

**WILL COUNTY BOARD**  
**PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**February 3, 2009**

Will County Office Building  
County Board Room  
302 North Chicago Street  
Joliet, IL 60432

**8:30 a.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Bilotta called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present were Members:** Singer, Babich, Evans, Goodson, Weigel, Wisniewski and Bilotta.

**Absent were Members:** None.

**Also Present:**

**Present from State's Attorney's Office:** Melanie Manning and Phil Mock.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Evans led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mr. Wisniewski, to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2008 meeting. On a roll call vote, Singer, Babich, Evans, Goodson, Weigel, Wisniewski and Bilotta voting yes. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mr. Wisniewski, second by Ms. Goodson, to approve the executive session minutes from the December 9, 2008 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Mr. Singer, to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2009 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mr. Wisniewski, second by Mr. Weigel, to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2009 meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**STATE'S ATTORNEY DISCUSSION**

**Installation of Traffic Lights at Exchange Street in Crete**

Mr. Mock stated Crete High School changed their entrances without a permit in 2007 and the road was temporarily blocked off. We came to an agreement to keep the entrances open while litigating whether their entrances constitute a road and so then would become a part of the county highway system. Our theory is it is just an entrance to the parking lot. This went through the court who ruled in our favor that they are just driveway entrances; they also ruled against them that we need to pay for traffic signals. Now there are three options; the first is to block off the curb cut. The second is since they said repeatedly in court they would not pay; we could pay for it if we thought it was necessary because of the safety concern. We were in much worse economic situation at the time this happened. The third is to continue what we did since 2007 – leave the interchange there with no signal even though traffic counts warrant lights. The court case is at an end; the ball is in the county's court. He wanted to bring this to the committee's attention. We won that round but it did not solve anything.

Mr. Singer indicated the engineer that the school district hired said they need traffic signals and they included that in the bond measure to put in traffic signals; then they chose not to do it. Do we have grounds to sue them? We have the responsibility to ensure that location is safe. If we put the signal in can we sue them for the cost?

Mr. Mock replied no; under the school code paying for signals is not something they have the statutory duty to do. He suggested we enter into an intergovernmental agreement.

Mr. Singer stated he has no problem supporting blocking off the intersection.

Mr. Mock advised waiting until the school year ends, which will allow them time to reconfigure.

Mr. Gould indicated the correspondence from their attorney stated if the judgment was against the school they will pay for the lights; now they are going back against their letter.

Mr. Mock commented the court cannot order the school to pay for the lights.

Mr. Singer questioned if they bonded the project to include lights; where is the responsibility to follow through all things?

Mr. Mock replied they have the ability to change their opinion. The bond holders may have some claim if they artificially inflated their bonds.

Ms. Goodson asked what the reason is they did not acquire the permit.

Mr. Mock answered arrogance.

Mr. Singer commented there exists a culture of independence in this particular area – we are on our own and do not need to ask permission for anything.

Mr. Gould stated we had 2 meetings and at both we felt it was us against the school board. At the second meeting they indicated if the judgment came forward they would pay for the lights.

Mr. Singer indicated that is why we agreed to remove the barrier; their engineer said they have to do it.

Mr. Evans asked what the cost of the signalization is.

Mr. Ronaldson answered about \$200,000; there are also turn lane improvements that are between \$500,000 to \$600,000. The total is about \$800,000 to \$900,000.

Mr. Gould stated the problem is there are 2 access points; one is for the signalized intersection and the other is further west for buses and administrative people. If we block off the access would have to block off 2 accesses.

Mr. Evans questioned if there is any history with this school district and the county.

Mr. Gould replied absolutely not regarding the highway department.

Mr. Bilotta stated it amazes him that it went this far; everything we are doing is within our ordinance. He agrees with Mr. Singer to block it off.

Mr. Mock suggested he could start by sending a letter to their attorney that the county is willing to enter into an intergovernmental agreement and see if they are willing to do that. That will give us until the end of the school year.

Mr. Bilotta introduced Rozeta Johnson, the new assistant state's attorney. We are looking forward to working with you especially on right of way issues.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Request for Temporary Permit Extension by Panduit Corporation for Permits A-83-0001 (80<sup>th</sup> Avenue) and A-84-0002 (191<sup>st</sup> Street)**

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mr. Wisniewski, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing an extension to the temporary permit for Panduit Corporation at 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 191<sup>st</sup> Street. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

#### **Request for Traffic Signal Installation and Maintenance Agreement for the Gougar Road (CH 52) and Spencer Road Intersection**

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, second by Mr. Wisniewski, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing traffic signal installation and maintenance agreement for the Gougar Road and Spencer Road intersection. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

#### **Request for Temporary Permit Extension by Royal Assets (Lake Charlevoix) on Manhattan-Monee Road (CH 6)**

Mr. Rosenthal requested an extension for the temporary permit at Lake Charlevoix on Manhattan-Monee Road.

Mr. Gould indicated this will be the sixth extension on the temporary permit.

A brief discussion followed regarding the necessity for another extension due to the housing market and the possibility of extending for a period longer than 6 months.

