

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met Tuesday, March 6, 2001 at 7:30 a.m. in Room 700, Law and Justice Center, 104 West Front Street, Room 701 Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bass, Members Emmett, Johnson, Selzer, Owens

Members Absent: Member Hoselton

Staff Members Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator;
Ms. Martha B. Ross, County Administrator's Assistant,
County Administrator's Office

Others Present: Mr. Leif Epperson, Fleet Manager, County Highway
Department; Ms. Chris Brauer, citizen spokesperson for
Route 9 Citizens' group

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:37 a.m. Chairman Bass presented the Minutes of the February 7, 2001 meeting for approval.

Motion By Owens/Emmett to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2001 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass announced that the Committee would deviate from the stated agenda in order to hear from Mr. Leif Epperson, Fleet Manager, County Highway Department, regarding equipment bids from the letting on March 1, 2001. Mr. Mitchell stated that Altorfer, Inc. was the successful bidder for the purchase of a 2001 Caterpillar 140H Motor Grader for \$37,152.00 plus the trade in of the 1997 Caterpillar 140H.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department specifies a five (5) year warranty on its machinery and this purchase will assist in keeping the Cat 140H within warranty.

Chairman Bass asked whether this transaction includes the trade-in. Mr. Mitchell responded that it did.

Mr. Epperson stated that the machinery's condition is documented by photographing the individual pieces and measuring tire tread depth.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the purchase of the 2001 Caterpillar 140H Motor Grader from Altorfer, Inc. is recommended. The value of the trade-in item is based primarily upon the number of hours it has been used. He noted that there were two (2) bids, with the bid from John Deere being about \$2,000.00 higher than that of Altorfer, Inc.

Mr. Emmett asked how long the County has owned the present unit. Mr. Mitchell responded that the unit was purchased in 1997, which makes it four (4) years old.

Mr. Mitchell noted that the value of used equipment has increased for dealers over the years.

Motion by Emmett/Johnson to approve the purchase of the Caterpillar 140H Motor Grader from Altorfer, Inc. for \$37,152.00. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Resolution to purchase three (3) 2001 Dump Bodies with Hoists from Koenig Body and Equipment in Peoria, Illinois. He noted that one 13 foot 6 inch dump body was bid at \$19,314.00 and two 13 foot dump bodies were bid at \$18,989.00 each. The total for the three (3) items is \$57,292.00.

Mr. Mitchell explained that stainless steel bodies are more advantageous and much of the fleet is being switched over. It is more cost effective in the long run and eliminates the need for addressing OSHA regulations with regard to facilities for painting equipment as part of the maintenance regime. Additionally, stainless steel bodies are more resistant to the rust and salt of the winter season.

Mr. Emmett asked, in reference to the two (2) tandem cab and chassis vehicles listed in the Resolution for purchase, why two like items are given two (2) different purchase prices. Mr. Epperson responded that the two (2) units that are more expensive are for the wing truck, and are equipped slightly differently, making them slightly more expensive.

Mr. Owens asked whether the paint shop will be upgraded in the future. Mr. Mitchell responded that the paint process will eventually be eliminated. The stainless steel bodies have proven more cost effective over the long term. Mr. Epperson noted that the paint itself must also meet OSHA standards.

Motion by Johnson/Emmett to approve the purchase of purchase of one 13 foot 6 inch Dump Body for \$19,314.00 and two 13 foot Dump Bodies for \$37,978.00 (\$18,989.00 each). Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Resolution for purchase of truck cabs and chassis on the State Bid. He stated that gasoline fuel versus diesel fuel is a consideration. He noted that diesel fuel is more efficient and cost effective. Mr. Epperson stated that the final cost savings is approximately \$700.00. Mr. Mitchell noted that several years ago, gasoline was utilized, but the Department switched to diesel as gasoline became too costly.

Mr. Selzer asked how gasoline and diesel compare in mileage. Mr. Mitchell responded that diesel fuel provides greater mileage.

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Mr. Mitchell explained that the three (3) extended cab pick-up trucks are assigned to the engineers on staff vehicles. They carry transits, levels and other equipment that is used at construction sites. He noted that the extended cabs work more efficiently for this than truck toppers or Suburbans.

Mr. Epperson stated that the State Bid guarantees a good price and going through a dealership offers convenience in obtaining replacement parts as well.

Mr. Owens asked whether all items in the Resolution will be voted on in one motion. Mr. Mitchell stated that all items currently under discussion are contained in the Resolution and will be voted on as one Resolution.

Motion by Selzer/Owens to Approve the Resolution to purchase
One $\frac{3}{4}$ ton standard cab long bed truck, three $\frac{1}{2}$ ton extended cab
Pick-up trucks and Tandem Dump truck cab and chassis –
2 wing trucks and 1 regular truck. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass presented the bills as prepared by the Auditor's Office.

Motion by Selzer/Emmett to approve the bills as presented and recommended by
the Auditor's Office. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented the results of the Township/County MFT bids of the letting held on March 1, 2001. He noted that this pertains to the seal coat program for the year. There are 375 miles of road within the County, 70 miles of which is oil and chip. He stated that the Highway Department stockpiles the chips. The oil that is used is CRS2, which is an emulsion. This has been utilized for approximately 10-12 years.

Mr. Mitchell explained that there is a bid for signs, although the Highway Department has its own sign making machine. He stated that it is usually more economical to purchase most signs. The Highway Department only makes the rural specialty signs now.

