

## Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on September 9, 2003 at 7:30 a.m. at the Law and Justice Center, Room 703, 104 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bass, Members Dean, Rodgers, Hoselton, Owens and Cavallini

Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Ms. Lucretia Wherry, Administrator's Office; Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer; Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Planner, Regional Planning, Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator

Others Present: Ms. Christine Brauer, Regional Planning Commission

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

Chairman Bass presented the Minutes of the August 5, 2003 meeting for approval.

Motion by Hoselton/Owens to approve the Minutes of the August 5, 2003 meeting of the Transportation Committee as presented.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Bass presented the bills for approval. The Committee reviewed the bills.

Mr. Owens asked what was purchased at Koenig Body and Equipment. Mr. Mitchell explained that the jump bodies for the new trucks were purchased at Koenig Body and Equipment. The costs listed in the bills includes installation. Mr. Dean asked if the dump bodies are stainless steel. Mr. Mitchell replied that the new dump bodies are stainless steel.

Chairman Bass noted that the Highway Department purchased a membership to Sam's Club. Mr. Mitchell explained that the Highway Department would be receiving a refund for the membership because when the Auditor reviewed the purchase, the Auditor, discovered that the information given to the Highway Department was not the same as in the agreement.

Mr. Owens asked about the Stark projects, for which the County has been billed. Mr. Mitchell answered that Stark completed the Oakland Avenue Bridge project and the Bellflower Project. Mr. Owens asked about the Rowe projects. Mr. Mitchell responded that Rowe has completed the Ellsworth and Arrowsmith projects.

Chairman Bass noted a purchase of right-of-way. Mr. Mitchell explained that the purchase of the right-of-way is on Linden Street. When the original work was done on Linden Street, the County could not come to an agreement with the owner of the property. Since there was enough ground in front of the property, the work was completed without the right-of-way. However, there is a sight line problem because of the tree line. The right-of-way has now been purchased so that the trees can be removed from vehicles line of sight.

Mr. Owens asked why funds were paid to the State of Illinois. Mr. Mitchell replied that the funds were paid to the State of Illinois for the Towanda Barnes Road, section 113, project. Mr. Mitchell stated that Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator received a phone call from The Pantagraph reporter in Springfield. The General Assembly passed a bill re-appropriating funds for road improvement funds. The Towanda Barnes Road was included in the re-appropriation. The funds for this project were already spent and therefore, should not have been re-appropriated. The Highway Department is looking into this, since nothing has been received from the State of Illinois regarding this legislation.

Mr. Hoselton asked why the Highway Department has used \$8,000.00 of overtime. Mr. Mitchell explained that the contractors have been working weekends. The Highway Department Engineers have to be on site to approve the work being done. Also, Maintenance staff have been working early or late to have work ready for the crew so that man-hours are not being wasted waiting for preparations to be done each morning.

Mr. Cavallini asked why there are bills being paid to the Peoria Newspapers. Mr. Mitchell responded that the bills are for advertising the formerly vacant Civil Engineer position.

Motion by Owens/Cavallini to approve the bills for August 2003 as transmitted by the County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented the letting results for the September 9, 2003 County Project on Randolph Road. The letting is to purchase stone for the road improvements. Four thousand feet of new road will be built, the remainder of the road will be widened and resurfaced. Rowe is the low bidder, bidding 1.9% over the estimated costs. Highway Staff recommends award of the project to Rowe Constructions.

Motion by Hoselton/Cavallini to recommend approval of the award of the letting for the September 9, 2003 County Project on Randolph Road. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell pulled the K & R Gravel Pit Road Use Agreement from the agenda. The County Highway Department hoped that the agreement would be ready. However, the attorneys working on the agreement still need to meet. A question remains on zoning issues. Mr. Phil Dick, Director, Building and Zoning, feels that the K & R Gravel Pit needs to be approved through Building and Zoning. The gravel pit needs to have a Road Use Agreement in place as all other gravel pits in McLean County do. The owners are resisting because it is the owners belief that not much gavel will be sold from the pit. The Highway Department is working on an agreement that is different than other Road Use Agreement with other gravel pits. Gravel pits are generally responsible for the full costs of the road improvements. Since the K & R gravel pit is not selling much gravel, K&R will be responsible for 20% of the costs on a flat fee basis. After that K&R would be charged on a percentage basis per ton. Mr. Owens asked who owned the K & R Gravel Pit. Mr. Mitchell replied that one the owners is Mr. Merrill Kerber. Mr. Mitchell does not know Mr. Riddle's first name.

