

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, December 10, 2002 at 7:30 a.m. in Room 700, Law and Justice Center, 104 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Ms. Lucretia Wherry, Human Resources Assistant, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, County Highway Department;

Others Present: Ms. Chris Bauer, Regional Planning Commission; Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Planner, Regional Planning

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. and declared the presence of a quorum. Chairman Bass presented the minutes of the November 5, 2002 meeting for approval.

Motion by Rodgers/Owens to approve and place on file the minutes of the November 5, 2002 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass presented the bills as prepared and recommended for transmittal to the Transportation Committee by the Auditor's Office. Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, McLean County Highway Department reviewed the bills for the Highway Funds 120, 121, 122 and 123. Mr. Hoselton asked what projects are requiring the use of overtime pay. Mr. Mitchell replied that the Towanda Barnes Road, Danvers Road and the Lexington/Leroy Road have required the use of overtime.

The Committee reviewed the McLean County Numerical Register. The Total for the Road District Motor Fuel Fund is \$87,525.64.

Motion by Cavallini/Owens to recommend approval of the bills as presented and recommended by the Auditor's Office. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Committee with a request for approval to Sale Surplus Equipment. Bids were accepted for a 1992 Ford L800 Dump Truck and a 1995 Ford F150 Pick-Up Truck. Value for used trucks is down due to the availability of 0% interest on new vehicles. Staff is recommending the sale of the 1995 Ford Pick Up Truck. The bids received are not as high as bids have been in the past. Townships bids used to bid on the vehicles, but no longer do. Mr. Mitchell recommended that future trucks be purchased though the State bid system. However, the State does not have larger vehicles, such as dump trucks, that are as rugged as the dump trucks currently purchased for McLean County.

Mr. Cavallini asked how long trucks last. Mr. Mitchell replied that it depends on mileage and the condition of the vehicle. The salt and sodium chloride are hard on the vehicle.

Mr. Owens asked if the Highway Department has ever considered leasing vehicles. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department has considered leasing in the past. However, at the time, it was a better value to purchase the vehicles due to the ability to pay cash. The County does not have to pay interest charges on a direct purchase.

Motion by Hoselton/Owens to recommend approval of a Request to Sale Surplus equipment. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoselton stated that he recently read an article in County Government magazine, which stated that in many areas, it is more economical to lease than purchase. Mr. Hoselton encouraged new Committee members to read information regarding transportation. Mr. Mitchell stated that as the Highway Department looks to replace vehicles, leasing would be considered as an option.

Mr. Mitchell presented a request for approval of a Resolution for the Sale of Property. The Highway Department has four tracts of land for sale that were originally purchased as Right of Way. Tract One is located in the Village of Saybrook on the north side of Harrison Street adjacent to the Sangamon River. This parcel is believed to lie entirely in a flood plane. The sale is recommended to Steve Miller for the amount of \$500.00.

Tract Three and Four are located ½ mile south of Downs on County Highway 27. These are lots 1 and 2 of the Savidge Bridge Subdivision. Lot 1 contains 2.52 acres. Lot 2 contains 5.45 acres. Both lots are part of the 100-year flood plain. The sale is recommended to Thet Hlaing for \$16,000.00 and \$23,000.00.

Lot Two is not recommend for sale at this time. It is located across from the Freedom Gas station in Lexington. The City of Lexington is interested in the property, but would like for the County to gift the property to the City of Lexington. The property could be used for the Route 66 Bicycle Route. Mr. Cavallini stated that the City of Lexington had a closed session meeting last night to discuss the purchase of real estate. The Committee agreed to work with the City of Lexington on the sale of this property.

Motion by Dean/Rodgers to recommend approval of a Resolution to Sale Property. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented a request for approval of the Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance Resolution. This Resolution is passed annually prior to January 1st. The Resolution represents the maintenance cost estimates for the Motor Fuel Tax fund for 2003. The Committee reviewed the County Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance Resolution.

Mr. Hoselton asked if the actual costs for 2002 and the remaining inventory are taken into consideration before preparing the 2003 resolution. Mr. Mitchell replied that the actual 2002 costs and inventory are considered. However, on some items, prices do vary from year to year.

Mr. Hoselton asked if quotes are taken from the gravel pits. Mr. Mitchell stated that quotes are taken and mileage for projects is taken into consideration.