Mr. Mitchell stated that Vulcan Signs from Foley, Alabama is the low bidder for the signs. Ms. Johnson asked where many of the sign manufacturers are located. Mr. Mitchell responded that there are sign manufacturers in Ohio, Alabama and Indiana as well as local companies.

Mr. Mitchell remarked that most of the sign usage is due to signs being damaged in the field by farmers who mow too closely or by snow plows when they clear the roads.

Mr. Owens asked whether barricades will also be purchased this year. Mr. Mitchell responded that some will most likely be purchased, but there is already a good supply on hand.

Mr. Mitchell stated that Shoop and Sons is the low bidder for wood posts for signs. They are located in Decatur, Illinois. Mr. Owens asked whether there is any local company that can provide signs and barricades. He noted that he would like to give local businesses the patronage whenever possible. Mr. Mitchell responded that there are no local companies under consideration at this time.

Motion by Selzer/Johnson to approve the Township/County MFT
Bids from the letting held on March 1, 2001. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that he would prefer that the upcoming Committee field trip would be scheduled in conjunction with the regular Committee meeting. Mr. Emmett stated that since regular business is conducted on Committee field trips, it is more efficient to schedule the field trip and meeting at the same time.

Ms. Johnson asked whether the date and time for the field trip would be April 3, 2001 at 7:30 a.m. Mr. Mitchell noted that the Committee should convene at the County Highway facility.

Mr. Owens asked whether there would be time for a tour of the facility before the field trip. Mr. Mitchell responded that a brief tour would be in order. He would provide a member of his staff to serve as the recording secretary for the meeting and field trip.

Ms. Johnson asked how long the meeting and field trip would last. Mr. Mitchell stated that the field trip and meeting should be finished by 12 Noon. He explained that sometimes the Committee will have lunch together and view other projects as well.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Lexington Road District Bridge Petition. He explained that there are a set of culverts on the left side of 2550 East. The culverts are at the entrance to two farms and were placed there at the time the Interstate was constructed. The culverts are now badly rusted and should be replaced.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the proposal for replacement is an aluminum box culvert. It will save money over the use of a concrete culvert. The total cost is \$18,000.00 with half of that cost being the County's and half being the Township's.

Mr. Mitchell stated that aluminum box culverts come in pieces. McLean County will rent a high hoe to take out the old culvert and clean the channel. In the past, corrugated metal pipe has been utilized, but the current application provides for two pipes laid parallel.

Mr. Mitchell stated that in the future the Highway Department plans to do several more projects like this. He noted, however, that this is the first such project. So, costs and procedure will be examined to see how to proceed in the future.

Chairman Bass asked whether the cost of the high hoe operator is included in the cost to rent the unit. Mr. Mitchell responded that it is.

Chairman Bass noted that many of the culverts manufactured now are lined with Teflon to ward off the damaging effects of salt. Mr. Mitchell responded that this is done as a matter of course now to avoid rust and corrosion and prolong the life of the culverts.

Motion by Emmett/Owens to approve the Lexington Road District
Bridge Petition. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass presented the Items for Information, which were compiled at the Committee's request. He noted that this is an exhaustive list of previous Agreements for road improvements.

Mr. Mitchell noted that the total claim submitted on the 2000 FEMA Snow Disaster Application was \$31,397.00. He stated that 75% of that amount is the eligible reimbursement amount from FEMA, which would be \$23,548.00. He noted that the

reimbursement will be based upon the amount that is determined as eligible, not just the amount that was submitted.

Chairman Bass asked when the County might expect to see any reimbursement money from FEMA. Mr. Mitchell noted that he can confirm that the application has been received. However, he cannot determine when the reimbursement will be granted.

Mr. Mitchell stated that there is little news to report with regard to the proposed Stone Ridge Dairy in Bellflower. He stated that the local radio station contacted him in an attempt to learn more about the possible utilization of a transfer station by Mr. Kasbergen, in an attempt to avoid upgrading the roads in the vicinity of the dairy. The McLean County road leading to the dairy is still posted at 8 tons.

Mr. Owens asked where that transfer station would be located. Mr. Mitchell responded that Mansfield is a likely location. Mr. Owens then asked whether permission must be obtained from McLean County for the approval of a transfer station. Mr. Mitchell responded that no County approval is necessary.

Mr. Selzer remarked that a transfer station is a very likely option. He further remarked that it is unknown whether the dairy will even be built at this time.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he told the radio interviewer that the County's concern is that the trucks are hauling legally on the road. If the trucks haul legally, that is as far as the County's jurisdiction reaches in this regard.

Mr. Mitchell noted that he attended a meeting in Springfield concerning the high speed rail corridor. The first phase will be from Springfield to Mazonia, which is near the town of Gardner. The first 12 crossings to be constructed will be in McLean County, from Airport Road to just south of Chenoa.

New gates will be placed at the crossings and McLean County will be the first location to receive them. Other locations to receive crossings will be: Jefferson Street, Towanda; Stucky Road, Hudson; Main Street, Lexington. All concrete crossings will be dual gates. All crossings are expected to be completed within the next year.

Chairman Bass asked what constitutes high speed. Mr. Mitchell responded that 110 miles per hour is considered high speed. Mr. Emmett commented that high speed in Europe and Japan is 150 miles per hour.

Motion by Selzer/Owens to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Martha B. Ross
Recording Secretary