

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

**January 6, 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 8:34 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent were Members:** Singer, Evans and Wisniewski.

**Also Present:** Adamic.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Kinney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mr. Babich, to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2008 meeting. On a roll call vote, Babich, Goodson, Weigel and Bilotta voting yes. MOTION CARRIES.

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Ms. Goodson, to approve the executive session minutes from the November 12, 2008 meeting, as amended. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Request for Resolution Rescinding Resolution 04-68, authorizing Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement – Number 3 between the County of Will, Plainfield Township Road District, village of Plainfield and Plainfield Township Park District for Renwick Road Corridor Improvements which include the design & construction of a structure spanning the DuPage River and the EJ&E Railroad tracks west of the DuPage River, County Board District #5 – Tabled at December 9, 2008 meeting**

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Ms. Goodson, to remove this item from table. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Bilotta indicated that discussions are still ongoing and there has not been any movement since our last meeting. He suggested removing this from the agenda and it will be brought back at the appropriate time.

No action was taken at this time.

**Intergovernmental Agreement between the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the County of Will and the Northwest Homer Fire Protection District for Emergency Vehicle Pre-Emption on 143<sup>rd</sup> Street at the I-355 Ramps**

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mr. Babich, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing the intergovernmental agreement for emergency vehicle pre-emption on 143<sup>rd</sup> at I-355. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**Request for Authorization of Funds for Gougar Road (CH 52) and Haven Avenue Intersection (08-00154-12-TL)**

Mr. Bilotta indicated this is part of our Build Will program. We met with New Lenox about participating with them. The county and New Lenox will split the difference; this amounts to approximately \$550,000.

Mr. Gould commented the village received some good prices.

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mr. Babich, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing funds for the Gougar Road and Haven Avenue intersection. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Gould advised the committee that signals will be activated today at Spencer and Gougar Roads as well as at the Metra Station on Laraway Road. We will maintain the signals on Gougar Road; the developer will maintain the signals at the Metra Station.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Request for Transfer of Funds from the RTA Tax Revenue Fund**

Mr. Gould stated the FY09 budget that was approved has a line item for capital improvements but no dollar amount was given. He is requesting a transfer of \$5 million from the road construction line item to the capital improvement line item for land acquisition; this is all in accordance with the Build Will program.

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Mr. Babich, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda transferring funds in the amount of \$5 million in the RTA Tax Revenue Fund. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**Discussion of Federal Agenda**

This item was moved to end of the agenda.

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNTY BOARD**

1. Request for Demolition – 1119 Sterling Avenue, Joliet Township, County Board District #8

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

2. Resolution Authorizing Approval of an Illinois Department of Transportation – County Joint Agreement for improvements to the Interstate 57 and CH 6 (Manhattan-Monee Road) interchange, known as State Section 99 (1&2) R-3 & 9-1HB-1-BR-2, Job No C-91-283-01, County Section 08-00040-08-FP, County Board District #1

Mr. Gould stated this is for the west leg of Manhattan-Monee Road; there is an old concrete pavement from when the interchange was put in that is in bad shape. We are asking the state to include that portion in this project but we will pay for it; they have agreed to that.

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

3. Resolution Authorizing Approval of the Expenditure of County MFT funds for the improvements to the Interstate 57 and CH 6 (Manhattan-Monee Road) interchange, known as State Section 99 (1&2) R-3 & 9-1HB-1-BR-2, Job No. C-91-283-01, County Section 08-00040-08-FP, County Board District #1 (\$120,750.00)

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

4. Resolution Authorizing Approval of Supplemental Professional Services Agreement for Right of Way Acquisition Services for multiple parcels of property along CH 37 (143<sup>rd</sup> Street) between Bell Road and Will-Cook Road in the Village of Homer Glen, with “T” Engineering Services, Inc., County Section 01-00169-08-LA, County Board District #7

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

5. Resolution for Supplemental Agreement for Right of Way Acquisition Services by County Under the IL Highway Code with “T” Engineering Services, Ltd, for multiple parcels of property along CH 37 (143<sup>rd</sup> Street) between Bell Road and Will-Cook Road in the Village of Homer Glen, County Section 01-00169-08-LA, Using County’s allotment of MFT funds (\$4,100.00)

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

6. Resolution Authorizing the Will County’s State’s Attorney’s Office to Proceed with a Condemnation Case Regarding the County’s CH 6 (Manhattan-Monee Road) at 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue Project, Section 03-00040-05-LA, County Board District #1

Mr. Gould indicated this is one of 8 or 9 parcels that were brought to the county board. In the process this parcel was sold to new owners; that is the reason that we need a new resolution.