Mr. Dean asked why calcium chloride is used on the shoulders of the road. Mr. Mitchell stated that the calcium chloride adds strength to the shoulder.

Chairman Bass asked if the County has enough salt for the winter. Mr. Mitchell replied that the salt bins are full.

Ms. Rodgers asked if inventory is carried over very often. Mr. Mitchell replied that most years inventory is carried over. Mr. Hoselton asked what would happen if the estimates were short. Mr. Mitchell stated that if the estimate is short, a reappropriation could be done.

Motion by Hoselton/Rodgers to recommend approval of a resolution for Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented a request for approval to enter into an agreement between McLean County Highway and Nicor Gas to move a gas main. Part of the gas main for the Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation Plant on Oakland Avenue is on right of way. The gas main needs to be moved to the south side of the Oakland Avenue bridge as part of the project to reconstruct this bridge.

Minutes of the Transportation Committee meeting
December 10, 2002
Page Four

Mr. Hoselton asked prepared did the cost estimate. Mr. Mitchell replied that Nicor Gas prepared the cost estimate. Nicor actually completed the work, prior to Mr. Mitchell being able to present this request.

Motion by Hoselton/Rodgers to recommend approval of an agreement between the County of McLean and Nicor Gas. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented a request for approval to enter into an agreement between BLDD Architects and McLean County Highway Department for a new garage and storage. A garage is needed on the new 38-acre property on Route 9, which was purchased by the County this year. Mr. Hoselton stated that before approving the architectural design services the site plans and construction material plans should be completed for the Committee and Board. Mr. Mitchell explained that the Highway Department is working on the site plan. Mr. Hoselton stated that the Committee would like to review the site plan. Mr. Mitchell replied that the site plans are not complete and that there are several alternatives. The Committee agreed that the proposed fee for the architectural services are quite expensive.

Mr. Hoselton stated that there are a lot of companies that can quote prices for a design build and prefabricated buildings. An Architect would not be needed for a prefabricated building.

Mr. Owens asked if there is a potential buyer of the old facility, which would help to offset the costs for the new facility. Mr. Mitchell replied that the City of Bloomington has expressed some interest in the current site. A property value assessment still needs to be completed.

Motion by Hoselton/Owens to table the request to enter into an architectural agreement between the County of McLean and BLDD Architects. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass noted that it is in the County's best interest to remain frugal. The current facility is excellent. Unfortunately, the County has grown and a larger facility is needed.

Mr. Dean asked if fencing would be needed at the new facility. Mr. Mitchell replied that some security measures would be taken.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Five-Year Plan to the Committee for review. There are currently no changes made to the approved Five-Year Plan, however the plan does fluctuate depending on emergency projects.

Minutes of Transportation Committee meeting
December 10, 2002
Page Five

Mr. Dean noted that the Arrowsmith project is not listed. Mr. Mitchell replied that the Arrowsmith project is a carry over from last year.

Mr. Mitchell updated the Committee on the progress of Towanda Barnes Road. Section 97-00165-00-FP and section 96-00168-00-Fp are complete. Section 98-00113-03-FP is 80% complete. Asphalt is being laid.

The Lexington/Leroy Road is open. There is one layer to complete next year. The Danvers Road is open with a short list of items to be completed.

Response letters are included in the agenda packet regarding the I-55 Interchange Project and from the Central Illinois Regional Airport regarding the Towanda-Barnes Road Construction Costs.

Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Planner, Regional Planning Commission, presented the Committee with an update on the East Side Corridor Transportation Feasibility Study. Letters have been sent out to property owners affected by the study. A handful of responses have been returned to the Regional Planning Commission.

Mr. Owens requested that Ms. Sicks present a general overview of the Study for the Committee at the January Transportation Committee Meeting.

Motion by Owens/Hoselton to move into Executive Session for the purpose of completing the Annual Performance Evaluation of the County Engineer. Mr. John Zeunik and Ms. Lucretia Wherry are asked to remain in the Executive Session.
Motion carried.

The Committee moved into Executive Session at 9:11 a.m.

The Committee returned to Open Session at 9:50 a.m.

Motion by Owens/Cavallini to recommend approval of the County Engineer's salary for 2003. Motion carried.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bass at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucretia A. Wherry
Recording Secretary

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