee, but the Committee is planning to take a field trip to the site today. The Highway Department will consult with the engineering group and come back with suggestions and recommendations. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to respond. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department has hired an engineering firm that is working on the plans. Mr. Mitchell stated that the consultant has not completed those plans yet, so there are no specific plans for anyone to review at this time. Mr. Mitchell noted that when the plans are available, he will be able to speak with residents and give them specific details.

Mr. Bidner asked if the residents will be able to give input after the plans are revealed. Mr. Mitchell stated that it would be up to the Committee as to whether they would like to hold a public meeting on the proposed plans.

Mr. Bob Yoder asked if the Highway Department has intentions of seeking federal funds for this project. Mr. Bob Yoder stated that he thought seeking federal dollars would just lengthen and complicate this process. Mr. Mitchell stated that there have been no intentions to seek federal funds for this project. Mr. Mitchell stated that this project will be funded from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund, unless there are major changes.

Chairman Bass thanked the gentlemen for their time and ideas.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item for business is a request for approval of letting results from February 26, 2004 for County and Township Projects. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that he would go down the bid-tab sheet with the Committee. Mr. Mitchell explained that this work is primarily the seal coat work and oil and chip work that the County and Townships do each year. Mr. Mitchell stated that most of this is Township Motor Fuel Tax projects. The first two projects are County projects. Mr. Mitchell advised the Committee that the first project is the County's seal coat, the second is a bridge project. The low bidder on the oil and chip work is Beniach Construction at \$234,667.00, which is 19.8% below the estimate. Mr. Mitchell advised that he recommends that Beniach Construction be awarded the bid.

Mr. Mitchell continued that on the bridge project, the low bidder was Otto Baum at \$589,00.00, which is 15.6% over the estimate. Mr. Mitchell noted that he would recommend that project be re-bid because it is significantly over budget. Mr. Mitchell stated that the next project is on Allin Road Group 1A. The low bidder for that project is Steffens 3-D at \$14,825.00, which is 17.06% under the estimate. Mr. Mitchell stated that for Allin Road Group 2A, Steffens 3-D is the low bidder at 13.26% under the estimate. Mr. Mitchell stated that he can go through all of these bid individually. The Committee should note that the projects came in significantly under the estimate. Mr. Mitchell advised that he would recommend award of all of these projects and that he would be happy to address any specific items that the Committee wishes. Mr. Dean asked where Beniach Construction is located. Mr. Mitchell replied that they are located in Tuscola, IL. Mr. Dean asked where is Steffens 3-D located. Mr. Mitchell replied they Steffens 3-D is located in El Paso, IL. Chairman Bass stated that any company that is interested in submitting a bid for a County project are welcome to do so. Mr. Cavallini asked if Mr. Mitchell checks references of companies before awarding a bid. Mr. Mitchell replied that all of the companies that have bid on these particular projects have done work for the County before and have done a satisfactory job.

Motion by Cavallini/O'Connor to recommend approval of all bids as presented, from the February 26, 2004 bid letting for County and Township Projects as presented. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass advised that the next item on the agenda is a Federal Agency Agreement. Mr. Mitchell explained that the County receives Federal Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Program funding every year or two depending on the size of the project. This project is the Monroe Bridge, which is around two miles south of and a half-mile east of Colfax. Mr. Mitchell explained that the Highway Department has been working on the design of this bridge since 2000. The project is on an old County Highway. The County is responsible for 15% of the local match and the Township is responsible for 5% in order for the Township to claim ownership of that road. The construction estimate is approximately \$205,000.00 with the local share being \$41,000.00. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the Highway Department did prepare a bridge petition at the beginning of the project in order to appropriate funds. The Federal Agency Agreement is to enter into an agreement with the State of Illinois to use the federal funds on the project. Mr. Mitchell recommended that that Committee move forward with the project.

Motion by Dean/Cavallini to recommend approval of a Federal Agency Agreement for the Monroe Bridge. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item for action is the Motor Fuel Tax Resolution for PJ Keller Highway. Mr. Mitchell stated that this Resolution appropriates the local share of a project to resurface PJ Keller Highway from I-55 to the spill-way bridge. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that several years ago, the County built a new bridge at Lake Bloomington when the dam was built. Mr. Mitchell stated that this project will pick up where the work left off several years ago. This Resolution will appropriate the local funds in the amount of \$260,000. Mr. Mitchell noted that he also handed out a Local Agency Agreement for this project. The State has just approved the Agreement. Unfortunately, the State's approval was not in time for it to be included on today's agenda. Mr. Mitchell requested that the Committee will review that item at a Stand-up Committee meeting before the County Board. Mr. Mitchell stated that the total cost for this project is \$1.3 million. This project will resurface 6 ½ miles of roadway. Mr. Mitchell stated that he recommends that the Committee approve the Motor Fuel Tax Resolution for PJ Keller Highway and the Committee can review the agreement at a Stand-up Committee meeting.

