

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: January 10, 2023
LOCATION: Kendall County Highway Department
MEMBERS PRESENT: Zach Bachman, Ruben Rodriguez, Brian DeBolt, Dan Koukol, & Scott Gengler
STAFF PRESENT: Michele Riley, John Burscheid and Francis Klaas
ALSO PRESENT: PJ Fitzpatrick, Kelly Farley, and Ryan Sikes

The committee meeting convened at 3:30 P.M. with roll call of committee members. All present. Quorum established.

Motion Rodriguez; second DeBolt, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion DeBolt; second Koukol, to approve the Highway Committee meeting minutes from November 8, 2022. Koukol asked about monies that were spent to repair tires and rims. Klaas explained that Highway Department had replaced a cross-road culvert on Plainfield Road near Southfield Estates, and it settled a lot, causing damage to several vehicles. Motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Motion DeBolt; second Koukol to recommend approval of a resolution providing for spring road posting of certain county highways. Klaas explained that the County typically approves a resolution each year to protect several county highways that could be damaged by heavy loads during the spring thaw. Those roadways include Plattville-Chicago Road, Van Emmon Road, and Whitewillow Road. DeBolt wondered if the roads could be damaged right now, and whether the signs should be put up immediately. Klaas indicated that the posting would not be enforceable until the County Board passes the resolution. Rodriguez asked how the spring posting worked. Klaas stated that the statute only allows for a 90-day seasonal posting when roads can be damaged due to freeze/thaw, and during that time, the County limits truck loads to just 12 tons gross weight, by posting signs at each end of the roadway. Rodriguez also asked how the roads are chosen that get posted. Klaas said that the roads mentioned are ones that don't have sufficient base to withstand the heavier truck loads until after the spring thaw. Other county highways can withstand 80,000# loads year round. Upon consideration, motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Motion DeBolt; second Gengler, to recommend approval of a resolution appropriating funds for the improvement of Schlapp Road Bridge. Rodriguez asked about the location of the project and how long it would take to complete. Klaas stated that the project is located at the intersection of Schlapp Road and Walker Road. Project is expected to take about 4 months. The intersection will be completely closed to all traffic, and detour route will be provided. Klaas further indicated that both items 7 and 8 on the agenda are related to the construction of this township bridge. Due to the fact that there are federal monies in the project, IDOT will actually be the lead agency for the project, and federal monies will pay for 80% of the project, while the remaining 20% will be split between the County and Na-Au-Say Township. The problem with IDOT being the lead agency is that they typically wait until the last minute to prepare the local agency agreement. In this case, item 7 is the appropriation resolution; and item 8 is the federal aid agreement. Because

we don't have the agreement in hand, the final version of both items are waiting on IDOT. Klaas expected to have the final documents ready for presentation at the January 17th County Board Meeting. He estimated that the total cost of the project would be approximately \$1.2 million. Federal monies would cover about \$950,000, while the remaining \$250,000 would be split between the County and the Township. The project is scheduled to go to letting on March 10, 2023. Koukol asked about the reasoning for replacing the bridge and who did the design. Klaas indicated that Willett Hofmann & Associates had discovered some major cracks in the existing triple-barrel box culvert during normal inspections, and had recommended replacement of the structure. Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick did the actual design for the new structure. It will be a replacement in kind, with the new structure also being a triple-barrel box culvert. New structure will be longer, providing for larger radius returns, which will help truck turning movements. Koukol asked how long this has been on the County's radar. Klaas thought it had been about 4 years. DeBolt asked what would happen if there was a delay in getting the monies from the State. Klaas indicated that this should not be a problem, since the money has already been programmed. Additionally, the State is committed to paying 80% of the project, even if it goes higher than the current estimated cost. Rodriguez asked about the timeline for the project. Klaas stated that construction should occur during the summer of 2023. Gengler asked where the local monies were coming from. Klaas stated that County's share would come from Transportation Sales Tax, while the Township was using their local funds to pay for their share. Klaas recommended that the Committee send both items 7 & 8 to the County Board for consideration. He indicated that, providing IDOT gets the necessary paperwork to the County, the Board would have adequate time to review the final documents before voting on the matters. After consideration, motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Motion Koukol; second Rodriguez, to recommend approval of a joint funding agreement for State-let construction work between Illinois Department of Transportation and Kendall County for the Schlapp Road Bridge Replacement. Motion approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Motion DeBolt; second Gengler, to recommend approval of a preliminary engineering services agreement between Kendall County and HR Green, Inc. for stormwater improvements at Gates Creek and BNSF in the amount of \$71,710.12. Klaas described this as an old project that has been in the County's Multi-Year Plan for a long time. The problem is that there are hundreds of acres north of BNSF that all drain south to the RR and flow under the RR through an 18" metal culvert. This creates storm water problems in big rain events and could be an obstacle to development in the area north of the RR. Koukol pointed out that the Village of Oswego was entertaining a large development called Tuscany Station just north of the RR. It will drain towards this same outlet under the RR. Klaas indicated that this project will be very complicated due to the necessary coordination with both the railroad and with ComEd, which owns property immediately north of the railroad. The engineering agreement also includes quite a few hours for coordination with the Village of Oswego, to make sure they have a good comfort level with the improvements that will be proposed as part of this project. Koukol asked about the timeline for the project. Klaas was not entirely sure due to the coordination with all the different agencies previously mentioned. Rodriguez asked about disruption to the railroad. Klaas stated that the culvert pipe under the railroad would be jacked in place; and so there should not be any disruption whatsoever to the railroad. The Committee then discussed the conversation that the County and the Village have had a couple times about the jurisdiction of the borrow pit pond just north of the RR. DeBolt asked what the construction costs would be for the project. Klaas said it would be in the hundreds of thousands; but couldn't remember the exact number that had been programmed in the Multi-Year Plan. Rodriguez asked what the ultimate outlet was for all the

