

## **Minutes of the Transportation Committee**

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 404 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bass, Members Dean, O'Connor, Cavallini and Hoselton

Members Absent: Member Baggett

Other Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator; Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator, Ms. Lucretia Wherry, Recording Secretary, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer

Others Present: Ms. Karen Swick, Senior Accounting Specialist, Highway Department; Mr. Mark Leake, Highway Maintenance Coordinator; Mr. Leif Epperson, Fleet Manager, Highway Department

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

Chairman Bass stated that the first item for action is the approval of the minutes from the September 7, 2005 meeting. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion by Dean/Cavallini to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2005 Transportation Committee Meeting. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass informed the Committee that the next item on the agenda is the payment of the September, 2005 bills. Chairman Bass asked if there were any questions from the Committee. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the bills.

Motion by Cavallini/Dean to recommend approval of the bills for September, 2005 as submitted by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the first item for action is the Letting Results from the September 28, 2005 letting for County Equipment Purchases. Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, stated that last month the Committee recommended approval to solicit bids for a crack sealing kettle. The results of the bid are on page 2 of the bid tab. The low bidder for an all propane machine is Wissmiller and Evans Road Equipment located in Cooksville at \$24,0668.00. The Highway Department recommends award to Wissmiller and Evans Road Equipment.

\*\*Ms. O'Connor joins the meeting at 8:12 a.m.

Motion by Hoselton/Cavallini to recommend award of Letting results from September 28, 2005 for County Equipment Purchases. Motion carried.

The second action item is the Letting Results for Sale of Surplus County Equipment. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that when bids are taken for sale of surplus equipment, they are sealed bids with the right to raise the bid after the sealed bids are opened and read. The highest bid for the 2001 Dodge extended cab half-ton short bed was \$6,150.00 by Mr. Rodney Lush. The highest bid for the 1999 Dodge half-ton short bed was \$3,700.00 submitted by Mr. David Mylcraine. The highest bid for the pull type friction broom was submitted by Downs Township. The bid was for \$275.00. Mr. Mitchell

recommended award of all of the bids. Chairman Bass asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

Motion by Hoselton/Dean to recommend award of Letting Results from September 28, 2005 for sale of surplus County equipment. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell if he would present the informational items before the Committee discussed the budget. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that Stringtown Road west project is essentially complete. The Highway Department needs to adjust some guard rails in order to complete the project. Rowe Construction with their portion of the Stringtown Road east project completed the incidental work for all the intersection and driveways. The Highway Department completed their portion of this project. The Highway Department was responsible for widening the shoulders, regrading the ditches and installing all new culverts. There are only minor adjustments left to complete this project. The construction on the Heller Bridge is complete. The road is open to traffic. There is only final grading and seeding left to be done to complete this project. Rowe Construction has completed work on Stanford Road. The Highway Department is waiting on paperwork to release the final payment for this project. The Highway Department also has to install some culverts to complete this project. The 2005 Non-MFT culvert work on LeRoy-Lexington is complete. The Highway Department had to extend some concrete culverts to meet the clear zone distance requirements. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Ireland Grove Road and Oakland Avenue road work is complete. There is still some minor clean up work yet to be done by Rowe Construction, but it is otherwise complete.

Chairman Bass thanked Mr. Mitchell for the update of the current road work and advised the Committee that they will move on to the Fiscal Year 2006 County Highway Budget. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to present the budget to the Committee.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he has provided the Committee with four hand-outs this morning. The first hand-out is a copy of the Fiscal Year 2006 proposed budget. The second is the explanation of any increased expenditures. The third is a list of the vehicle inventory. The last hand out is a map of the Five Year Capital Improvements Plan for the Highway Department. Mr. Mitchell explained that he had initially turned in a maximum tax levy which was amended by Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, to bring the Highway Department in line with the rest of the County's budget. Therefore, the Highway Department's tax levy increase is in line with the General Fund's increase.

Mr. Mitchell stated that on the first page of the budget is the revenue for Fund 0120, which is the County Highway Fund. A property tax levy of \$2,110,365.00 is proposed, which is a 4.99% increase over last year. Mr. Mitchell informed the

Committee that under the revenue category in 2005, the Transportation Planning line item significantly exceeded the 2005 adopted budget. That was mainly as a result of fees associated with permits on Ireland Grove Road.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the rest of the items in the revenue category are unremarkable. The total projected revenue is \$2,878,730.00, which is 10% over the Fiscal Year 2005 Adopted Budget. The next page is the 0500 line items which are the salary line items. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that this is a projection of where the Highway Department projects that the salary expense will be budgeted during Fiscal Year 2006. Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator, runs the current salaries through a program and the total salary increases for the entire Fiscal Year are projected. Mr. Mitchell stated that both his projections and Mr. Lindberg's projections agree. The total for the 0503-0001, Full-Time Employee's salaries is \$723,365.00. The total for the Occasional-Seasonal Employee's salaries is \$34,000.00. There are also funds for both the Full-Time and Occasional-Seasonal employee's salaries in the Bridge Fund and Motor Fuel Tax Fund. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that they have proposed an additional part-time hours to help during the summer. That is the reason for the \$4,000.00 increase in the Occasional-Seasonal line item. The Overtime pay line item remains the same as last year and there is a 5% increase in the Employee Medical-Life Insurance line item.

