

## Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on February 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 Hoselton, Owens, Cavallini and Rodgers

Members Absent: Member Dean

Staff Members Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator;  
Mrs. Carmen Zielinski, County Administrator's Office;  
Mr. John Mitchell, County Engineer

Others Present: Ms. Christine Brauer, Regional Planning Commission

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. Chairman Bass presented the Minutes of the January 6, 2004 meeting for approval.

Motion by Owens/Cavallini to approve the Minutes of January 6, 2004 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass presented the bills for approval.

Mr. Owens noticed that the Overtime Expenditure line increased to over \$7,000.00. Mr. Mitchell answered that due to the arrival of winter weather, the Highway Department is putting in extra hours in order to maintain the roads.

Mr. Cavallini asked how the salt supply levels were doing. Mr. Mitchell answered that at the present time, the Highway Department has two full bins that hold about 1,500 tons of salt in each. An order has been placed for 750 tons and the fourth bin stands empty. Mr. Mitchell explained that the Highway Department rotates the use of the bins so that the salt does not clump together, since freezing weather does affect the texture of the salt, turning some of it into clumps. These clumps are dumped into the fourth empty bin and these clumps are broken down by a loader and used.

Mr. Cavallini asked how long would it take to have the ordered salt delivered. Mr. Mitchell answered that it fluctuates based on how busy the terminals are and if the river is open for shipment.

Mr. Owens asked if the winter weather has created an increase in equipment repair expenses. Mr. Mitchell replied that the equipment has experienced the usual normal-wear breakdowns.

Chairman Bass noted an increase in the Conference/Seminar line item. Mr. Mitchell explained that due to State requirements, Quality Control Quality Assurance (QCQA) seminars are offered on topics such as the inspection of materials including concrete, asphalt and nuclear density of road materials. Members attending these seminars take a test at the end of the seminar. Mr. Hoselton asked who is attending these seminars from the Highway Department. Mr. Mitchell answered that the Engineering Department staff are the ones attending these seminars.

Mr. Owens asked what happens if one of his staff members does not pass these exams, does the County get reimbursed for this expense. Mr. Mitchell answered that he has never experienced a situation where a member of his department has not passed their test. However, Mr. Mitchell is not aware of a policy requesting reimbursement for seminars not passed. Mr. Zeunik concurred that McLean County does not have a policy requiring the employee to reimburse the County for the failure to pass a class or seminar that has been paid for by the County.

Ms. O'Connor noted a large expense under the Barker Olds/Cadillac/GMC line item. Ms. O'Connor asked what does Barker Olds/Cadillac/GMC provide. Mr. Mitchell answered that Barker Olds/Cadillac/GMC provides parts for the Highway Department's GMC vehicles.

Motion by Owens/ Cavallini to approve the bills for December 2003 and January 2004, as submitted by the County Auditor for approval. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented the results of a Letting from January 28, 2004. Mr. Mitchell explained that the letting was for the purchase of one (1) 2004 Motor Grader, one (1) 2004 Four-Wheel Drive Loader, two (2) 2004 Dump Body and Hoists, two (2) 2004 Tandem Cab and Chassis, and one (1) 2004 Eight Passenger Utility Truck.

Mr. Mitchell explained that a 2004 Caterpillar Motor Grader will be purchased for \$42,039.00, with a trade in of a 2000 Caterpillar 140 H Motor Grader, from Altorfer, Inc., East Peoria, Illinois. A 2004 Four-Wheel Drive John Deere, Model 624J Loader will be purchased for \$41,148.00, with a trade in of a 1999 John Deere 624H Four-Wheel Drive Loader, from Martin Equipment, Inc., of Goodfield, IL. One 2004 Eight Passenger Utility Expedition XLT Utility Truck for \$15,560.00, with a trade in of a 1998 Ford Crown Victoria and a 1999 Ford E. 150 Van, will be purchased from Neldner Ford, Lexington, IL. Two 2004 Peterbilt Model 330

Tandem Cab and Chassis for \$48,274.00 each, with a trade in of a 1998 Ford Crown Victoria and a 1999 Ford E-150 Van, will be purchased from Peterbilt of Central Illinois, Bloomington, IL. Finally, two 2004 13'6" Stainless Steel Dump Body and Hoist for \$19,595.00 each will be purchased from Koenig Body and Equipment, Peoria, IL. Mr. Mitchell went into further details of the bidders that responded to the Letting for Equipment Purchase and State Bid Purchase.

At this time, Mr. Mitchell is requesting approval of a January 20, 2004 Letting for Equipment Purchase and State Bid Purchases with a side request to use the substantial savings incurred from the bid purchases to acquire a list of equipment that are still needed. This list consists of two Stainless-Steel Salt Spreaders, for \$5,590.00, a Shop Welder for \$4,617.59, a Crack Router for \$16,000.00 and Miscellaneous Shop Hand Tools for \$4,000.00.

Chairman Bass wondered why the need for two Stainless-Steel Salt Spreaders was being requested at this time. Mr. Mitchell answered that he was just made aware of the need for these two salt spreaders and these are items that are in need at this time of the year. Mr. Mitchell also noted that the request for a Crack Router would facilitate the repair of roads in a more permanent manner than with the present use of a torch and air method. Mr. Mitchell pointed out that the Crack Router would help with the making of rumble strips on the road.

Motion by O'Connor/Cavallini to approve all Equipment bids as presented, from the January 28, 2004 Letting and the request to purchase two Stainless-Steel Salt Spreaders, a Shop Welder, a Crack Router and other Miscellaneous Shop Hand Tools. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass made reference to the Field Trip to view the Danvers-Carlock Road listed in the agenda. Chairman Bass stated that the trip has been postponed due to the weather. This trip will be rescheduled for March. Chairman Bass stated that a Mr. Bob Yoder has expressed concern regarding the Danvers-Carlock Road and his concern merits the review of the Transportation Committee and its related issues.

Mr. Owens stated that he may have a conflict with this field trip because he will be out of town attending the NACO Legislative Conference and may not be available to partake in this trip. Chairman Bass noted that this field trip needs to be made in March in order to move this issue forward. Chairman Bass informed the Committee that Mr. Yoder is concerned with the amount of property that may be needed for the Right of Way in order to comply with State requirements for this project. Mr. Mitchell explained that this road needs to be rebuilt in order to

cut the hills to accommodate a 50 miles per hour speed limit, correct the curvature of the road and redesign a bridge. Mr. Mitchell noted that an Engineering Firm is working on the design plans for this project.

Mr. Hoselton agreed that some additional property will have to be acquired for a Right of Way. Mr. Hoselton asked how wide is the road. Mr. Mitchell answered that the road is 19 ft. wide. Mr. Hoselton wondered if the road can be widened by a foot per side. Mr. Mitchell noted that the project is designed to widened this road to 22 feet, with 6 foot shoulders and a 3 to 1 slopes. The main problem in this road is the hills and curves.

Chairman Bass warned that if this project was to deviate from the standards set by the Illinois Department of Transportation, someone might feel that they were cheated out of a proper repair of their roads. Proper standards need to be followed for every project. Traffic flow will increase through these roads once they are upgraded.

Mr. Owens asked what the estimated cost was for this project. Mr. Mitchell answered that he does not have this information with him at this time, but will provide it for the March meeting.

Ms. Christine Brauer, Regional Planning Commission, informed the Committee that there is a State program called Context Sensitive Design. This program facilitates the deviation of standard designs in order to produce a quality plan for a project. Ms. Brauer will provide more information on this subject.

Mr. Mitchell presented the results of a letting from January 28, 2004. Mr. Mitchell explained that the letting was for the County and Township Projects. Mr. Mitchell went into further details of the Township projects listed on the bid sheet.

Mr. Hoselton asked if the Townships had approved these MFT bids. Mr. Mitchell answered that all of the Townships had approved all of these bids.

Motion by Hoselton/Owens to approve the  
MFT Section of the bids for the County and  
Township as submitted at the January 28, 2004  
Letting.

Mr. Owens asked if the portion of the bid for the three (3) County projects is based on the geographic area being used. Mr. Mitchell answered that the \$0.15 per ton mile rule will be used for these three (3) County projects.

Motion carried.

Chairman Bass made reference to the Non-MFT Section of County and Township of the January 28, 2004 Letting. Mr. Hoselton noted that the materials listed under the Non-MFT Section of the bid were materials that the County provides to the Townships. The Townships would then reimburse the County for the materials provided. Mr. Mitchell explained that the items listed in the Non-MFT Section of the bid are unit prices for the item. This letting establishes unit price for each item. This unit price will be the price the County pays when the item is ordered at a later time.

Motion by Hoselton/O'Connor to approve the Non - MFT Section of the bids for the County and Township as submitted at the January 28, 2004 Letting. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to update the Committee regarding the Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority (BNAA) Bill. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the outstanding bill with the Bloomington-Normal Airport Authority presently stands at \$633,000 with an interest charge increasing the balance to \$785,000.00. It is Mr. Mitchell's understanding that the Airport Authority is trying to secure funding from the State. The amount owed is the Airports' share of Section 128, about two miles of Towanda-Barnes Road, from Route 9 to Ireland Grove.

