

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

Highway & Transportation
August 5, 2005 – 9:00 a.m.
Meeting Room 1
Brookens Administrative Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cowart (chair), Carter, Feinen, Jay, Langenheim,
O'Connor, Weibel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bensyl, Gross

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue, Tracy Winger, Debby Wagner, Barb
Wysocki, Chris Doenitz, Rick Wolken, Marvin
Johnson

Call to Order

Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A roll call confirmed a quorum present.

Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Jay to approve the agenda; seconded by Weibel. There was no addendum for the meeting. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes – June 10, 2005

MOTION by Langenheim to approve the minutes of June 10, 2005 as presented; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Public Participation

There was no public participation

Monthly Reports

County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – June 2005, July 2005

MOTION by Jay to receive and place on the file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for June 2005 and July 2005; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

County Engineer

Resolution deleting County Highway 25 (Staley Road) from Curtis Road northerly to Illinois Route 10

Mr. Blue explained the reason for this resolution is an agreement with the City of Champaign where by when Staley Road is complete they will take over the 3 mile piece from Curtis Road to Springfield. This resolution will delete this roadway from the County highway system and the City will be passing ordinance accepting it into their system. We will still have Staley Road from Curtis to Monticello Road.

MOTION by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution deleting County Highway 25 (Staley Road) from Curtis Road northerly to Illinois Route 10; seconded by O'Connor. **Motion carried.**

Petition for Bridge Repair – Philo Township

Mr. Blue explained the bridge in question needs to be repaired and stabilized, the work will be contracted out and his estimated cost is about \$7,700.00.

MOTION by Carter to recommend County Board approval of the Petition Requesting and Resolution Approving appropriation of funds from the County Bridge fund pursuant to 605 ILCS 5/5-501 for Philo Township; seconded by Jay. **Motion carried.**

Maintenance Facility Update

Mr. Blue informed the committee they met with the A/E team last week to review programming issues from storage to offices, they also viewed the DeKalb County Highway Facility and the MTD Facility. They invited all maintenance employees, mechanics, engineers and support staff to each of the meetings which produced a space needs program similar to what he had done for the County Board during early discussions. Through that space needs study we came up with a ball park square footage for the size of the building based on our needs; his original study showed 49,000 square feet and when done with the A/E firm the study showed 47,000 square feet. He explained the building has not ballooned, it is still very similar to what we started out with. He does not know exactly what the building will cost but using the standard \$100.000 per square foot you have 4.7 million dollars meaning we are still in the ballpark of the original 5 million dollar number, the Architects will add a 13% contingency taking the project budget closer to 6 million. The maintenance area, which came out to be very similar to his original program, has 5 maintenance bays, if in the future we wanted to contract with someone we will have enough space to do work on other vehicles although they haven't included storage space for any other entities at this time.

County Engineer Cont.

The architects will be coming back the end of this month when we will go through the process of putting together a layout of the building determining where things will be, after that charette is put together and we have a basic footprint of the building there is a meeting scheduled with the original group of the cities. At that time both the City of Urbana and the City of Champaign should be coming back with their updated space needs study and with all of our information, we will be able to talk about possibilities.

Mr. Blue explained there will be staging areas outside for cars to be parked while they are waiting to be worked on. The majority of our trucks will be inside; we are not building a small building to house just a few pieces of equipment. The building is only 1 acre on a 3 acre area so there are 2 acres for outside parking.

Illinois Major Bridge Funding Award

Mr. Blue explained that he applied for an Illinois Major Bridge funding grant through IDOT. This was a federal grant for a large 3 span bridge, 4 miles north of Penfield that is about 217 feet long over the vermilion river and is in poor structural condition. He received a grant for \$960,000 to replace that bridge which will be built in 2010. It is an 80/20 split with our cost being about \$250,000, the original estimate for the bridge alone was about 1.4 million.

Project Update

Mr. Blue stated for the most part Staley road is complete, the City of Champaign is happy with the construction and willing to take over before the contract is complete. We are still responsible for making sure the contract is completed even though we will have given the road back to the city. On the County Road 9 project, they did foam base stabilization on 4 miles and they are getting ready to seal coat. Of the remaining 5 miles, 3 miles of it was an old asphalt road which they are working on. On the other 2 miles they have run into some base problems so they have had to go back in and do some stabilization of the base. The original estimate was 1.7 million, the bid was 1.2 million so he believes the cost will be somewhere in that range when all is done.

Fringe Road Discussion

Mr. Blue explained that since the last meeting, they have met with the Cities to talk about the million dollar commitment we have made to fringe roads. They understand where we are coming from, they don't like it but we anticipated that. They believe our priority should be their roads and we believe otherwise. There is another meeting that will be scheduled in the future, they have our original resolution and stated they would get back to us.

County Engineer Cont.

Mr. Blue stated the Federal Transportation bill has been approved; it is a 6 year bill going back 2 years from 2004-2010. There was some high priority project money in that bill of which we requested 7 million for the Curtis Road project, we are receiving 5 million. That money, which he had counted on, is scheduled to be used for the second phase of Curtis road from Duncan east to just short of First Street.

Other Business

Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

MOTION by Carter to open all closed session minutes. Motion failed for lack of seconder.

Ms. Feinen stated she disagrees with the motion stating the new minutes contain personnel information from the County Engineer search committee and need to remain closed.

MOTION by Feinen that all 2004 minutes directly relating to the hiring subcommittee remain closed with discussion of the other minutes; motion failed for lack of a seconder.

Mr. O' Connor asked why our only option is to open the minutes or keep them as closed. He questioned if there will be a time we can shred selection committee minutes pertaining to people who were not hired.

Mr. Fletcher entered the meeting and informed the committee that because the minutes relate to collective bargaining matters, he cannot recommend opening them although ultimately it is the committee's decision.

MOTION by Jay to maintain all closed session minutes as closed; seconded by Langenheim.

Mr. Fletcher stated under the open meetings act we have to keep these minutes.

Mr. Langenheim stated this is the public's business and it should be available to them at some point. He stated we should open as much of this as soon as possible.

Mr. Fletcher explained that as a general rule we don't disclose minutes dealing with collective bargaining matters or selection of personnel to maintain an environment in the selection process where people can make their decisions without worrying about damaging people's professional reputations. We are always careful to keep our collective bargaining matters confidential because of the need to preserve our status in negotiations.

Other Business Cont.

Ms. Feinen stated she agrees that as much that can be made public, should be and in the past they have opened closed session minutes. With respect to personnel issues, she doesn't believe those should be open; it would be unfair to take search committee notes and make them public when we had local people apply. When you are talking about employee issues it is really not appropriate for the public.

Motion carried.

Determination of Consent Agenda Items

Committee consensus to include items 6 A & B on the County Board consent agenda.

Adjournment

Chair Cowart declared the meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary