

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, September 2, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Soeldner, Member Buchanan, Harris, Metsker, Robustelli, Finch and Martin

Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator, Ms. Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator, Mr. Don Knapp, First Assistant State's Attorney, Civil, Ms. Diana Hospelhorn, Recording Secretary

Department Heads Present: Mr. Eric Schmitt, County Engineer

Others Present: Mr. Jerry Stokes, Assistant County Engineer

Chairman Soeldner called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. He stated that the first item for action is approval of the minutes from the August 4, 2015 Transportation Committee Meeting.

Motion by Buchanan/Harris to recommend approval of the minutes from the August 4, 2015 Transportation Committee meeting.

Motion carried

Chairman Soeldner asked the Committee to review the bills and transfers for August 31, 2015. The prepaid total is \$1,316,099.27.

MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

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AS OF 8/31/2015

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND

Transportation Committee

| FUND | FUND TITLE | PENDING TOTAL | PREPAID TOTAL | FUND TOTAL |
|------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 0006 | SHOW BUS | | \$29,967.71 | \$29,967.71 |
| 0120 | HIGHWAY | | \$236,055.48 | \$236,055.48 |
| 0121 | BRIDGE MATCHING FUND | | \$75,707.96 | \$75,707.96 |
| 0123 | MOTOR FUEL TAX | | \$336,275.96 | \$336,275.96 |
| 0501 | TOWNSHIP MOTOR FUEL TAX | | \$638,092.16 | \$638,092.16 |
| | | | \$1,316,099.27 | \$1,316,099.27 |



COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Motion by Harris/Martin to recommend payment of the August 31, 2015 bills and transfers as submitted by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Chairman Soeldner presented the Bridge Construction Petition for Funk's Grove Road District – 2015 Joint Culvert #2.

Mr. Schmitt reported that the existing 48" corrugated metal pipe will be replaced by twin 48" arch precast corrugated metal pipes. One third of the existing pipe is completely rusted. He advised that the project should take about one day to complete. The estimated cost of the project is \$10,500 with the County's share being \$5,250. Funks Grove Road District is taxing above 0.125% in their Road and Bridge Fund and the project cost is more than 0.02% of their EAV.

Motion by Robustelli/Buchanan to recommend approval of the Bridge Construction Petition for Funk's Grove Road District – Joint Culvert #2.
Motion carried.

Chairman Soeldner continued with the Bridge Construction Petition – Towanda Road District – 2015 Joint Culvert #1.

Mr. Schmitt stated that the existing 10' X 8' concrete box culvert will be replaced by twin 84" precast corrugated metal pipes. The concrete is deteriorating significantly on the head walls. He advised that the project should take about three days to complete. The estimated cost of the project is \$24,500 with the County's share being \$12,250. Towanda Road District is taxing above 0.125% in their Road and Bridge Fund and the project cost is more than 0.02% of their EAV.

Motion by Martin/Harris to recommend approval of the Bridge Construction Petition – Towanda Road District – 2015 Joint Culvert #1.
Motion carried.

Mr. Buchanan noted the great working relationship between the County Highway Department and the Townships.

Chairman Soeldner stated that the next items to be presented to the Committee are items of information. He presented the project summaries.

Mr. Schmitt advised that the Hudson Stuckey Road widening and resurfacing project is complete. The final cost was 98.4% of the bid cost.

Mr. Schmitt reported that the Towanda Barnes Road widening project has been moving along. They are currently placing the aggregate base course on the three new lanes. They will start work on the curb and gutter on Friday. One week of work was lost due to 2 ½ -3 inches of rain received on the job site. He indicated that the signals at Raab Road are helping to move increased traffic due to the start of school. The signals are on timing during construction and will be traffic actuated when the project is completed.

Mr. Schmitt stated that the floor of the box culvert on the Schlipf III Bridge is poured and they are forming up the walls.

Mr. Schmitt advised that the Towanda Barnes Road resurfacing project from Ireland Grove Road to Illinois Route 9 is completed. Final cost was .89% over the bid cost due to a new State specification.

Chairman Soeldner continued with the Stormwater Education Program – 2015 Second Quarter Report.

Mr. Schmitt presented the Stormwater Education Program 2015 2nd Quarterly Report pointing out that the Ecology Action Center has completed the following tasks as part of the Stormwater Education and Public Participation program:

- Education Programs on Clean Water at various schools;
- Yard Smart Program at Master Gardener's Home Lawn and Garden Day with information on rain barrels and stormwater runoff;
- Facilitation of McLean County Greenways Committee, participant in Watershed Plan Implementation Committee and promotion of Stormwater information.