Mr. Mitchell advised the Committee that next are the Materials and Supplies (0600) line items. The major change in that line item is the 47% increase in the Gasoline-Oil-Diesel Fuel line item. Mr. Hoselton asked if the County receives any break in motor fuel taxes. Mr. Leif Epperson, Fleet Manager, responded that the County Highway Department does not pay sales tax for fuel products, although they do pay road tax and underground storage tax, which amounts to \$0.191 per gallon. Mr. Epperson stated that the sales tax savings is equal to about a \$0.12 -\$0.15 per gallon when compared to what consumers pay at the pump. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Operating-Office Supplies line items are up 20% due to a split in line items. This change is due to a recommendation by the Auditor. Those two items are the reason for the overall 20% increase in the 0600 line items.

Mr. Mitchell advised the Committee that the next line item is the Contractual Services (0700) line items. The Contract Services line item is up 35% over last year. The reason this increase has been budgeted is because there may be a need for an appraiser (\$15,000.00) and or an attorney (\$15,000.00) on the Danvers-Carlock Road and on the Holder Road projects. Mr. Mitchell noted that there is also \$20,000.00 being allocated for GIS programs. Mr. Cavallini asked if Mr. Mitchell anticipated that these projects will end up in an eminent domain situation where attorney and appraiser services will be needed. Mr. Mitchell responded that he is anticipating the situation to arise. Chairman Bass asked if the additional \$20,000.00 for GIS was only being paid by the County Highway

Department's budget. Mr. Mitchell responded that several other County departments and the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal all share in the GIS fee. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Maintenance, Road and Drainage Structures line item has also increased significantly. It has increased 59%. Schooling and Conferences line item has increased 55%. This is due to training that is needed for Microstation and Geopack, which are the Highway Departments two main software packages. Mr. Mitchell stated that overall the 0700 line items have increased 16%, which is about \$66,000.00.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the next expenditure category is Capital Outlay(0800). There has been another change by the Auditor. Line item 0838-0002, Purchase Machinery and Equipment, was previously used for all equipment purchases, now it will be used for purchases under \$10,000.00. There is a new line item for purchases over \$10,000.00. That line item is 0850-0001, Capitalized Assets. This is for construction equipment over \$10,000.00. Mr. Mitchell stated that this change is due to the implementation of GASB-34. The total increase in the Capital line items is 9% over Fiscal Year 2005.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the next page shows the annual transfers and the total balanced budget of \$2,878,730.00 in the Highway Fund. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have. Mr. Dean asked where the construction equipment was listed. Mr. Mitchell replied that there is a total listed of \$487,365.00 in the Capitalized Assets line-item. The construction equipment doesn't show as its own line item. The construction equipment with a cost of \$10,000 or more and the construction projects are combines in the Capitalized Assets account.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the next fund is the Bridge Matching Fund (0121). The property tax levy is \$1,449,950.00, which is a 4.96% increase over FY' 2005. That tax rate is at \$0.0489 per \$100 of EAV and \$0.05 is the maximum rate allowed in this fund. The projected revenue total is \$1,864,950.00. Mr. Mitchell explained that is 25% over last year because there will be a balance of \$300,000.00 to carry over from this year that will go toward construction projects in FY' 06. Mr. Mitchell explained that the major increases in this Fund are found in the Overtime Pay line item 0526-0001, where there is a 17% increase. Mr. Mitchell noted that this fluctuates from year to year. In the Engineering-Design Expense, 0716-0002 there is a 19% increase over FY 2005. The total in the Bridge Matching Fund is \$1,864,950.00 which represents a balanced budget in this fund. Mr. Mitchell asked if the Committee had any questions. Mr. Hoselton asked when the Highway Department has exceeded the budget in certain line items, where does the extra funding come from. Mr. Mitchell responded that extra money would have to come out of the construction account.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the next fund is the McLean County Matching Fund (0122). The tax levy is \$1,087,810.00, which represents a 4.96% increase over

FY' 2005. That tax rate is set at \$0.03725 per \$100 of EAV and \$0.0375 is the maximum tax rate that can be levied. Mr. Mitchell explained that the maximum rate was cut by 25% twenty years ago along with the maximum in the Highway Fund. The \$0.075 per \$100 of EAV maximum levy on the Highway Fund used to be \$0.10.

