HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: November 10, 2015
LOCATION: Kendall County Highway Department
MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Koukol, Scott Gryder, Jeff Wehrli, Judy Gilmour and Matt Prochaska
STAFF PRESENT: Ginger Gates, Fran Klaas, Andy Myers, and John Burscheid
ALSO PRESENT: PJ Fitzpatrick and Kelly Farley

The committee meeting convened at 4:00 P.M. with roll call of committee members. All present. Quorum established.

Motion Gryder; second Prochaska, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Gilmour; second Prochaska to approve the Highway Committee minutes from the September 8, 2015 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Results of November 6, 2015 bulk fuel bid were presented to the Committee. Elburn Co-op was the low bidder to supply 16,000 gallons of 87-octane gas at $1.91271 per gallon and 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel at $2.0279 per gallon. Motion Gilmour; second Prochaska to recommend approval of the low bid by Elburn Co-op to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee discussed the possible use of eminent domain to acquire approximately 0.06 acre of new right-of-way at the Northwest corner of Ridge Road and Caton Farm Road in an effort to have an old shed removed at that corner. The shed presents a sight distance problem for eastbound drivers who have difficulty seeing southbound traffic. Chairman Koukol reported that he has tried numerous times to talk to the landowner and has gotten nowhere. He felt that the Board should consider use of eminent domain to force the landowner to address the issue. Representatives from the Highway Department have tried for years to negotiate a solution with the landowner, and that, as well, has gone nowhere. Gryder asked if there was any historical significance to the shed. Klaas stated it was just a very old shed that was about ready to fall down anyway. Motion Koukol; second Wehrli to recommend consideration of eminent domain to the County Board. Prochaska asked if the County Engineer considered this a public safety hazard. Klaas indicated that he felt it was. The Committee discussed other aspects of the proposed acquisition, shed removal and traffic counts on both Caton Farm and Ridge Road. After consideration, the Committee recommended authorization of eminent domain with all members voting aye, except Judy Gilmour, who voted naye.

The County Engineer reported that the Transportation Subcommittee of the Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors has recommended that Kendall County receive an additional $1 million for the Eldamain Road project north of Menards, as well as $2.5 million for Eldamain Road improvements between River Road and U.S. Route 34. This will go to a full council vote on December 4, 2015. Although the Collins/Minkler Connector did not receive a recommendation for funding Phase 2 Engineering, the influx of federal money for the Menards project, will allow the County to move forward with engineering for the Collins/Minkler project. Estimated cost for
Phase 1 Engineering would be in the neighborhood of $1 million. The consensus of the Committee was that we should move forward with engineering on Collins/Minkler in the near future. Chairman Koukol indicated that he would like to see the Phase 1 Engineering Agreement back to the Committee in January.

The County Engineer asked the Highway Committee to consider becoming actively involved with building the missing part of Mitchell Road, connecting Schaefer North Subdivision and Lakewood Springs Subdivision in light of the fact that the County will soon be reconstructing Eldamain Road between River Road and Route 34. It would be much more convenient and a lot cheaper to simply close Eldamain Road between Schaefer Road and Route 34 during reconstruction of Eldamain Road and the bridge over Rob Roy Creek. Having the Mitchell Road connection completed before that Eldamain construction begins would help to provide the traveling public with alternate routes to travel. The Committee discussed different impacts of the connection and the history of how roads in the area were constructed. Chairman Koukol directed the County Engineer to discuss the matter with Little Rock Township Highway Commissioner, Dick Wade, to see what their plan is for any future construction.

The Kendall County Long Range Transportation Plan was presented to the Committee. The plan has been on the County website for about a month. Motion Koukol; second Prochaska to recommend approval of the Plan to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Koukol inquired about the status of the Route 126 and Old Ridge Road intersection, and the fact that the stop signs have still not been removed. Klaas said he would get a status update from IDOT on Thursday and let the Committee know.

Wehrli inquired about the field tile issue on Grove Road just north of Reservation, and the fact that the homeowner wants the County to pay for tree replacements. Klaas stated that there are several tiles in the area. Highway crews exposed and repaired a tile that daylights into the Grove Road ditch. This seemed to alleviate the problem; but he couldn’t guarantee that this was the only tile.

Koukol inquired about the status of the Little Rock Road / Galena Road intersection improvements. Kelly Farley stated that the preliminary plans had been submitted to the Highway Department. As soon as right-of-way limits are established, they will move forward with plans and right-of-way plats. Koukol asked the County Engineer to keep the Committee updated on the status of the project.

Koukol also inquired about the fence that was recently constructed by Oswego Excavating. It appeared to be placed back quite a ways from the roadway, and was wondering if that was the new right-of-way line. Since this was a State-sponsored project, Klaas was not sure where the new right-of-way line is located. He indicated that he would look into it.

Wehrli asked if something could be done about the striping of turn lanes near the Speedway at the intersection of U.S. Route 30 and Wolf Road. Westbound traffic backs up badly in the afternoon, and numerous people are violating the pavement markings. Klaas stated that he would bring the issue up with the Oswego Public Works Director, Jennifer Hughes.
Motion Prochaska; second Gryder to forward Highway Department bills for the month of November in the amount of $571,417.81 to the Finance Committee for approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis C. Klaas, P.E.
Kendall County Engineer

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve low bid from Elburn Co-op to supply 16,000 gallons of 87-octane gas at $1.91271 per gallon and 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel at $2.0279 per gallon.

2. Approve the use of eminent domain to acquire approximately 0.06 of road right-of-way in the northwest corner of the intersection of Caton Farm Road and Ridge Road.

3. Approve the Kendall County Long Range Transportation Plan.