

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 2015

The meeting of the Transportation Committee was called to order by Chairman Vernier at 5:30 p.m. Monday, October 12, 2015 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present

Rick Vernier
Roy Mosley, Jr
Carol Clark
Robert Trentman
June Chartrand

Also Present

Jim Fields, County Engineer
Rich Meile, Supt. of Maintenance
Pat Nichols, Highway Department Employee

Excused

Mike O'Donnell

Mr. Vernier presented the minutes from the September 14, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Motion was forwarded by Ms. Clark seconded by Mr. Crawford to approve the minutes as presented. All members present voted aye.

Mr. Vernier asked if there were any comments on the agenda. None were heard.

Mr. Vernier presented three resolutions to the Committee for action.

The first resolution awards a contract to Wissehr Electrical Contractors for Section 14-00000-001-GM in the amount of \$29,281.00. Mr. Fields explained that this is a maintenance contract for the existing traffic signals maintained by St. Clair County. The Contractor will replace the remaining incandescent lights with more energy efficient LED bulbs. General maintenance to all of the controller cabinets will be performed with this project.

The second resolution authorizes an agreement to be executed between St. Clair County, the Village of Shiloh and Mac's Convenience Stores, Inc. for the development of a new facility at the northeast corner of Hartman Lane and Thouvenot Lane. Mr. Fields described the proposed development and the work they will be doing within the existing County Right-of-Way. A full access entrance on Hartman Lane and a right-in-right-out entrance on Thouvenot lane have been proposed. Details that coordinate the construction with the County's proposed improvements at this intersection have been worked out. Sidewalks and proposed crosswalks will also be constructed. Modifications to the traffic signals to add pedestrian crossings will be completed after the County's work on the intersection is completed. Mr. Trentman asked who was doing the construction work. Mr. Fields answered that a contractor had not been submitted to date, but as per the agreement the contractor must be a pre-approved contractor.

The third resolution awards a contract to Cargill Deicing Technologies to supply salt to St. Clair County and other local agencies. Mr. Fields informed the Committee that two bids were received, the Cargill bid at \$62.36/ton and a bid from Morton at \$63.74/ton. We have estimated that 9310 tons of salt will be delivered to the local agencies with 4000 tons of that reserved for St. Clair County. The price is down from \$115 last year and falls in line with the price for the State and other Counties in this area.

Mr. Fields asked if anyone had any questions. None being heard, he recommended that the Committee approve all of the resolutions and forward them to the County Board for further action.

Motion was forwarded by Ms. Clark, seconded by Ms. Chartrand to approve the resolutions. All members present voted aye.

Mr. Fields announced to the Committee that the bids for the Frank Scott Parkway Project were all above the engineer's estimate. The Department reviewed the bids and the estimate. We did not find anything that would reduce the cost of the project to meet the estimate. It appears that the engineer's estimate may have been low on several of the items associated with the required night work. A letter has been sent to IDOT recommending the award of the contract to the low bid.

Mr. Fields explained that the engineers in the office have a fee to renew their PE license due in November. In the past the County only covered the fee for the County Engineer. Mr. Fields requested that the fee for the licenses for the 4 other Professional Engineers in the office be reimbursed by the County. Mr. Fields explained that in the past it was explained that only the County Engineer is required to have a PE license. He also stated that the Department benefits greatly from having key positions filled with Professional Engineers and that work completed by these positions should require a professional engineer. Ms. Chartrand asked the amount of the fee. Mr. Fields answered that the fee is currently \$60.00 and that the license is required to be renewed every two years.

Motion was forwarded by Ms. Chartrand, seconded by Mr. Crawford to pay the fee for all the Professional Engineers. All members present voted aye.

Mr. Fields announced that the revised snow routes will be bid on Oct 23, 2015.

Mr. Pat Nichols asked for permission to address the Committee on the issue concerning the snow routes. Permission was granted.

Mr. Nichols expressed concern about the proposed snow routes and announced that the maintenance personnel feels that they should have been consulted on this issue. He went on to say that the work force opposes the changes and feels that reduction in the number of routes is not warranted. Mr. Fields explained that the Department does not have the people to cover twelve routes and at this time, budgetary restraints prohibit the hiring of additional personnel. With winter approaching this was the logical solution. St. Clair County met with the union and it was concluded the only fair method of determining the drivers for the route was to bid them based upon seniority. Mr. Nichols reiterated that none of the workers were ever consulted on this issue and that they feel Mr. Fields has an obligation to discuss these types of changes before taking action. Mr. Fields pointed out to the Committee the numbers. We have 22 drivers to cover the routes. 12 routes with 2 shifts requires 24 drivers. Reducing to 10 routes will require 20 drivers and allow for one extra driver per shift. The past 2 years, because of various reasons, the County has been forced to manipulate the shifts to keep routes covered. Mr. Nichols pointed out to the Committee that we have 2 operators, one per shift that sit in the garage and load trucks a couple of times a shift. We could take those two guys and have the auto attendants on duty load trucks as they come in for material. Mr. Meile asked what happens if the auto attendant is out addressing a breakdown. Who will load the truck? Mr. Mosley asked if the drivers could load their own truck. Mr. Nichols answered that he would be good with that but he is not an operator and therefore cannot operate the loader. Mr. Fields inserted that would produce a grievance from the union. Mr. Nichols insisted that everyone would be happier if they were able to keep their existing route, and by putting the loader guys on the road would achieve that conclusion. He also informed the Committee that if these changes go forward he has heard that some of the drivers have said they will 'slack off' and not get their routes completed and he is afraid that some may even

sabotage the trucks. Mr. Vernier responded that if it appears that this is happening, it will be met with strict discipline that will result in people losing their job. Mr. Mosley, interjected that at this time this appears to be the only solution to a situation that none of us are really happy with, but required because of the budget and funding issues which are out of our control. Mr. Nichols thanked the Committee for allowing him to speak.

Mr. Fields informed the Committee that he did meet with the Chairman to discuss the workforce. It is possible that 2 new workers may be hired. Mr. Fields is going to meet with HR to discuss the situation.

With no further issues to discuss, a motion to adjourn by Mr. Mosley, seconded by Ms. Chartrand was brought forth. All members present voted aye.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40p.m.