A motion was made by Mr. Wisniewski, second by Ms. Goodson, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing the extension of the temporary permit for Lake Charlevoix on Manhattan-Monee Road for a 24 month period, pending approval by the State's Attorney's office. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Request by Village of Frankfort to Install Flashing Red Lights at the Existing Intersection of Laraway Road (CH 74) and 116<sup>th</sup> Street**

A motion was made by Mr. Wisniewski, second by Mr. Weigel, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing the request by the Village of Frankfort to install flashing red lights at the intersection of Laraway Road and 116<sup>th</sup> Street. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

#### **Request for EVP Agreement for Existing Laraway Road (CH 74) and Nelson Road Traffic Signal**

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mr. Wisniewski, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing the EVP Agreement for the existing traffic signal at the intersection of Laraway Road and Nelson Road. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

#### **Request by Mistwood Golf Course (JBM Golf Properties, LLC) for Variance to the 20-year Design Year Requirement at the Intersection of Renwick Road (CH 36) and Gaylord Road**

Mr. Gould stated he had received a request for this item to be tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Convery indicated that intersection really involves 4 different communities as well as the county. It is a strategic location; that corner has become a nightmare – we have had numerous complaints. We ask you to consider this favorably and allow Mistwood to put in a traffic light at that intersection.

Ms. Goodson commented Plainfield Township has set aside money to contribute to this.

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Mr. Singer, to table this issue until the next meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNTY BOARD**

1. Resolution Authorizing Approval of Kane County, Lake County, and Will County Joint Agreement to the use of advance Federal Surface Transportation Program Funds allocated by IDOT to the collar counties for use by Kane County for its Stearns Road Project

Motion by Mr. Wisniewski, second by Mr. Evans. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

2. Resolution Authorizing Approval of Professional Services Agreement for Design Engineering (Phase II) with Baxter & Woodman, Inc. Consulting Engineers for traffic signal and appurtenant work thereto on CH 74 (Laraway Road) at Wolf Road, Section 07-00138-26-TL, County Board District #1

Motion by Mr. Wisniewski, second by Mr. Weigel. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

3. Resolution for Design Services (Phase II) by the County under the IL Highway Code with Baxter & Woodman, Inc. Consulting Engineers for traffic signal and appurtenant work thereto on CH 74 (Laraway Road) at Wolf Road, Section 07-00138-26-TL, County Board District #1, Using County's allotment of RTA Tax funds (\$40,000.00)

Motion by Mr. Wisniewski, second by Mr. Babich. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

4. Resolution Authorizing Approval of an Illinois Department of Transportation – County Joint Agreement to make improvements to the intersection of CH 74 (Laraway Road) at Wolf Road, Section 07-00138-26-TL, County Board District #1

Motion by Mr. Weigel, second by Mr. Evans. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**Other Business**

**COUNTY ENGINEER DISCUSSION**

**Phase II Project Manager Selection**

Mr. Gould stated they had conducted interviews with 5 engineering firms on January 20<sup>th</sup>. They were ranked and then the top two firms were interviewed on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Based on those interviews the decision has been made to choose Smith Engineering Consultants as the candidate for the project manager. He will send out a letter to that effect. V3 was the second firm. The next step is the contract negotiation.

Mr. Bilotta commented the plan is to bring someone forward in March. We had 5 good firms and 2 stood out – V3 and SEC.

**Revisions to the WCDH Permit Regulations and Access Control Regulations**

Mr. Gould indicated we had revised the entire ordinance a couple of years ago. He would like to present some revisions to the committee this month to go forward in March with a public hearing and county board. He indicated the Phase I consultant has been chosen by IDOT for the I55 and Weber Road interchange. The initial meeting will be on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 at the IDOT office.

**Right of Way Acquisition Procedures**

This item was discussed at the executive session.

**STATE'S ATTORNEY DISCUSSION**

**Installation of Traffic Lights at Exchange Street in Crete**

Mr. Bilotta moved this item to the beginning of the agenda.

**MONTHLY WORK REPORTS - Attached**

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

**REPORTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Bilotta stated he would like to bring back the 2030 Transportation Plan next month. One issue was the bus concept; it is just a matter of working out some terminology.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Bilotta stated an executive session was necessary to discuss right of way acquisition.

A motion was made by Mr. Wisniewski, second by Mr. Weigel, to go into executive session at 9:36 a.m. to discuss right of way acquisition. On a roll call vote, Singer, Babich, Evans, Goodson, Weigel, Wisniewski and Bilotta voting yes. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Bilotta announced they were now in executive session.

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Mr. Wisniewski, to come out of executive session at 10:15 a.m. On a roll call vote, Singer, Babich, Evans, Goodson, Weigel, Wisniewski and Bilotta voting yes. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mr. Singer, second by Ms. Goodson, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing the use of RTA Tax Funds in the amount of \$2,041,710 for right of way acquisition. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mr. Singer, second by Mr. Weigel, to direct the County Engineer to negotiate land acquisition purchases according to the guidelines as discussed in executive session. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Wisniewski, second by Mr. Weigel, to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 a.m. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.