

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

Highway & Transportation

Friday, June 10, 2005 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Room 1, Brookens Administrative Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cowart, Bensyl, Feinen, Gross, Jay, Langenheim, O'Connor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Weibel

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue (County Engineer), John Cooper, Debby Wagner, Tracy Wingle (Highway Department), Barb Wysocki (County Board Chair)

Call to Order

Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 8:57 a.m. Declaring a quorum present, the chair proceeded with the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda/Addendum

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

Approval of Minutes: March 24, 2005, May 6, 2005

MOTION by Gross to approve the minutes of March 24, 2005 and May 6, 2005 as presented; seconded by Langenheim.

Ms. Feinen pointed out the date on the first page of the Minutes from March 24, 2005 should read March 31, 2005, which is the correct date the meeting took place.

Motion carried.

Public Participation

There was no public participation

Monthly Reports

County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – May 2005

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

County Engineer

Resolution awarding of contract for the improvement of Lierman Avenue in the City of Urbana – Section #03-00394-00-PV

Mr. Blue explained this bid was originally to be opened yesterday but because the City failed to get the notice to the IDOT bulletin the date has to be moved to the 23rd. In lieu of trying to have a special meeting on the 23rd he feels it would be easier if the committee could support the resolution being approved by the County Board with the highway department inserting the name of the contractor and amount after the bids are open and tabulated, as long as they are within 10% of the estimate.

MOTION by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the resolution awarding of contract for the improvement of Lierman Avenue in the City of Urbana – Section #03-00394-00-PV with the Contractor name and amount to be added after the bids are open on June 23rd as long as the result is within 10% of the Engineers estimate; seconded by Bensyl. **Motion carried.**

Review of County Highway 9 – Section #05-00398-00-RS

Mr. Blue reminded the committee they gave him the authority to award this project, he has provided each member with the bid tabulation sheet to allow them the opportunity to ask questions. He explained that the Engineer's estimate was 1.7 and it came in at 1.2, 30% below the estimate.

Motion by Carter to approve the County Highway 9 bid tabulation; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried.**

Purchase of Power Broom

Mr. Blue explained that as a department, in the past, they have not done a lot of preventive maintenance on asphalt roadways. He believes we need the right treatment on the right road at the right time which includes seal coating roads 3-5 years after they are built and continuing that process to keep the surface rejuvenated, in order to do that we need a power broom available. The estimated cost is \$35,000; they have drawn up specs and would like to go out for bid. He explained there is enough money in the equipment line item to purchase, if it is within the anticipated range.

MOTION by Jay to provide the County Engineer the authority to go out for bid for the purchase of a power broom; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried.**

Engineer Cont.

A/E Selection for Maintenance Facility.

Mr. Blue explained he, along with Mr. Jay and Mr. Weibel, are on the A/E selection committee. They received the first proposal from BLDD and as typical, with any negotiation, their number was higher than what we wanted at 7.3 million. Before meeting with BLDD the committee determined a realistic budget of about 6.2 million which would mean we are close to the 5 million originally proposed with the addition of contingencies taking us up another million dollars. The committee is currently in negotiations with the firm and based on the Capital Development Board's base fee compensation range they feel they should be in the range of 7%, the committee will be meeting again early next week.

Maintenance Facility Funding

Mr. Blue stated he has been doing some investigation about bonding and has talked with Deb Busey about funding this building. In his conversations with the IDOT bureau of local roads he discovered if we are going to directly use MFT funds to build the building there is a lot of paperwork and red tape we will have to go through. He explained we can use a process where we rent our equipment to the MFT fund and with state established rental rates, we can get MFT money reimbursed which we can put into a separate fund and use to build the building, this would allow us to avoid using MFT funds directly. He stated Ms. Busey looked at some numbers with bonding explaining an annual bond at a 20 year retirement at 5.25% interest will have a payoff at about \$327,000 per year. He feels it would be easy for us to charge enough in rental rates to obtain \$327,000 to put in a separate fund to pay off that bond yearly, he feels this may be an option to look at. He stated going through the red tape will cost us a small amount of money, around \$10,000, and time.

Ms. Busey explained that looking at the spreadsheet Mr. Blue created, anticipating 3% growth to MFT and implementing the million dollar road cap, under the first scenario if we pay for the building with cash in the amount of 4 million dollars by 2015 we are in a deficit. If we issue bonds for the 4 million dollars we will not reach that position, it is something she believes should be considered and explained it is reasonable to bond a building but it is very unusual that you would pay cash for a building. Bonding will protect the MFT fund in regard to future projects over the next decade.

Ms. Feinen stated when she looks at a small cost to use our MFT funds versus a large cost to spread this out, she is uncomfortable with borrowing money we don't need today to avoid a future problem we don't even know if we will have. She stated she would not have supported moving forward with this building if she thought we were going to bond.

Engineer Cont.

Mr. Blue reminded the committee that over 10 years money was saved to build a building which is why we have a 9.5 million balance in the MFT, now we have come to the realization that we have a large deficit to urbanized projects. He explained the rental program doesn't bring us money, it just moves it around to give us some flexibility.

Ms. Busey stated bonding is another alternative to looking at managing the fund balance over the long term, when you look forward it looks as though we need to maintain enough money in the fund balance to cover years when we are spending more than we are bringing in.

Mr. Blue stated once we get an architect on board we will get an idea of how much is Highway and how much is fleet, we want to get the best we can for our money. He feels by the next meeting we may have a solid number.

Other Business

Mr. Blue stated he attended a meeting with the upper level regional engineer and staff and the cities of Champaign and Urbana to talk about the reorganization of IDOT. Champaign County district 5 has been put with district 4 and our Engineer will be based out of Peoria, Paris will still be a district office and our dealings will be going through them. IDOT is cutting jobs which means their maintenance side of things will be minimal, they are going to set their priorities based on capital improvement with the first being bridges. It will cost more for us to do business because they will no longer be helping us out on the operations side.

Determination of Consent Agenda Items

There were no items to be included on the consent agenda.

Adjournment

MOTION by Jay to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Bensyl. **Motion carried.**
Ms. Cowart declared the meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary