

## Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, July 9, 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, Johnson

Members Absent: Members Emmett, Selzer

Staff Members Present: Mr. John M. Zeunik, County Administrator;  
Mr. Brian Hug, Civil Assistant State's Attorney;  
Ms. Martha B. Ross, County Administrator's Assistant,  
County Administrator's Office

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

Others Present: Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Transportation Planner, McLean  
County Regional Planning Commission; Mr. Walter Hunt,  
Internal Auditor, McLean County Auditor's Office

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m. and declared the presence of a quorum. Chairman Bass presented the minutes of the June 3, 2002 meeting for approval.

Motion by Owens/Johnson to approve and place on file the minutes of the June 3, 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. Owens inquired about payments made to Contech Construction, which is listed under Line Item 0621.0004, Group Purchasing. He specifically inquired about an amount of \$13,724.50, and what it represented. Mr. Mitchell responded that Contech Construction is the company that holds the County's bid for pipe culverts. He stated their bid was accepted in February 2002. Mr. Mitchell explained that the County purchases a supply of pipe culverts for their own use, as well as for use by the 30 townships and several villages within the County.

Mr. Hoselton stated that his recollection of the Contech bid was that it was for a total of approximately \$22,000.00. He noted that he suggested saving money by purchasing all of the culverts at the same time, rather than on an as-needed basis. Mr. Mitchell

responded that the volume of culverts utilized throughout the year is quite high. Therefore, several truckloads are ordered initially. As that inventory is depleted, additional orders are placed on an as-needed basis, and delivered to the Highway Department or to the job site. He explained that this process is actually more efficient, since it is very difficult to anticipate the total number of culverts that will be needed during a given year.

Mr. Hoselton stated that, during a previous discussion regarding culvert supply, it was proposed that a complete inventory be taken so that records could be established as to what sizes are most often needed. Those items would subsequently be stockpiled in an effort to take advantage of price breaks when they are available. Mr. Mitchell explained that records of all County and Township roads in the County are being examined to determine what kinds of culverts are most often used. To date, approximately 10% of the job has been finished, and is pursued as time and staffing levels permit.

Mr. Mitchell stated that culvert inventory is also driven by the deterioration rate of individual culverts. It is difficult to predict when replacements need to be made, which in turn, makes inventory control more difficult.

Ms. Johnson asked about a payment to the Treasurer, State of Illinois, in the amount of \$545,529.89. Mr. Mitchell explained that this amount is a combination of payments to the State for work on both the Towanda-Barnes Road and the Danvers-Yuton Road.

Chairman Bass asked what payments to Culligan Water represent. Mr. Mitchell explained that this is for water to fill two (2) water softener tanks, which are located in the office and the garage area. He noted that replacements are made on a four (4) week cycle.

Chairman Bass stated that there were two payments made to Puritan Springs Water within a two week period. Mr. Mitchell explained that a few years ago, regulations came out regarding the testing of underground wells. The Highway Department fit into the governing criteria for such testing. It was determined that the cost to test the well and meet the accompanying regulations was more expensive than purchasing bottled drinking water for the Highway Department facility.

Motion by Hoselton/Johnson to approve the Bills as presented and recommended by the Auditor's Office. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass presented the bid results of a letting on June 26, 2002. He stated that Section 02-00038-04-WR, in the amount of \$212,290.00, is for the paving of the Lexington-LeRoy Road. Rowe Construction Company was the successful bidder, with a bid that was 7.19% under the estimate. He stated that Section 99-00044-06-WR, in the amount of \$686,421.50, is for the Danvers project. He noted that Rowe Construction Company was also the successful bidder on that project, with a bid that was 1.92% over the estimate. Mr. Mitchell stated that he recommended award of both projects to Rowe Construction Company.

Mr. Hoselton asked how many bids were placed for each project. Mr. Mitchell responded that only one bidder participated in the bidding process for each of these projects.

Mr. Hoselton then asked whether all area contractors had access to the engineer's estimated bids. Mr. Mitchell responded that all have access. He then stated that the subject has been discussed several times, and it has been decided to continue the open access to the engineer's estimate. He further stated that if the Committee would like to discontinue this practice, he would do so. Mr. Hoselton stated that he would like to discuss the issue at a later date when all Committee members are present. Mr. Owens stated that he is in agreement with reopening the discussion before the full Committee.

Chairman Bass asked whether there is any advantage or disadvantage to allowing potential bidders to access estimated bid amounts prior to placing their bids.

Mr. Mitchell stated that his Department feels that if an estimated range is made available, it serves to keep the final bids in line with what would ultimately be accepted. He noted that this thought is not always shared by other bid participants.

Mr. Hoselton explained that he is amenable to the idea of giving a bid range, but does not agree with the publication of estimates. Chairman Bass noted that the subject would be revisited for discussion at a later date, when the full Committee was present.

Motion by Johnson/Owens to recommend approval of awards for County construction projects to Rowe Construction Company in the amounts of \$212,290.00 and \$686,421.50. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass presented the Road Work Status Report for the Towanda-Barnes Road. Mr. Mitchell explained that the first section is Sec. 97-00165-00-FP. He stated that this section covers U.S. Route 150 to Ireland Grove Road, and is approximately 49% complete. The dirt work has been completed, curbs are being constructed, and asphalt is being laid at the north end of the section. Mr. Mitchell remarked that it is hoped that the remainder of the binder can be laid up to the railroad tracks. Then the middle section can be paved.

Mr. Mitchell stated that Sec. 96-00168-00-FP, which is the middle section, is awaiting the completion of work on the preceding section. There has been some shoulder work completed, but all other remaining work is contingent upon the completion of the preceding section. This section is currently approximately 81% complete.

Mr. Hoselton noted that Sec. 97-00165-00-FP's Preliminary Engineering costs were estimated at \$295,000.00 by the Farnsworth Group. On the Project Summary, this portion of the project is listed as 100% complete, with a final cost of \$257,540.34. He asked whether the County secured the services of Farnsworth Group for a lesser amount than was specified in the Preliminary Engineering quote. Mr. Mitchell explained that \$257,540.34 represents the final cost for Preliminary Engineering. However, he noted that the Construction Engineering on this section is ongoing. Mr. Mitchell noted that the same situation exists with regard to Sec. 96-00168-00-FP. The Preliminary Engineering costs were projected to be \$203,000.00; to date, \$188,158.06 has been spent. 100% of that portion of the project has been completed.

Mr. Mitchell presented the update for Sec. 98-00113-03-FP, which is the Towanda-Barnes Road section from Illinois Route 9 to Fort Jesse Road. He noted that this section is approximately 10% complete. The dirt work is nearing completion; culverts in the new road lane have been installed.

Mr. Hoselton asked whether the work on this section will be completed within the current construction season. Mr. Mitchell responded that the projection has been that the pavement will be completed, and all three sections of the road opened to traffic in the Fall of 2002. However, some aspects of the finishing work will likely not be completed, such as seeding and finish work around the dirt areas. This projection is subject to weather conditions and its effect on the construction schedule.

Chairman Bass presented a summary of the East Side By-Pass Facility Study. Mr. Mitchell noted that the summary includes all of the alternatives that were examined, including the "no build" option. He explained that consultant Bernardin Lochmueller and Associates, Inc. have provided their recommendation, which is presented in the summary as Alternative C. This is the alignment that intersects with Interstate 55 between the Village of Towanda and the Town of Normal, bypasses the Bloomington-Normal area, and intersects again with Interstate 74 on the southeast edge of the City of Bloomington.

Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Transportation Planner, McLean County Regional Planning Commission, remarked that the issue will be considered again at the Regional Planning Commission meeting scheduled for August 7, 2002. However, a joint meeting between the Steering Committee and the Regional Planning Commission members is anticipated prior to the August meeting of the Regional Planning Commission. A presentation by the consultant firm, as well as a question and answer time, would be the focus of the joint meeting. Ms. Sicks stated that the Regional Planning Commission hopes to be able to take action at its August meeting, and therefore, needs to meet jointly with the Steering Committee prior to any action being taken.

Mr. Mitchell asked whether Ms. Sicks had any further information to report. Ms. Sicks stated that the Commission has received the final "draft" from Bernardin Lochmueller and Associates, Inc. It is a voluminous document, which includes an Executive Summary. Ms. Sicks suggested that the Regional Planning website be consulted for more complete information regarding this document. The Steering Committee and Regional Planning Commission hope to be able to fully examine, and subsequently approve the draft at the upcoming joint meeting, which has not, to date, been scheduled.

Mr. Hoselton remarked that Alternative C, which is outlined in the Facility Study, appears to be the clear choice of most entities involved in the final decision-making process. He expressed concern over this fact. Mr. Mitchell stated that Alternative C is the consultant's recommendation. However, other preferences have been expressed over time.

Mr. Mitchell stated that once the Regional Planning Commission has approved the recommendation, it will be forwarded to each of the five (5) entities involved for their approval. Those five entities are: City of Bloomington; Village of Downs; Town of Normal; Village of Towanda; McLean County; and, Illinois Department of Transportation. Once the Regional Planning Commission has acted, it may take several more months before a final decision is reached.

Mr. Owens commented that most people he has spoken with favor approving Alternative C. Ms. Sicks remarked that strong preferences can be noted from a variety of constituents from around the County. She noted that the attendees of the two public meetings that were held at the Central Illinois Regional Airport were focused on either Alternative C, Alternative E, or a combination Alternative B and C. The majority of comments were either noted from residents within the study area, or from industry personnel in the Bloomington-Normal area. She noted that an increase in public comments may arise following the upcoming joint meeting between the Steering Committee and the Regional Planning Commission.

Mr. Mitchell presented a report on the Audit of the Highway Department's Asset Sale for Fiscal Year 2001. He stated this is an information item.

Mr. Walter Hunt, Internal Auditor, McLean County Auditor's Office, commented that office procedures were a source of concern for the Auditor's Office in this instance, and a clarification of those procedures is recommended.

Mr. Mitchell explained that the small amount of money that is the subject of the report was generated by sales of maps to members of the public at the Highway Department's Office. In the past, small amounts of cash from such transactions are accumulated until the balance is sufficient to make a deposit at the Treasurer's Office. It is anticipated that the envelope was temporarily misplaced and was later found and the money turned in to the Treasurer's Office.

Motion by Owens/Johnson to go into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate matters. Those participants to remain for the Executive Session are: Chairman Bass and members of the Transportation Committee; Mr. John M. Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer; Mr. Brian Hug, Civil Assistant State's Attorney; Ms. Martha B. Ross, County Administrator's Assistant. Motion carried.

The Committee went into Executive Session at 8:05 a.m.

The Committee returned to Open Session at 8:41 a.m.

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Motion by Hoselton/Owens to proceed with the purchase of 37.95 acres currently owned by Rowe Construction Company, which is located east of the City of Bloomington on Illinois Route 9, approximately 2.5 miles east of Towanda-Barnes Road.

Mr. Mitchell stated that this issue will also be presented to the Property Committee at its July 2002 meeting.

Motion carried.

Motion by Hoselton/Johnson to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion carried.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bass at 8:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha B. Ross  
Recording Secretary