

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
Highway & Transportation Committee Minutes

Friday, March 8, 2013 – 9:00 am
Highway Building Conference Room
1605 E. Main St. St., Urbana, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christopher Alix, Lloyd Carter, Lorraine Cowart, John Jay, Jim McGuire, Diane Michaels, Max Mitchell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Richards

OTHERS PRESENT: Al Kurtz (County Board Chair), Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Gary Maxwell (County Board Member), Dave Clark (City of Champaign), Rita Mororcoima-Black (RPC), Eileen Sierra (RPC), Amy Marchant (CEO CRIS Rural Transit), Linda Lane (Administrative Assistant)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

ROLL CALL

Secretary called roll and the following members were present: Alix, Carter, Cowart, Jay, McGuire, and Michaels. The chair declared a quorum and proceeded with the meeting. Mitchell arrived after roll call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Cowart asked for approval of agenda for meeting. **MOTION** by Carter to approve agenda; **seconded** by Michaels. Cowart opened the floor for discussion. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Cowart asked for approval of minutes from the February 8, 2013 meeting. **MOTION** by McGuire; **seconded** by Jay. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COUNTY & TOWNSHIP MOTOR FUEL TAX CLAIMS – JANUARY 2013

MOTION by Alex to receive and place on file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax claims for January 2013; **seconded** by Michaels. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RESOLUTIONS

Blue explained Resolution A. He noted that the estimates sent to IDOT included labor, equipment and materials. He further noted that equipment included rentals. Blue stated that 99% of the contracts will be seal. **Motion by Alix** to approve resolution A; **seconded by Jay**. Maxwell asked if equipment rental was a different number than last year. Blue said it is the same number but they didn't do a good job of tracking last year. Blue noted they are doing inventory monthly now. Maxwell asked if the dollar amount is the same or more than last year. Blue said it is more because they haven't done a seal-coat for more than three years due to a lack of available materials. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Blue next explained Resolution B. He stated they had applied for and received assistance from the Illinois Bridge Fund. He said the resolution needs to be approved so the project can be sent to the engineers. **Motion by Michaels** to approve Resolution B; **seconded by Carter**. Michaels asked if the road was going to be closed. Blue said yes because it would add to the costs if they closed half at a time. Maxwell asked if the engineering had been started. Blue said no, they do have an agreement, but no resolution. Maxwell asked how and engineer was decided upon. Blue said they got a good deal from the firm that did the north side. Alix wanted to know why that was a County road. Blue said the County had tried to give it to the Village of Rantoul a long time ago, but the Village said no because of the bridge issues. Alix stated he would like to see it given back as soon as the bridge is done. Blue said that might be hard because the road is in almost as bad of shape as the bridge. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Blue lastly explained Resolution C. He stated that this road is north of Penfield and is the last oil and chip seal-coat road on the County system. **Motion by Mitchell** to approve Resolution C; **seconded by Michaels**. Michaels asked if this was one of the last bad roads. Blue said that it was. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Busey suggested that items in Other Business be looked at before the right of way negotiations because of the possibility of going into closed session. Cowart agreed to the change.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rita Mororcoima-Black explained the issues pertaining to the CRIS Rural Transportation. She stated that IDOT requires an intergovernmental agreement and operating contract. She noted that the agreement was sent in July 2012 but never heard back from them. In December they received a phone call from IDOT saying they couldn't approve the agreement sent to them because of comments they had made. She noted that CRIS has been providing services for those six months without funding. She stated IDOT is also requesting a lease agreement for the vehicles CRIS is using and to get an ordinance in place in order for them to provide the funding. Michaels asked if no funding was being received, what does that do to RPC money and are they waiting for money from the County. **Motion by Alix** to approve the ordinance, intergovernmental agreement, and vehicle lease agreement; **seconded by Mitchell**. Marchant stated that they are fronting the money because they have a contract with the County Board and IDOT owes it to the County Board. McGuire asked if IDOT has sent any money. Mororcoima-Black said not for seven months. She stated that she has been assured that payment is being processed for the federal portion and state funding will be approved once they receive the agreement. Michaels asked what the approval would change for the County compared to what have been doing before. Mororcoima-Black said the agreement states specific services and makes the relationship between CRIS and the County more clear. Sierra noted that they had followed the IDOT template and worked out oversights on the agreement, but they were told this fiscal year

by IDOT there needs to be an intergovernmental agreement on file. She stated that when CRIS first started in Champaign County they rented vehicles from Vermilion County, but now they are owned. Jay asked how long IDOT will honor the agreement. Mororcoima-Black said that changes can be made but the fundamental agreement will remain the same and that it must be submitted annually. Jay asked if the State could decide at any time to get out. Mororcoima-Black said no. Carter suggested that this is something that should be on the RPC agenda. Kurtz asked what the number of monthly riders is. Marchant answered about 70 per day. Kurtz said that most people were unaware that they have not been receiving money from IDOT and felt the Board should have been informed sooner. Mororcoima-Black stated that Stan James was aware and told her to tell the committee that if they had any questions to call him. Sierra stated that a reimbursement grant must be submitted quarterly. Alix agreed that the Board should have been informed and RTAG is there for that purpose. Maxwell asked if heard correctly that the service is at capacity. Mororcoima-Black stated yes but that service can be expanded. She stated they are working on a plan to do so. Jay asked if it was serving areas other than Rantoul. Marchant stated there is an extra grant to serve all seniors in the county at no charge, but they recently received a letter stating that due to the sequestration the services were being deleted and seniors must pay full price. Jay asked how seniors used the service. Marchant answered about 300. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RIGHT OF WAY NEGOTIATION FOR OLYMPIAN DRIVE

Motion by Jay at 9:31 AM to enter into executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (5) to consider the purchase of real property for use by Champaign County. He further moved that the following individuals remain present: Dave Clark, County Engineer, County Administrator, and Recording Secretary, **seconded** by Carter. **MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote with Alix, Carter, Cowart, Jay, McGuire, Michaels, and Mitchell, voting yes.**

Meeting was re-opened at 9:51 AM.

