

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: January 12, 2021
LOCATION: Kendall County Highway Department
MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Gryder, Matt Kellogg, Scott Gengler, & Brian DeBolt
STAFF PRESENT: Ginger Gates, John Burscheid, and Francis Klaas
ALSO PRESENT: Robert Van Dolson, Rick Young, Ryan Sikes, and Joe Cwynar

The committee meeting convened at 3:30 P.M. with roll call of committee members. Amy Cesich and Brian DeBolt absent. Quorum established.

Motion Kellogg; second Gengler, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion Kellogg; second Gengler, to approve the Highway Committee meeting minutes from November 10, 2020. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion Kellogg; second Gengler, to recommend approval of an ordinance granting variance to the Kendall County Highway Access Regulation Ordinance for access to Sherrill Road. Klaas reported that a 5-lot residential subdivision had been platted on the south side of Sherrill Road just west of O'Brien Road in Grundy County. Four of the five lots would require access to Sherrill Road in order to be viable. The zoning and platting of these lots in Grundy County had occurred without the knowledge that these owners would have to coordinate with Kendall County in order to gain access, because Kendall County has jurisdiction of this part of Sherrill Road. Gryder reminded the Committee that we have had several issues with acquiring right-of-way and providing access to properties on the Grundy side of Sherrill Road. He also indicated that the County was under no obligation to provide access to these lots. Van Dolson stated that the owner(s) of the property had no idea that they had to coordinate with Kendall County until they tried to get access to Sherrill Road. Kellogg asked if there was consideration to providing shared access to 2 lots, which would require only 2 access points instead of 4 access points. Gryder asked if the r.o.w. plat had been corrected to show the new right-of-way limits, and Klaas confirmed that it had. Gryder also asked if there was any long range plan to make Sherrill Rd. and O'Brien Rd. a 4-way intersection. Evidently Minooka has a long range plan to bring a road in from the east, making a 4-way intersection. After consideration, committee agreed unanimously, by roll call vote, to forward the ordinance to the County Board for approval. Gryder reminded Klaas to schedule a joint Kendall-Grundy Highway Committee meeting to discuss some of these ongoing issues.

Motion Gengler; second Kellogg to recommend approval of a petition for County aid to build or repair bridge, culvert or drainage structure from Little Rock Road District for River Road Bridge over Rob Roy Creek.

Brian DeBolt arrived at the meeting

Klaas described the project to remove the existing culvert under River Road and replace it with a single span bridge in 2021. The project is estimated to cost \$800,000. Township Bridge Program (State) will fund approximately \$200,000, while the remaining \$600,000 would be split

evenly between the County and Little Rock Township. DeBolt asked if the Road District had enough funds to cover their share of the project. Klaas indicated that they do, but it would likely wipe out most of the funds in their Bridge Fund. Proposed bid letting is scheduled for February 26, 2021. Gengler asked how much money is in the County Bridge Fund. Klaas stated that there was approximately \$1 million in the fund at the beginning of the fiscal year; and would have another \$1 million added during the current year through taxes, grants and transfers. Kellogg requested that Klaas provide multi-year plans and maps to the new members of the Committee. By roll call vote, motion approved unanimously.

Motion Kellogg; second Gengler to recommend approval of a resolution providing for spring road posting of certain county highways. Highways included in the posting are Van Emmon Road, Plattville-Chicago Road, and Whitewillow Road. Kellogg alerted Committee to the fact that Hideaway Lakes owners were hauling many heavy loads out of the campground to clean up that area. He didn't want to impede that operation. Klaas indicated that they could get permits to haul these loads out, and that shouldn't be a problem. By roll call vote, motion approved unanimously.

Motion Gengler; second DeBolt to recommend a resolution requesting consent to the reappointment of the incumbent as county engineer. Gryder reported that every 6 years the County had to request permission from IDOT to reappoint the county engineer. That is the first action that must take place before the Board can reappoint the engineer and set his salary. By roll call vote, motion approved unanimously.

Motion Kellogg; second DeBolt to update the Highway Access Ordinance regarding the schedule for Road Classifications. Klaas indicated that this was just a clean-up of the ordinance to include those roadways in Newark, Millington, and Plano that have recently been added to the County Highway System. The Committee discussed the goal of making county highways start and stop at other county highways or State Highways.

Klaas handed out information to the Committee in regard to a trucking issue involving divisible loads. He also said there was another issue tied to the first that involves designating highways as Class II Truck Routes. IDOT now wants local agencies to officially designate, or not designate, roadways under their jurisdiction so that the information can be included on the State's Truck Route Map. These items will be points of future discussions.

Klaas also brought up the current J.U.L.I.E. issue. Will County received a fine from the Illinois Commerce Commission in October 2020 in the amount of \$649,000 because they are not members of J.U.L.I.E. in violation of a 2003 Illinois Law. Kendall County, as well as most other downstate counties and townships, is not a member of J.U.L.I.E. Klaas described how Kendall County was previously a member of J.U.L.I.E.; but had a bad experience and quit the membership. DeBolt asked how much it would cost to be a member. Klaas reported that the Chicago collar counties that are members spend between \$50,000 and \$250,000 annually to be members of J.U.L.I.E. Most counties, like Kendall, have alternative ways to locate buried facilities in public rights-of-ways, and so have tried to avoid these costs of membership. Kendall County State's Attorney is reviewing the matter. Gryder indicated that Kendall County might be able to get help from our lobbyist. Klaas thought that it might be best to just join J.U.L.I.E.; but wanted the lobbyist to work on modifying current laws to allow local agencies to pass along the cost to locate to the applicants, so taxpayers wouldn't have to foot the bill. Gryder highlighted the fact that the Will County fine was based on \$100 per day since 2003; so any fine Kendall

County got would probably be the same as Will County. Klaas reported that this issue will be discussed further by Illinois Association of County Engineers – District 3 on January 27, 2021.

In other business, Klaas reported on status of future lettings, and also on progress of the Eldamain Road Bridge.

Motion DeBolt; second Gengler, to forward Highway Department bills for the month of January in the amount of \$74,700.91 to the Finance Committee for approval. By roll call vote, motion approved unanimously.

Motion Cesich; second Prochaska, to adjourn the meeting at 4:17 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Action Items

1. Ordinance granting variance to the Kendall County Highway Access Regulation Ordinance for access to Sherrill Road
2. Petition for County aid to build or repair bridge, culvert or drainage structure from Little Rock Road District for River Road Bridge over Rob Roy Creek
3. Resolution providing for spring road posting of certain county highways
4. Resolution requesting consent to the reappointment of the incumbent as county engineer
5. An ordinance amending the Kendall County Highway Access Regulation Ordinance