Mr. Babich asked if there is a legal obligation of the seller to notify the buyer of the condemnation case.

Ms. Manning answered she is not aware of any obligation. Once we pass a resolution there is a notice of public record that the county intends to do this.

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

7. Resolution for Purchase of Right of Way for County Improvement utilizing County RTA Tax funds for CH 4 (Cedar Road) at CH 75 (Division Street), Section 04-00051-06-LA, County Board District #7, Using the County's allotment of County RTA Tax funds (\$600,000.00)

Mr. Gould stated this is for various parcels for right of way for the road to be widened, signalized and channelized. This resolution is for the land acquisition portion of the project – approximately \$525,000, but he would like room to negotiate.

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

8. Resolution (Supplemental) for Improvements by County under the Illinois Highway Code, Various County Highways, Section 08-00000-01-GM, All County Board Districts, Using County's allotment of MFT funds (\$8,734.07)

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

9. Resolution Authorizing Approval of Additional Professional Services Agreement for Engineering (Phase I) with Earth Tech AECOM for roadway and appurtenant work on CH 16 (Bell Road) between IL Route 7 (159<sup>th</sup> Street) and 131<sup>st</sup> Street, Section 99-00147-07-FP, County Board District #7

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

10. Resolution for Additional Engineering Service (Phase I) by the County under the IL Highway Code with Earth Tech AECOM for roadway and appurtenant work on CH 16 (Bell Road) between IL Route 7 (159<sup>th</sup> Street) and 131<sup>st</sup> Street, Section 99-00147-07-FP, County Board District #7, Using the County's allotment of County MFT funds and Matching Tax funds (\$75,000.00 & \$75,000.00)

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

11. Surface Transportation Program-Counties FY2009 Advance Funding Request – Att.

Mr. Gould stated currently the federal transportation bill is due to expire this federal fiscal year 2009. There has been some talk that any funding that is not obligated could be deleted from the bill; but there is no guarantee that will happen. We receive \$800,000 per year that could be put towards federally funded projects. We met with Kane, Lake and McHenry Counties and discussed the possibility of obligating the remaining balances of funding so we would not lose it when the bill expires in the fall. Lake County has put together a letter of intent that Lake County and Will County, who have balances, would forward that money to Kane County for a project that will be let in the next couple of months; that way we secure that money and it will not be deleted from the transportation bill. In return, Kane County will reimburse that money over a 5-year installment. He is asking for approval to sign the letter of intent. IDOT is on board with this; they do not want to see any money going back to the federal government. The total is \$6.3 million; our share is just over \$3 million and Lake County's share is \$3.2 million.

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Ms. Goodson, directing the County Engineer to sign a letter of intent with Kane County and Lake County regarding the balance of STP funds, subject to review of the State's Attorney's Office. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**Other Business**

Mr. Gould stated they went over numerous projects not only for the legislative agenda but also the stimulus package and a capital bill if that may come about. For the legislative agenda there are 2 large projects – the 95<sup>th</sup> Street extension and the 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor. We may also include expansion of the road for the I-80 grade separation; that is what Mr. Palmer is looking to put forward after discussing this with Smith, Dawson and Andrews.

Ms. Goodson commented this is a multi-government agreement for the 95<sup>th</sup> Street extension.

Mr. Gould agreed; this includes Bolingbrook, Naperville and the Forest Preserve.

Mr. Babich questioned what the projected cost was.

Mr. Gould replied it is probably around \$50 million, including right of way, engineering and land acquisition. He spoke with Mr. Bilotta regarding the stimulus package; no one knows what the criteria will be on the stimulus package. He talked about overlays; there were 6 and he put in 12 more. That is \$8 to \$10 million worth of work.

Mrs. Goodson asked if we are only showing 2 projects.

Mr. Gould answered we are putting these forward for the legislative agenda; we are asking for engineering funding for these 2 projects. In the stimulus package we have 180 day projects and we also looked at 18 month projects; most are in the Build Will program.