storm water. He also questioned how long the construction would take. Klaas confirmed that all this storm water heads south to the Fox River, and goes under Orchard Road near Fox Metro's pump station. He didn't think construction would take very long, but that would be determined in the engineering phase. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Motion DeBolt; second Gengler to recommend approval of a resolution authorizing the use of eminent domain to acquire certain parcels of land for roadway purposes related to the replacement of the Ridge Road Bridge. Klaas provided an exhibit to the committee and described the project in some detail. There are just 4 parcels needed for the project, and one of them has already been acquired. The bridge is a separate project from the 4-lane improvement proposed on Ridge Road between Minooka and Joliet. Koukol asked what width would be acquired. Klaas stated that the County would be acquiring a total of 150' of right-of-way. This is consistent with the recommendations for the WIKADUKE Trail – which is Ridge Road. Rodriguez asked if the acquisition would require taking any residential property. Klaas indicated that all the acquisitions for the bridge would be in strictly agricultural areas. For the future 4-lane roadway improvements, it would be necessary to acquire strips of new right-of-way along residential areas; but he also indicated that there would be several ways to minimize some of the residential takings. Since the 4-lane improvement will be built later, there would be more time to address some of these residential impacts. Klaas also described the use of eminent domain, and how the County does not like to use this procedure; but sometimes it just becomes necessary to get a project completed. Upon consideration, the motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

The Committee reviewed a proposal that had come through the Administrative Office. An unknown company would like to place a 270' cell tower on the Highway Department property. Klaas reported that the proposed location is exactly where a future Highway Department Office is planned; so it would not be a good location. He advised the Committee that the only possibility for locating a tower of this type would be in the SE corner of the Highway Department site. Koukol asked if it had been before any other committees at this point, and Klaas didn't think it had. Gengler made a motion to table, second DeBolt. By roll call vote, the motion to table was approved unanimously.

Under Chairman's Report, Bachman appointed Ruben Rodriguez to be Vice Chairman of the Highway Committee.

In Other Business, Gengler asked about the proposed trail at the south end of the new Eldamain Bridge; and whether TAP funds could be used to complete the trail from the bridge to the Hoover Forest Preserve. Klaas stated that he has been working with the Forest Preserve recently to figure out the proposed alignment. He also pointed out that the bridge contract requires the contractor to put in a paved trail from the bridge to the Forest Preserve. If the Forest Preserve wants to extend the trail along Eldamain, they could certainly apply for TAP funds to help pay for a project of that kind.

Koukol asked for a brief update on the Collins Road Extension Project. Klaas stated that the project will go to letting on March 10, 2023. All parcels have to be acquired and certified by IDOT by January 25, 2023. He was confident this would happen. Koukol asked whether the same engineering company designed the Collins project and the Village's water main project. It was: HR Green. He was also interested in knowing the proposed zoning along Collins Road. No one had specific information on this. Klaas pointed out that Homer Tree Service was about to

begin the tree removal contract for the Collins Road Project. Rodriguez asked how many parcels were acquired for the project. Klaas thought there were 15 parcels total; and only a couple went right down to the end with the negotiations.

Gengler asked about the opening for the Eldamain Bridge. Klaas described the work yet to be done, and estimated that a bridge opening in May 2023 could be expected. Committee discussed some of the future connections for paths and trails between Hoover Forest Preserve and Fox River Bluffs Forest Preserve.

Motion DeBolt; second Rodriguez, to forward Highway Department bills for the month of January in the amount of \$594,026.55. Gengler asked about the Cullen & Associates bill, and whether it was a monthly bill. Klaas stated that it is a monthly bill of \$5,000, or \$60,000 annually. He thought the contract had been in place for 3 years, and it has been \$60,000 each year. Rodriguez asked if the Highway Department had any trouble during the diesel shortage. Klaas indicated Highway had an annual contract for both gas and diesel, and they have had no trouble with obtaining fuel.

Motion DeBolt; second Rodriguez, to adjourn the meeting at 4:18 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Action Items

1. Resolution providing for spring road posting of certain county highways
2. Resolution appropriating funds for the improvement of Schlapp Road Bridge
3. Joint funding agreement for State-let construction work between Illinois Department of Transportation and Kendall County for the Schlapp Road Bridge Replacement
4. Preliminary engineering services agreement between Kendall County and HR Green, Inc. for stormwater improvements at Gates Creek and BNSF in the amount of \$71,710.12
5. Resolution authorizing the use of eminent domain to acquire certain parcels of land for roadway purposes related to the replacement of the Ridge Road Bridge