

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, October 1, 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, Emmett and Selzer

Members Absent: Member Johnson

Staff Members Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Lucretia Wherry, Human Resources Assistant, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, County Highway Department; Mr. Phil Dick, Director, Building and Zoning

Others Present: Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Planner, Regional Planning Commission

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. and declared the presence of a quorum. Chairman Bass presented the minutes of the September 5, 2002 meeting for approval.

Motion by Owens/Emmett to approve and place on file the minutes of the September 5, 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. Hoselton asked where the right-of-way purchase from Gerald Mann is located. Mr. Mitchell replied that he is unsure of the location.

Motion by Hoselton/Owens to recommend approval of the bills as presented and recommended by the Auditor's Office. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Chenoa Joint Bridge Petition for the Committee's Action. There is a culvert located on 2700 North at the 2540 East intersection, which covers a drainage ditch. The culvert is in bad shape and needs to be repaired. The staff feels that an aluminum box culvert is the best replacement to install. The total cost is \$32,000.00. The County would be responsible for \$16,000.00. The removal of the old culvert would be bid out and staff would complete the installation. Due to the location of the culvert, the County and the Township would be equally responsible for the maintenance of the culvert.

Motion by Hoselton/Emmett to recommend approval of the Chenoa Joint Bridge Petition for the removal of the culvert and the installation of a new aluminum box culvert. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented a bridge petition for County Highway 36 in Downs. The culvert located in front of the school is in poor condition. The drainage area has sidewalks, which come up to it and drop-offs on each side. The town would like to work together with the County while the town is repairing the watermain. The staff recommends using pipe to replace the culvert. The cost to the County is \$15,000.00 and will not cause major damage to the street.

Motion by Emmett/Hoselton to recommend approval of the bridge petition for County Highway 36 in Downs. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented a request to apply for an IDOT G.I.S. grant. The grant is for \$100,000.00. McLean County is in need of technical support in order to fully use the data that will be available within several months from the G.I.S. cadastral layer. There is a multitude of applications that need to be developed in various county departments. First on the list is the need to replace Sidwell with a county based mapping system. The information needed for this mapping is generated within the County and can be supplied to County departments as well as the public.

Mr. Selzer asked when the grant would be awarded. Mr. Mitchell replied that he is not sure when the grant money would be awarded. IDOT has not released the award date.

Mr. Phil Dick, Director, Building and Zoning stated that the annual update to Sidwell cost \$1,950.00. The Supervisor of Assessment's office pays approximately \$100,000.00 per year for updates of the Sidwell maps.

Mr. Selzer inquired as to the fiscal responsibilities of the County once the grant ended. Mr. Selzer asked if these grant-funded individuals remain as County employees. Also, Mr. Selzer asked why this person has not been brought on sooner. The Town of Normal and City of Bloomington already have someone in place.

Mr. Mitchell explained that until recently, the County has been able to keep up with the technology brought by G.I.S. However, the new cadastral layer is technology that the County has not had training on. The addition of an employee that can be trained to use the technology will be invaluable to 10 County departments.

Mr. Selzer asked what would happen to the grant employees when the grant ended. Mr. Mitchell explained that this year, the G.I.S. mapping would run parallel with Sidwell mapping. In the next year, purchasing Sidwell maps would not be necessary. The money saved from Sidwell would fund the employees once the grant ends.

Mr. Selzer asked what work would the employees have once the cadastral layer is installed and in place. Mr. Dick explained that the employees would be able to print precinct maps for the County Clerks office, keep street maps updated for the Sheriff's Department, update taxing districts, drainage districts, voting districts, fire districts, school districts and parcel boundaries immediately.

Mr. Selzer asked if the Information Services Department would be involved with the maintenance of the G.I.S. Database. Mr. Dick replied that Mr. Craig Nelson, Director of Information Services, is supportive of the need. However, Information Services would not be involved in working with the G.I.S. System.