Mr. Bilotta commented we have no clue as to the parameters. With each of these projects, we are ready to bring forward as soon as we get notice. Legislators are asking for projects where we can see results right away.

Ms. Goodson questioned if the Weber Road is a candidate for the stimulus package.

Mr. Gould replied we have a letter of intent with IDOT – we are obligated to \$6 million of the RTA funds for Phase I.

Mr. Adamic asked if we could use some of the funds that will be given to Kane County.

Mr. Gould answered we have to follow the federal process; there are specific requirements with those funds. We will get that money reimbursed to us.

Mr. Bilotta indicated it is possible that anything that is not committed, they will take back and reallocate; we cannot spend that money quick enough.

**COUNTY ENGINEER DISCUSSION**

**STATE'S ATTORNEY DISCUSSION**

Mr. Bilotta asked for an update on the additional staff person.

Ms. Manning answered she knows the job has been posted but has not heard anything on it.

**MONTHLY WORK REPORTS - Attached**

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Mr. Convery, Crest Hill Alderman commended the highway department on the excellent job they did with the snow removal on Weber Road and Renwick Road. He advised the committee that the development at Weber and Division, which had problems at that intersection, has been sold to Mid-America. Hopefully, there will be some movement on that.

**REPORTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mr. Weigel asked about the pot holes on Gougar Road.

Mr. Gould answered if any of the members are aware of any potholes, please contact the office and we will get them taken care of.

**Discussion of Federal Agenda**

Mr. Palmer joined the meeting at this juncture.

Mr. Palmer stated the county had hired Smith Dawson and Andrews to go after federal funds. We realized through this whole process that there are opportunities to get funds from the federal level. In the FY08 federal budget we were successful in getting \$435,000 to help with the 143<sup>rd</sup> Street project. In the regular agenda we have tried to highlight 2 projects; one from each Congressional District – the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> and focus on those. Things have been complicated a little bit more with the idea of a stimulus package but they have not finalized any details; the goal was to have a stimulus package on the President-elect's desk by January 20<sup>th</sup>. They originally talked about pushing the money out to the states and not directly to the municipalities and counties; we do not like that idea. We will continue to monitor that. We have worked with Mr. Gould to get some of the "ready to go projects." Some of the things that are ready to go are the maintenance projects. We will provide a hard copy to committee members. We are recommending keeping 95<sup>th</sup> Street on the agenda from last year, which is in the 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. In the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District we switched to the 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue project, which is for additional lanes and structure replacement; that project is about \$2 million and \$1.1 million for the 95<sup>th</sup> Street project. That is an important project not only to meet the needs, but it also is leveraging local funds. This gives both our Congressional members a project in their district. He will be discussing this at the legislative meeting on Tuesday but he wanted to give

the committee members an idea on this; the actual action will be at the legislative meeting for board approval this month. Regarding Laraway Road, which is 12.5 miles from Route 52 to Harlem; there are two options. We can go for Phase I, which is about \$10 million for the whole stretch or go for Phase I to III for a 2 mile section at a cost of about \$15 million. Mr. Gould recommended Phase I engineering for the entire stretch; then we can break the road down into smaller sections. The \$10 million is a good number to shoot for according to Mr. Smith. We will include that also in our agenda; we will also pursue the stimulus dollars on a separate track. If the money goes to the state we will have to have a very concerted effort to fight for those dollars and make sure they get back to Will County. Metro Counties is putting together a proposal but we think we will have more luck with Mr. Smith. He can get us in with the agency people and meet with people within the administration.

Mr. Bilotta commented everyone thinks earmarks are bad but actually they are good. Keep in mind the I-55/Weber Road interchange; that is about a \$100 million project.

Mr. Palmer indicated that is a good point. He will ask Mr. Smith. We do not know what the priorities are for Congresswoman Biggert and Congresswoman Halvorson; maybe we can do both – one from each district. The projects have to be of regional importance; both of these are huge. Is there concurrence with doing one study for the entire stretch of Laraway Road?

Mr. Weigel agreed; it makes sense to do the whole road.

Mr. Gould indicated once we get design approval for the entire section then we can break it up into segments; we could do an intersection or stretch of road.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Weigel, second by Ms. Goodson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 a.m. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.