CONSENT AGENDA

Item VII, A, B and C, and VIII to be placed on the consent agenda.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES APPROVAL – FEBRUARY 8, 2013

Motion by Mitchell to approve the closed session minutes of February 8, 2013; **seconded** by Michaels. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SEMI-ANNUAL REVIEW OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Pursuant to the statutory requirement to conduct a semi-annual review of all closed meeting minutes, **Jay motioned** that the closed meeting minutes of the Highway Committee be maintained as closed to protect the public interest or the privacy of individuals, with the exception of the minutes from: November 9, 2007; February 8, 2008; March 7, 2008; June 6, 2008; and April 17, 2009 which may now be determined as open session minutes. **Seconded by Mitchell.** McGuire stated that he was not here for those meetings as wasn't comfortable voting on something he hadn't seen. Busey stated that this was just a recommendation and that the minutes could remain closed and be reviewed again in September. **Original Motion failed.**

Jay **motioned** to maintain closed session minutes as closed. **Seconded** by Michaels. **Motion passed by majority.**

OTHER BUSINESS

Alix mentioned the tractor-trailer roll that happened on the I-57 interchange ramp. He wanted to know if they could ask IDOT to put rumble strips on those ramps. He noted there are several rollovers each year and it is only a matter of time before there is a haz-mat incident or a death. Blue noted that they received another grant for a safety issue and this could be approached as a safety issue. He stated that he will talk to the IDOT District 5 representative. Alix noted that he is not suggesting re-doing the interchange, just adding safety factors.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting declared adjourned at 10:03 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lane
Administrative Assistant

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MEMBERS ABSENT: Lloyd Carter

OTHERS PRESENT: Al Kurtz (County Board Chair), Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Bill Gray (Urbana Public Works), Dave Clark (City of Champaign), Linda Lane (Administrative Assistant)

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Blue started by saying that at the last meeting Mr. Jay suggested they go no higher than \$35,000/acre. He said he and Dave Clark had a meeting with Rene Lo and Alexander Lo and made the offer of \$35,000. Blue stated the client didn't respond at that time and later came back with a counter of about \$40,000/acre for the 5.61 acres. He stated that he didn't want this to go to condemnation. He said he would go back and tell them that \$35,000 is the maximum offer. Mitchell asked what the cost difference was. Blue said \$30,000. Mitchell asked what the cost would be to go to condemnation. Blue stated the attorney fees could be \$10-20,000. He said they could estimate the costs if the project were delayed by condemnation, but stated they won't get better prices than right now. The total project is under \$2 million. Mitchell asked if they have the latitude to go 2/3 of the way. Blue stated that they have an agreement for the west end but that it hasn't been signed or paid yet, and if they go up on the east end the agreement for the west end could be torn up by the sellers. Blue said they are waiting on the Illinois Commerce Commission and he doesn't expect an order before June. Once that is received they can sign the agreement and pay for the property.

Kurtz stated that if they do this they set a precedent for the future. He recommended holding. Blue noted that they still have the Lincoln Avenue project land and they will also be doing Dewey-Fisher road and will be dealing with 116 individual land owners. McGuire stated that what Mitchell was suggesting was to try to get to a fair price and stated that the negotiation issue is the important point. Time will be a benefit. Alix said don't purchase at a higher price just to get it done. He suggested waiting and that he is fine with going to court. He said he thinks the court will decide the land is worth less. Mitchell said that if time is on their side to hold, but possibly see if there is something non-monetary they could offer to sweeten the pot. He voiced concern that the road might not get built. Blue stated that there are a few things she would like the Board to do. Jay agreed with Alix and Mitchell. He said that as long as the County is doing this in good faith to stick with it. He noted the person it's going to hurt most is the person

wanting \$80,000/acre. Michaels stated that somebody needs to stand up to her and that it should be the County. She noted that they can't say that property in Champaign is better than in Urbana. She suggested saying that if the \$35,000 isn't accepted that the next offer will be \$30,000.

Maxwell suggested resetting the whole process as far as land acquisition policy. He said they should be able to get good appraisals; they should never offer much more than that; and if it goes to court then so be it. He said the Board needs to set a one-price policy based upon good appraisals to purchase right-of-way. McGuire noted that the owner doesn't care what happens in the long run between Urbana and Champaign, but that the question is do they want to go to court or not. Carter said that the Board is being taken advantage of and that the first step in any project should be getting land owner consensus.

Blue stated that he will stick to the price and noted that there is no hurry to get it on the bid letting. Maxwell said they should invest in 2-3 projects at the same time to have projects competing against each other. Jay said that could end up costing more because they could end up competing against themselves. Clark stated that the City is not in favor of spending more. He said that if the dollars are good for Urbana then they are good for Champaign. He said they have good certified IDOT appraisals. Jay noted that they gave the Los \$35,000 in the past. Blue said it was actually \$38,000 but for totally different type of property.

Cowart asked for any other discussion. As there was none, she declared the meeting reopened at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lane
Administrative Assistant