Mr. Hoselton noted that the County has to provide a 20% local match for the grant. Mr. Hoselton asked if McLean County could partner with the City of Bloomington for G.I.S. support. Mr. Dick replied that the City of Bloomington is currently borrowing an employee from the Engineering Department to handle the City of Bloomington G.I.S. requests. The City of Bloomington employee is handling G.I.S. in addition to other duties. It would not be possible at this time. Mr. Selzer suggested that the County look into a joint person once the Government Center is established.

Mr. Hoselton stated that he would like to know what the estimated salary cost would be for 2004. Mr. Selzer stated that he would like to know if smaller governments would be willing to contract with McLean County for G.I.S. services and what kind of revenue

could be expected from those services. Mr. Mitchell stated that at some point, the County would like to have G.I.S. information available to the public.

Mr. Emmett suggested that the Committee approve the grant application. Staff can prepare further information regarding salaries and savings prior to the grant contract being approved.

Motion to Emmett/Selzer to recommend approval of an IDOT G.I.S. Grant application. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented a Resolution for Sale of Surplus Equipment. The 1992 4900 International Single Axle Dump Truck bid is awarded to Downs Road District Township in the amount of \$12,000.00. The 1992 CON357 Peterbilt Tandem Dump Truck bid is awarded to John Nord for \$12,000.00. The 1996 Dodge Ram Pickup Truck is being sold to Facilities Management for \$3,700.00. The 1995 Ford F150 Pickup Truck received no bids that reached the minimum amount of \$3,200.00. No sale is recommend at this time. There may be interest in the truck after harvest.

Mr. Owens asked why the truck is being sold to Facilities Management. Mr. Mitchell explained that it is more of a transfer of funds for correct bookkeeping.

Motion by Selzer/Hoselton to recommend approval of a Resolution for Sale of Surplus Equipment. Motion carried.

Mr. Owens noted that computers were being given to Information Services. Mr. Mitchell explained that Information Services has use for the computers, but the depreciated value of the computers is zero.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Letting Results from September 25, 2002 for Section 96-00042-07-BR. The Oakland Avenue Bridge, near the Water Sewage Treatment plant bid is awarded to Stark Materials Inc. in the amount of \$327,678.80. Mr. Hoselton asked if union salary increases were included in Stark's bid. Mr. Mitchell replied that the salary increases for the union employees were included.

Motion by Hoselton/Selzer to recommend approval of the Letting Results from September 25, 2002 for Section 96-00042-07 BR. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented a request for an Appropriation Transfer to account for the funds for the purchase of the 38 acres on Route 9 East.

Motion by Selzer/Owns to recommend approval of a request for an Appropriation Transfer. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented a proposed Illinois Cash Farm Lease with Larry Durbin. Chairman Bass noted that the lease term is for one year. Mr. Mitchell stated that the lease is different from the lease that Mr. Durbin had with Rowe Construction. The agreement that Mr. Durbin had with Rowe Construction was for Mr. Durbin to do the farm labor, and Rowe Construction sold the crop. The lease agreement between McLean County and Mr. Durbin is \$110.00 per acre for 28 acres. Mr. Durbin will then sell the crop for his profit.

Mr. Brian Hug, Assistant Civil State's Attorney has requested that the lease agreement clarify the insurance limits and real estate tax. Mr. Selzer suggested that the revision be made prior to the October 15th, 2002 County Board meeting in order to have a stand-up meeting prior to the board meeting. Mr. Mitchell replied that the recommendation on the lease agreement is not needed right away. The agreement can be brought back to the November 5, 2002 Transportation Committee meeting.

Chairman Bass asked when the lease agreement would be effective if approved. Mr. Mitchell replied that the lease agreement would be effective March 1, 2003. Chairman Bass asked if the County is free from liability. Mr. Mitchell replied that Mr. Durbin would not be in the field unless he wants to till. Mr. Selzer stated that the County would not be liable unless the agreement was signed.

