

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Highway Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
December 5, 2013**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 6:00pm in the Conference Room of the DeKalb County Highway Department, DeKalb, Illinois.

Chairman Gudmunson called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Committee members present were Mr. Frieders, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Jones, and Vice Chair Pietrowski. Mr. Deverell and Mr. O'Barski were absent. Others present were Mr. Nathan Schwartz, County Engineer, Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager, Mr. Greg Millburg, Farm Bureau and Mr. Raymond Hambaugh, Mr. Jon Lehan and Ms. Tammy Carson, DeKalb County Citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Frieders to approve the minutes of the regular November 7, 2013 meeting. The motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion made by Vice Chair Pietrowski and seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Hambaugh addressed the Committee reviewing his concerns presented during the last two meetings of the Committee. He encouraged the Committee to listen to the residents along Rich Road who signed the petition and who witness the increased traffic, speeding vehicles and near misses on a regular basis. Mr. Hambaugh reiterated that a 45mph speed limit is already in place on other roads similar to the characteristics of Rich Road and encouraged the Committee to look forward and not rely on the past in making a decision regarding the safe travel on this road. Mr. Lehan explained his small child finds the berm interesting when pine cones are on the ground and goes there regularly to see if there are any to be found, which puts her close to the roadway and speeding traffic. Ms. Carson stated her concerns for the speeding traffic and vehicles not stopping for stopped school buses, which now discharge children while heading in an easterly direction, thereby making it mandatory

that children have to cross Rich Road when they disembark from their school bus. All three voiced their concerns for safety and requested the speed limit be reduced to 45 mph. Chairman Gudmunson thanked everyone for their comments.

ORDINANCE #O2013-16: ALTERED SPEED ZONE FOR RICH ROAD:

Mr. Schwartz presented an ordinance for an altered speed zone of 50 mph for Rich Road commencing 1500 feet west of North First Street and continuing westerly for a distance of 3,630 feet. Mr. Schwartz explained that altered speed zones should only be established after a speed and engineering study have been completed and the data supports such an alteration. By altering speed zones with supporting data it ensures a uniform application of such regulations and are not based upon what someone feels should be done at a particular location. Mr. Schwartz reviewed the studies with the Committee as well as the accident data and property characteristics along Rich Road and recommended the current 55 mph speed zone be reduced to 50 mph. The current studies would support that decision. After further discussion Mr. Schwartz stated the row of residents to the north of Rich Road could be defined as a residence district, which must be a quarter mile long with residences or residences and buildings in use for businesses spaced no more than 300 feet apart. With a designated residence district in place the local authority may decrease the speed limit but not less than 25 mph, with the stipulation that adjacent altered speed zones shall not be greater than 10 mph. Mr. Schwartz's concern with this option is that once the traveling public enters Rich Road from North First Street going in a westerly direction the speed limit would be 45 mph for the first 1500 feet of Rich Road, then return to 55 mph for approximately 1327 feet, then return to 45 mph for 2337 feet then return to 55 mph. The same would be true for east bound traffic with the exception of coming in at 55mph, dropping to 45 mph, then returning to 55 mph only to drop back to 45 mph 1500 feet west of North First Street. Mr. Schwartz cautioned some legal experts might view this as a speed trap situation. Committee members inquired as to what were possible unfavorable situations the County might find themselves in if the County Board were to direct the County Engineer to place an altered speed zone without appropriate data to support such a decision. Mr. Schwartz explained liability that might arise during an accident; frustration of law enforcement if violations were dismissed in court and setting a precedence where other concerned citizens could now come before the Committee and request similar changes to traffic control devices on county roads they have concerns over. After further discussion and considering the fact that the County Engineer could declare that stretch of road in front of the houses on the north side of Rich Road a residence district and reduce the speed limit just within that district, **Mr. Jones moved and Vice Chair Pietrowski seconded to lower the speed limit to 45 mph for the designated residence district only. Roll call vote was requested and resulted in five (5) yes votes and zero (0) no votes. Motion passed.** The County Engineer was then directed to change the proposed Ordinance to cover the residence district only and lower the speed to 45mph through the said district.

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RESOLUTION #R2013-88 PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING AGREEMENT FOR KESLINGER ROAD BRIDGE

Mr. Schwartz presented the long awaited engineering agreement to begin the design for the replacement of the Keslinger Road Bridge that was damaged during 2008. Professional services are not bid. The County Engineer selects a firm that he has dealt with in the past and they have demonstrated to the County Engineer that their work is professional and satisfactory. Mr. Schwartz has contacted Wendler Engineering from Dixon, Illinois to begin this process at a cost not to exceed \$56,500.00. The cost for repairing/replacing this structure will be paid for using funds from the court settlement, a generous contribution from Enbridge Energy and federal bridge funds. Mr. Schwartz recommended approval of the resolution. **A motion was made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Johnson to forward the resolution to the full County Board recommending approval. The motion passed unanimously.**

CHAIR'S COMMENTS: Chairman Gudmunson commented on bridges in DeKalb County. He would like a report on the bridges so the Committee can get a feel for what conditions bridges are currently in and what the replacement schedule looks like for troubled bridges. Mr. Gudmunson stated he would like to prevent, if possible, any need for closing a road with a deteriorating bridge and have to wait for funding before any repairs/replacement can be made. Mr. Schwartz stated he was currently working on such a presentation and when the new Assistant County Engineer is on board he will be able to focus more on long range issues.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Schwartz provided the Committee with an update of the Transportation Improvement Progress Report that occurred during the month of November.

- Barber Greene Road from IL Route 23 to Peace Road has been added to the report and is being scheduled for 2015. It will be widened to three lanes and resurfaced.
- East County Line Road resurface project in conjunction with the State's reconstruction of the intersection of IL Route 64 and East County Line Road is at 98% complete for the design work. IDOT has reviewed the pencil copy and once corrections are made and returned to IDOT this project will be scheduled for a March 2014 letting.
- Five Points Road Bridge is 6% completed for construction. The cofferdam has been completed on the south half of the bridge.

- Timber pile repairs to the three bridges are currently underway or completed. Lee Road Bridge has been reopened, Shabbona Grove Road Bridge will reopen during the afternoon of December 6, 2013 and Pritchard Road Bridge will be opened in less than 10 days. The posted weight signs will not be removed until IDOT has inspected the work and they certify the appropriate weight that can be safely carried by these structures.

Mr. Schwartz presented the Annual Report of road projects completed during 2013 for the Committee's information. This information will be presented to the full County Board at their regular Board meeting on December 18, 2013.

The County Engineer reminded the Committee of the special meeting of the Highway Committee scheduled for December 11, 2013 from 9:00am to approximately 2:30pm to tour the 2013 construction projects and some of the proposed 2014-2015 projects.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Vice Chair Pietrowski commented that the light on the flag pole at the Highway Department was not illuminating the flag very well. Mr. Schwartz stated the Department would take appropriate steps to correct it.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Gudmunson asked if there was any additional items that needed to be presented tonight and hearing none asked for a motion to adjourn. **A motion was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Jones and the motion passed unanimously.** The December 5, 2013 meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Gudmunson
Chairman