Motion by Dean/Cavallini to recommend approval  
of a Motor Fuel Tax Resolution for PJ Keller Highway.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Bass informed the Committee that the next item on the agenda is the field trip to Danvers-Carlock Road. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell if he wanted to discuss any of the informational items before the Committee departed for the trip. Mr. Mitchell replied that he wanted to inform the Committee that there is no change in status on roadwork, because of the winter season. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that he handed out a receipt and copy of a check form from the Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority. The County has received \$136,000.00 of the funds that are due from the Airport Authority. Mr. Dean asked how much was the total owed to the County. Mr. Zeunik replied, less the \$136,000.00 that was just received, the outstanding amount is about \$530,000.00. Mr. Zeunik replied that he and County Board Chairman Sweeney have had two meetings with Mr. Steve Wanamacher, who is the Finance Chairman to the Airport Authority Board, to discuss this issue. All copies of the Intergovernmental Agreements and copies of minutes of Committee meetings regarding this issue since 1988 have been forwarded to Mr. Brian Hug, Civil Assistant State's Attorney and to Mr. Bill Wetzel, Attorney for the Airport Authority. The attorneys are hopeful that by next month's meeting cycle, there will be a resolution to this issue.

Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell if he had any comments on the budget report. Mr. Mitchell replied that he did not have any comments on the budget, but that he had forgotten to introduce the Committee to Mr. Eric Schmidt, Assistant County Engineer, who will attend the field trip with the Committee. Mr. Dean asked how long the field trip will last. Mr. Mitchell replied that it will be at least an hour or an hour and a half. Mr. Dean stated that he will probably have to view that road on his own as he has to get back to his farm.

Chairman Bass recessed the meeting at 8:52 a.m. to depart for the Danvers-Carlock Road field trip.

Chairman Bass reconvened the meeting on the way to Danvers-Carlock Road at 9:13 a.m. When the Committee arrived at the Danvers-Carlock Road, Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that this road will be repaved curb and gutter style to solve the current drainage problems. Mr. Cavallini asked how wide is the road currently. Mr. Mitchell replied that it is 18 feet wide. Mr. Mitchell pointed out the following items as the Committee progressed down the road:

1. The Waste Water Treatment Plant,
2. Mr. Bob Yoder's Farm and the aforementioned well,
3. Several trees which were located in the right-of-way,

4. Several curves that will have to be redesigned,
5. The area just west of the road where the gas line runs,
6. The area where Mr. Bob Yoder's Farm will have to be split,
7. A jog that will need to be removed,
8. Mr. Kenneth Yoder's Farm,
9. Mr. Gordon Bidner's Farm.

Mr. Mitchell pointed out to the Committee how the road narrows in areas and how the edges of the road are very rough. Mr. Bass asked what is the posted speed on this road. Mr. Mitchell replied that it is 55-mph. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the road will need all new culverts and the road will be significantly widened. Mr. Cavallini asked what is the traffic count on this road. Mr. Mitchell replied that it is 400 cars per day. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the roadwork will end at the Interstate 74 overpass.

Ms. O'Connor asked whose farm will be hit the hardest by this construction. Mr. Mitchell replied that Ms. Hoover's farm and the farm of Mr. Kath will likely be hit the hardest. Mr. Mitchell also informed the Committee that the design speed will be determined by the vertical and horizontal alignment of the road. Mr. Mitchell stated that he believes that this is the roughest road in the County.

On the way back to the Law and Justice Center, Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the Highway Department has plans to resurface Old 150 in the near future. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the road was turned over to the County when Mitsubishi Motorways of America was built. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the intersection of College Avenue and Old 150 needs to be updated with turn lanes and widened. He added that the intersection of Hovey and Old 150 may need a traffic signal. Mr. Mitchell stated that the traffic count on Old 150 is 5,000 cars per day.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bass at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Christine Northcutt  
Recording Secretary