Mr. Owens asked if \$110.00 was the current market value for Farmland. Mr. Mitchell replied that farmland lease cost average between \$100.00 to \$150.00 per acre. The recommended lease price is a fair price due to the shape and acreage of the property.

Mr. Mitchell noted that the University of Illinois provided the lease agreement.

Mr. Mitchell presented a memo regarding Jurisdictional Transfer. The Executive Committee asked Chairman Bass to find out how jurisdictional transfers take place. Mr. Mitchell stated that there are three criteria for the transfer. The County must be willing to transfer and pass a resolution and agreement. The City must be willing to accept the transfer and pass an ordinance and agreement. And, the Illinois Department of Transportation must approve the transfer.

Chairman Bass noted that the City of Bloomington does not wish to accept responsibility of Towanda Barnes Road in sections. Mr. Mitchell stated that Mr. George Drye, Director of Engineering and Water, City of Bloomington has stated that he would not recommend the transfer of part of Towanda Barnes Road until most of the road was annexed to the City.

Mr. Selzer asked what are the advantages and disadvantages to a jurisdictional transfer. Mr. Mitchell replied that the advantages of the jurisdictional transfer are cost savings and

less maintenance. The disadvantage to a jurisdiction transfer of Towanda Barnes Road would be that Towanda Barnes Road runs the length of McLean County. If the middle section is transferred to the City, the County loses control of the traffic flow for that section. The City of Bloomington may allow for more access roads, than the County allows.

Mr. Owens asked what IDOT's position is on the jurisdictional transfer of Towanda Barnes Road. Mr. Mitchell replied that the individual in charge of the review is new to the position. IDOT is researching to see if a jurisdictional transfer of parts of Towanda Barnes road is feasible or if there is more continuity to transferring large sections of the road.

Mr. Selzer asked if IDOT money is dependent on the number of miles maintained by the County. Mr. Mitchell replied that maintaining Towanda Barnes road is a large expense. If the County did not have to maintain Towanda Barnes Road, there would be more revenue for other projects.

The Committee discussed other County Roads that may be transferred to the Town of Normal or the City of Bloomington. The County would like to transfer Emerson Heights Road to the City of Bloomington. Old Route 150 is in the Town of Normal limits except for a half-mile. Long range plans include turning over Washington Street to the City of Bloomington from Euclid Street west along with Bloomington Heights Road.

Mr. Selzer asked if Towanda Barnes is going to be signalized. Mr. Mitchell replied that major intersections along Towanda Barnes would be signalized. The budget request for next year includes adding staff maintenance along the road. Mr. Selzer noted that maintaining Towanda Barnes road is difficult. Mr. Mitchell stated that Towanda Barnes Road is 5 lanes for 7 miles. Approximately 13,000 cars travel over it.

Chairman Bass stated that the information on jurisdictional transfers would be forwarded to the Executive Committee. Mr. Mitchell stated that when he has further information from IDOT, he would bring the jurisdictional transfer back to the Transportation Committee for action.

Mr. Selzer asked Mr. Mitchell to prepare a list of the roads that are planned for possible jurisdictional transfers. Mr. Selzer suggested planning a work session so that the Committee is well versed on these roads.

Mr. Hoselton asked if there are plans to allow more access to Towanda Barnes Road. Mr. Hoselton asked if the City of Bloomington would be more likely to take over Towanda Barnes if the County does not allow access roads. Mr. Mitchell replied that the

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County has no plans to change the number of access roads that are allowed on Towanda Barnes Road.

Mr. Mitchell asked if the Committee would allow Comlara Park to make improvements to the County Highway without approving a road permit. The Committee agreed to allow Comlara work on the road without viewing the permit.

Mr. Mitchell asked the Committee if there were any questions regarding the information items. The Committee had no questions.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bass at 8:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucretia A. Wherry
Recording Secretary