DATE: August 12, 2014
LOCATION: Kendall County Highway Department
MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Koukol, Judy Gilmour, Jeff Wehrli
STAFF PRESENT: Fran Klaas, Andy Myers
ALSO PRESENT: Angela Zubko, Kelly Farley & P.J. Fitzpatrick

The committee meeting convened at 4:00 P.M. with roll call of committee members. Two members were absent, but a quorum was established with the three members present.

Motion Wehrli; second Gilmour to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion Koukol; second Gilmour to approve the Highway Committee Minutes from the July 8, 2014 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee reviewed the bids for two pavement preservation projects. The first was for crack filling on Galena Road and Walker Road. Engineer’s Estimate was $46,000. Only bid was from Corrective Asphalt Materials at $43,751.00. The second was for placing a restorative seal on Rock Creek Road and Van Emmon Road. Engineer’s Estimate was $96,533.20. Only bid received was from Corrective Asphalt Materials at $96,024.09. Motion Wehrli; second Gilmour to recommend approval of the low bidder for both projects to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee reviewed the Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation for Phase II Engineering on the Eldamain Road Extension Project. The cost breakdown includes $2,320,000 of federal funds and $580,000 of local County Bridge Funds. Motion Koukol; second Wehrli to recommend approval of the Agreement to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee reviewed the Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation for Land Acquisition on the Eldamain Road Extension Project. The cost breakdown includes $620,000 of federal funds and $380,000 of local County Bridge Funds. Motion Wehrli; second Gilmour to recommend approval of the Agreement to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

The County Engineer presented the draft 5-Year Plan to the Committee. The Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed plan. Koukol asked if there were any major changes in the plan from the previous year. Klaas indicated that the Crimmins Road project has been pushed back and dollars reduced. Also, the Grove/Collins/Minkler/Orchard project has been extended to future years. Essentially, there haven’t been a lot of substantial changes, other than timing changes. Wehrli asked about the Phase III Engineering on the Eldamain north of Menards project. Klaas explained that because of the federal monies in the project, the Highway Department staff will need assistance in the Phase III. Motion Wehrli; second Gilmour to recommend approval of the 2015-2019 Surface Transportation Program to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.
The Committee discussed the recent application to reactivate the drainage districts in Kendall County. The County Engineer stated that he believed it was a misrepresentation of the truth to blame new road construction on the drainage problems in these drainage districts. He believed that modern farming practices of removing fence rows and grass waterways, along with trees and beaver activity are mostly to blame for the problems. The siltation and vegetation is blocking the flow of storm water. Wehrli was concerned and uncertain about whether drainage districts could go into Forest Preserves and work on creeks with or without the Forest Preserve’s permission. Wehrli also wanted to know whether the drainage districts would have the authority to go into subdivision detention ponds and ditches to solve problems. He also was uncertain whether the drainage district tax would have the same cost-per-acre for agricultural and residential zoning.

Angela Zubko has been going to lots of the meetings regarding this issue and she was in favor of the direction that the districts are heading. She believed it was another way to collect money to solve the drainage problems. Drainage Districts, if reactivated, could propose projects and get them approved through the judicial process, and those costs would be spread across all properties in the District. There would be no vote by the people because the drainage laws trump PTELL. After much discussion, there remained much uncertainty about the process of reactivation of the districts, how projects would be paid for, and who would get to decide how projects are advanced. Klaas stated that he thought it would be good to go into this with eyes wide open, to ask lots of questions, and to make sure everyone knows how this will work. This issue is on the C.O.W. agenda and will be discussed Thursday in advance of the court hearing on Monday the 18th.

The County Engineer presented a budget summary of property-tax-supported levies. The combination of County Highway, County Bridge and Federal Aid Matching levies remains at the same level that it has been for the past 6 years. Klaas will be making his budget presentation to the Finance Committee on August 26th.

Wehrli asked about the progress on the Ridge Road & Route 126 because the project doesn’t seem to be moving very quickly. Koukol concurred that he has received lots of complaints on the lack of progress. Klaas indicated that the project has been moving very slowly, and he will contact the contractor tomorrow to try to get them going.

Koukol asked the County Engineer to keep his eye on the salt market and keep the Committee appraised of what is happening with prices on this commodity.

Motion Koukol; second Gilmour to forward Highway Department bills for the month of August in the amount of $523,756.19 to the Finance Committee for approval. Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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

1. Resolution approving the low bid of Corrective Asphalt Materials to provide crack filling services on County Highways in the amount of $43,751 and placing a restorative seal on County Highways in the amount of $96,024.09.

2. Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation for Phase II Engineering on Eldamain Road Extension Project utilizing $2,320,000 of federal funds and $580,000 of local funds from the County Bridge Fund.

3. Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation for Land Acquisition on the Eldamain Road Extension Project utilizing $620,000 of federal funds and $380,000 of local funds from the County Bridge Fund.

4. Approve and publish the 2015-2019 Surface Transportation Program for Kendall County.