Mr. Cavallini stated that the Land Use and Development Committee has been made aware of dealing with the Scharf Gravel Pit being too closed to the road. Mr. Mitchell stated he has not visited that gravel pit recently. However, Scharf does have a Road Use Agreement in place.

Mr. Mitchell presented a status report on roadwork. The Oakland Avenue Bridge, 96-00042-07-BR is complete and open. The Lexington/ LeRoy Road, 99-00044-06-WR, is complete and open. The final inspection for Towanda Barnes Road, 98-00113-03-FP, is complete. The project is complete. Ellsworth South Road, 03-00134-04-RS is complete and open. Contract work for the Arrowsmith Road, 99-000140-02-WR is finished. The Highway Department has completed paving and the shoulders. Seed needs to be planted. Rowe Construction is working on the Stanford-McLean Road. Rowe has completed the binding and will surface later this week.

Mr. Mitchell reviewed the year to date budget for with the Committee. Mr. Hoselton asked Mr. Mitchell to give an explanation of how the Bridge Matching Fund works. Mr. Mitchell explained that the Bridge Matching Fund is used first to meet obligations on township bridge petitions. The County reviews the project with the Township Road Commissioner. The Petition is then prepared by the Highway Department and sent to the Road Commissioner for the Commissioner's review and signature. If the bridge is over 20 feet in length, the State pays for 80% of the bridge. The County and the Township are responsible for splitting the other 20%. If the project is less than 20 feet, the County and the Township split the costs of the project 50/50. The criteria for the 50/50 split is that the project must be at least .02% of the Township budget. The Township must also have the tax levy at the maximum amount of \$0.125 per \$100.00 of equalized assessed valuation. The County can use the Bridge Matching Funds for County projects as well.

Mr. Hoselton noted that the Highway Department has exceeded the budget for Construction and Maintenance. Mr. Mitchell explained that it is not unusual to exceed the budget on this line item. Projects that were begun in past years have been completed. The money has been set aside for the completion of the project. The Highway Department will request that the County Board approve an emergency appropriation for the project.

Mr. Mitchell announced that Mr. Jerry Stokes has been hired to fill the vacant Civil Engineer II at the Highway Department. Mr. Stokes, originally from the Mackinaw area is a graduate of Bradley University. He currently works in Springfield and has experience working with the Illinois Department of Transportation. Mr. Stokes will begin on September 22, 2003.

There will need to be a Stand-up Committee Meeting prior to the September 16, 2003 County Board Meeting to approve the award of the September 16, 2003, Randolph Road Hot Mix Letting.

Under Other Business, Mr. Mitchell stated that there was an article in The Pantagraph regarding the Eastside Bypass. The Bypass will not be brought back to the Committee for further review since the City of Bloomington did not approve the plan.

Mr. Mitchell alerted the Committee that Committee members may receive calls from Ellsworth residents. The Highway Department has completed work on the downtown road. Plans are under way to change the parking in the downtown to parallel parking. Residents are not happy, however, the change is for their safety. When trucks are parked, the tailgate hangs into the street. Moving traffic has to cross the centerline in order to avoid the parked vehicles. Mr. Cavallini asked if signs could be posted for small vehicle parking only. Mr. Mitchell explained that a majority of the vehicles parked in the downtown are trucks. The Highway Department looked in to angle parking. But there is not enough room to meet State regulations.

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Mr. Dean asked for a report on the boat ramp safety issue discussed at the August Transportation meeting. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Parks and Recreation Department is continuing to work to have power supplied to the lake for the flashing beacons. Mr. Mitchell added that he doubts that the beacons would prevent accidents if the rumble strips haven't. Chairman Bass added that the Committee needs to be cautious of spending money every time an accident occurs.

Chairman Bass asked the Committee to think about changing the meeting time to at 8:00 a.m. in 2004.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bass at 8:29 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucretia Wherry  
Recording Secretary

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