The total projected revenue is \$1,097,810.00. The expense line items are rather unremarkable and total \$1,097,810.00 for a balanced budget in this fund. This fund is used to match Motor Fuel Tax or Federal Aid funds.

The next fund is the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Fund (0123). Mr. Mitchell explained that he has revised the revenue portion of this Fund. Typically, the MFT revenue goes up approximately 2% each year, but with the current gas prices it is difficult to tell if there will be an increase. Therefore, the total projected revenue this year remains the same as the total revenue in FY' 2005 which is \$3,180,000.00. The County receives a portion of the MFT funds based on vehicle registration fees that are collected in McLean County. The total revenue in this fund after transfers and unclassified revenue is \$3,390,000.00. Mr. Mitchell explained that the expenses are unremarkable with a total of \$3,390,000.00 and a balanced budget in this fund. Mr. Mitchell asked if there were any questions from the Committee. Hearing none, Chairman Bass called for a motion.

Motion by O'Connor/Cavallini to recommend tentative approval of the FY' 2006 Recommended Budget for County Highway Department Funds. Motion carried. Member Hoselton voted "no".

Mr. Mitchell stated that the next item is the McLean County Highway Department 5-Year Plan for 2006-2010. Mr. Mitchell stated that he has provided the Committee Members with a "map" of projects that are scheduled to be completed during the next five years. Mr. Mitchell went through the projects with the Committee explaining briefly what each project entailed. Mr. Mitchell advised the Committee that the new Federal Highway Bill was recently passed by Congress. Mr. Mitchell stated that they are awaiting further details from the Federal and State Government. Mr. Mitchell noted that the second page of the 5-Year Plan is the list of unfunded projects. Mr. Mitchell stated that the total cost of the unfunded projects to date is \$69,050,000.00. Mr. Mitchell stated that there are additional unfunded projects in the County, but the ones listed are a higher priority. Ms. O'Connor asked why Six Points Road was listed on the unfunded projects list. She noted that this was supposed to be a jurisdictional transfer to the City of Bloomington. Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer, responded that the County has agreed to pay for the upgrade of Six Points Road as part of the jurisdictional transfer agreement. Mr. Mitchell stated that is correct and that Six Points Road should not be listed on the unfunded projects sheet. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may

have on the 5 Year-Plan. Mr. Hoselton stated that the Interchanges at Towanda and Lexington are still in disrepair and have been for the past 3 or more years. Mr. Hoselton asked why they are not scheduled to be fixed until FY' 2007.

Mr. Mitchell replied that the County has received \$800,000.00 in a federal bill for the repair of those two interchanges. The federal government has informed the County that the funding for several high-priority projects will not be released in FY' 2006 because that will throw their funding schedule off. The federal funds will not be released until FY' 2007. Mr. Mitchell stated that he will be bringing the Committee an engineering agreement within the next couple of months to begin the design of the Lexington Interchange. But, the project cannot be started until the funding is released. Mr. Dean asked if \$800,000.00 will be enough funding to complete both of these interchanges. Mr. Mitchell responded that \$800,000.00 is not enough to complete even one of these projects. But, the County will match the federal funds at the level necessary to complete the Lexington Interchange, which is the most deteriorated of the interstate interchanges. Then the Highway Department will complete the Towanda Interchange with its own funding while trying to acquire additional federal funding. Mr. Hoselton asked what the estimated cost is to repair the Lexington Interchange. Mr. Mitchell responded approximately \$2,000,000.00.

Ms. O'Connor asked if the County already has the land in order to build a garage. Mr. Mitchell responded that the County does already have land where the garage will be built. Ms. O'Connor asked what will be done with the land that the Highway Department is currently on. Mr. Mitchell stated that he does not know yet. That will probably be decided as 2007 approaches. Chairman Bass asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he called for a motion on the 5-Year Plan.

Motion by O'Connor/Dean to recommend tentative approval of the County Highway 5-Year Capital Improvements Plan. Chairman Bass noted that the Chair will vote.

Ms. O'Connor voted	"Yes".
Mr. Dean voted	"Yes"
Mr. Hoselton voted	"No"
Mr. Cavallini voted	"No"
Chairman Bass voted	"Yes"

Motion carried 3-2.

Chairman Bass asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he called for a motion to adjourn.

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Motion by Hoselton/Cavallini to adjourn at 9:28 a.m.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucretia Wherry  
Recording Secretary

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