He referred to the enclosed map, pointing out the storm water drain stenciling.

Ms. Harris commented that the Ecology Action Center is doing a great job. The outreach is evident with the increase in the number of participants.

Mr. Finch asked if this program is part of the coordinated effort of the Watershed Agreement. Mr. Wasson, County Administrator responded that the Storm Water Education Program is primarily focused on meeting the County's requirements for MS4 Environmental Permits for water drainage from road surfaces.

Chairman Soeldner presented the winter 2015-2016 Salt Price Memo.

Mr. Schmitt stated that the Highway Department's salt price through the State Bid process is \$63.81/per ton, up \$7.80 from 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 price of \$56.01/per ton. This is an increase of 13.93%. The County currently has about 4,800 tons of salt in storage from

last winter. Our bid request for this winter was 4,000 tons, with 3,510 tons for the Highway Department and 490 tons for townships and municipalities who requested salt. He added that the County was able to roll the price per ton for one year. Other Counties are paying up to \$100.00 a ton.

Mr. Robustelli asked if the increased \$32,000 will come out of the Highway Fund. Mr. Schmitt responded that the increase will come from the MFT Fund.

Mr. Robustelli asked if this will contribute in a negative way to the amount of funding in the maintenance program. Mr. Schmitt responded that this tonnage is actually a decrease from the previous years. With this lower price last year, the Department purchased additional salt and filled all storage units available.

Mr. Wasson added that prices fluctuate with the type of winters and salt availability. The really low prices the past few years along with the mild winters, gave us an opportunity to build MFT funds. The expanded salt storage capacity gave the County the ability to take advantage of the lower prices available. He noted that the Department continues to evaluate alternative ways to reduce our use of salt regularly.

Mr. Schmitt discussed the advantages and disadvantages of salt alternatives.

Chairman Soeldner referred the Committee to the memo from Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator showing the positions within the County filled from June 21, 2015 – July 25, 2015.

Mr. Schmitt updated the Committee on the progress of the Enbridge Pipeline project pointing out that there are seven Enbridge crews currently working in McLean County. They have completed 10 ½ miles of pipe and have 19 miles left. He added that Enbridge updates the Department daily on their progress.

Ms. Metsker stated that she thought the work was completed on the YUuton Road at the elevator. Mr. Schmitt responded that the Department worked with the elevator and the rail road to coordinate the project for the repair on the crossing at the UYuton Elevator. Two of the tracks are the responsibility of the elevator and one track is the responsibility of the rail road. He stated that after the rail road completed their work, they contacted the elevator to let them know that their tracts were no longer within the gauge specifications. The tracks had to be taken out of commission until they were repaired. They are currently being repaired. They should be completed by Thursday of this week.

Chairman Soeldner asked for an update on the MFT budget. Mr. Schmitt responded that at this point, the County is not receiving any MFT allotments. Both the County and the Townships have funds available through the end of 2015; however this could affect the County winter operations.

Chairman Soeldner asked if, once the budget is settled, the County will receive back MFT allotments. Mr. Wasson responded that the State is currently holding MFT appropriations

because there is not a budget. Once the appropriations are signed, the expectation is that the County will receive the MFT allotments owed.

Mr. Wasson updated the Committee on the three month bill currently being introduced in the House to appropriate MFT funds. He added that the both legislative bodies and the Governor's office are sensitive to the problems.

Ms. Harris asked if a referendum was needed to roll the Bridge Funds or to consolidate funds. Mr. Wasson responded that, to be able to roll the Bridge funds or consolidate funds would require a statutory change. He stated that the County continues to express the need to consolidate funds to the Lt. Governor's Task Force.

Mr. Wasson reported that the County has settled with the insurance carrier on the fire at the Highway Department facility. The County will recover all the costs relative to the fire. He complimented Mr. Schmitt and Mr. Stokes for their continued work on the project by making time to document and detail the analysis. He noted that ultimately it was this detailed analysis that established the basis for the County getting all costs recovered. Without this work we would still have months ahead in negotiations with the insurer. He expressed his gratitude for the time spent during this busy construction season.

Chairman Soeldner stated that the Transportation Committee will meet next on Tuesday, October 6, 2015.

Chairman Soeldner asked if there was anything further to come before the Committee.

Chairman Soeldner adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Hospelhorn
Recording Secretary