Mr. Mitchell explained that there are numerous Intergovernmental Agreements between the County and the Airport Authority. In 1988, the Intergovernmental Agreement called that in lieu of the airport building a tunnel under their runway, the airport would construct four roads. These four roads are Stride Road, Ireland Grove (from the City out to Towanda-Barnes), Towanda-Barnes Road (from Ireland Grove to Route 9) and a road that was to connect Towanda-Barnes and Stride Road, which was later deleted through County Board action. Mr. Mitchell noted that the Ireland Grove Road was planned as a two-lane road, with a right of way for a four lane road. The County decided that it would be beneficial to build this road as a four-lane road to begin with, knowing that the south campus of State Farm was in the future. Mr. Mitchell noted that this bill has accrued this balance since the Summer of 2002, with a final billing date for the construction of August 2003.

Ms. O'Connor asked if the States Attorney's Office should get involved with this matter since some form of payment needs to be originated.

Chairman Bass asked who is the oversight Committee for this issue. Mr. Zeunik answered that the Transportation Committee is the oversight Committee regarding this matter. Mr. Zeunik explained that the Intergovernmental Agreement stipulated that the Airport Authority would pay \$520,000.00. The Intergovernmental Agreement stated, "If the local share of this project is less, the County would refund the Airport Authority the difference. If the cost is more, the Airport would pay the balance."

Mr. Zeunik acknowledged that this issue can be referred to the State's Attorney's Office. Mr. Zeunik informed the Committee that he has had several conversations with Mr. Mike LaPier regarding the amount owed. Mr. LaPier stated that the Airport Authority was counting on funding from the Federal and State government that has not been forthcoming. Mr. Zeunik stated that Chairman Sweeney is trying to set up a meeting with the Chairman of the Airport Authority Finance Committee, Mr. Steve Wannemacher, to resolve this issue. Part of the problem, from day one, was the fact that the Airport Authority does not build road, nor do they have any means of building roads. So, the Airport Authority needed to find a mechanism to fund the construction of roads. Mr. Zeunik noted that the intergovernmental agreements were drafted by Mr. Brian Hug, Assistant State's Attorney.

Chairman Bass suggested that this issue be kept on the table so that everyone involved is aware that there is a problem and a resolution is needed. Mr. Hoselton wondered if the entire Airport Authority Board is aware of this debt. Mr. Hoselton suggested that a formal letter be sent to all of the members of the Airport Authority Board regarding a resolution to this debt.

Mr. Zeunik informed the Committee that two of the Airport Authority Board members, Neale McCormick and Steve Wannemacher are aware of this issue. Mr. Zeunik noted that Senator Brady, during last year's legislative session was able to set aside funds under the Member Initiative category, for this project. However, the Governor will not release these funds at this time. Based on another conversation, rumor is that these funds may be released at the very end of the State's budget year, which is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Bass recommended that a letter be drafted and sent to all of the Airport Authority Board members. Mr. Zeunik informed the Committee that the McLean County Board appoints three of the five members of the Airport Authority Board. Mr. Zeunik explained that the County Board approved the appointment of Mr. Neale McCormick, Mr. Steve Wannemacher and Mr. George Walden. The Town of Normal appointed Mr. Paul Harmon and the City of Bloomington appointed Ms. Barbara Allsup.

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Mr. Owens would like to check on the service level these appointees are providing. This would be a time to do that.

Mr. Cavallini asked if a joint meeting could be scheduled between the Airport Authority Board and the Transportation Committee. Mr. Zeunik answered that a joint meeting can be scheduled.

Chairman Bass made reference to the Road Work Status listed on the agenda. Mr. Mitchell stated that for the Randolph County Highway 36 Project, Stark has completed the Box Culvert and the backfill and patchwork is done. The road opened to traffic on January 20, 2004.

Chairman Bass referred to the Budget Reports presented in the agenda and asked if there were any questions regarding the budget reports. No questions were asked.

Chairman Bass asked if any Committee member had any other comments or discussions to present. Mr. Mitchell updated the Committee that the GIS Grant position has been filled. Mr. Juan Garcia has been hired for the position of a GIS Specialist with a starting date of February 17, 2004. Mr. Garcia has a BS Degree in Engineering from the University of Columbia and is presently working on his thesis to finish his Master's degree from Illinois State University. Mr. Garcia will begin his work at the Highway Department until there is room for him in the new Government Center.

Mr. Owens stated that he will present a report regarding his attendance at the NACO Legislative Conference during the April Transportation meeting.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bass at 9:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Carmen I. Zielinski  
Recording Secretary