

**HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING  
AND WELFARE COMMITTEE  
September 8, 2024**

Present: Thomas Snyder, Jr., Chairman, Ray Koonce, Mike Specha and David Buckles  
Absent: Clint Gabriel  
Others present: Mary Barry, Bryan Sharp, Dwanna Kelmel, Cliff Frye, Ron Brown, Shawn Hammers, Blake Tarr, Bill Kennedy, Lucas Domonousky, and Elizabeth Hile in attendance.

The meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee was called to order on Monday, September 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Christian County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was County building issues, highway business and any other matters properly brought before the Committee. Roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**BLACK DIAMOND PROJECT SPECIAL USE EXTENSION**

County Board Chairman Bryan Sharp reviewed the circumstances surrounding the request for extension of the special use permit for the Black Diamond project. The current special use permit will expire in October of this year. Due to factors beyond control, the project can't start for another 3 years and the reason for requesting an extension of the special use permit to December of 2027.

Chairman Sharp continued by reviewing a draft ordinance which would establish terms for a 1 year extension with up to four subsequent 6 month extensions subject to county board approval.

Motion by Mike Specha and second by David Buckles to recommend to the full Board to extend the Black Diamond Special Use Permit as set forth in the draft ordinance presented to the Committee subject to the conditions set forth therein. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

**ZONING BUSINESS**

Director's Report

Blake Tarr presented the Zoning monthly report for August which included a review of applications submitted and paid for (9 of which were for residential solar), ZBA items to be heard on September 16th, as well as a possible special use permit application for a community solar project on 37.8 acres on the south end of Taylorville. Blake's report ended with an update and discussion on the drainage issues at the Skyline Solar project.

**SOLID WASTE BUSINESS**

Director's Report

Shawn Hammers highlighted the August monthly report for Local Solid Waste to include number of inspections, attendance at the upcoming ILCSWMA Conference, and receipt of the draft copy of the 20 year Local Solid Waste Management Plan as well as scheduling of 5<sup>th</sup> grade landfill tours.

**HIGHWAY BUSINESS**

Speed Study Request – Wantland Drive

County Engineer Cliff Frye presented a draft ordinance which would modify the speed limit to 35 MPH for Wantland Drive from County Highway 1 East to Cherokee Street. He indicated the speed study showed the 85 percentile speed to be 40 MPG but there was language in the statute referencing a residential district whereby the speed limit could be reduced to 35 MPH. Cliff is seeking clarification on this language.

Motion by Ray Koonce and second by Mike Specha to recommend to the full Board to approve the draft ordinance pending confirmation of the residential district definition and to make a name correction on page one of the document. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Request to purchase used Tandem Dump Truck

Cliff advised Decatur Mack has a 2001 International tandem dump truck which is in great condition other than the bed that will be available to purchase. This would allow the Highway Department to get rid of the oldest truck and improve the fleet. Cliff would like permission to negotiate the purchase of the truck not to exceed \$20,000.00.

Motion by Mike Specha and second by David Buckles to recommend to the full Board to allow County Engineer Cliff Frye the authority to negotiate up to a maximum of \$20,000.00 to purchase a used 2001 International tandem dump truck. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Preliminary Engineering Agreement for County Highway 11

Cliff presented a preliminary engineering agreement with Cummins Engineering Corp. for County Highway 11. This project is anticipated to use the remaining Rebuild Illinois (RBI) funds that are available to the county.

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and second by Ray Koonce recommend to the full Board to approve and authorize Chairman Sharp to sign the Engineering Services Agreement with Cummins Engineering Corp. in the amount of \$46,655.44 for Section Number 24-00052-03-RS. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Specha and second by David Buckles to recommend to the full Board to approve and authorize Chairman Sharp to sign R2024 HY 026, Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code; Section Number 24-00052-03-RS, allotting \$67,000 of MFT funds. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Member Mike Specha noted the motion allotting \$67,000 of MFT funds actually should have been for \$47,000.

Motion was made by Mike Specha and second by Thomas Snyder, Jr. to amend the motion to recommend to the full Board to approve and authorize Chairman Sharp to sign R2024 HY 026, Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code; Section Number 24-00052-03-RS to allotting \$47,000 of MFT funds. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Thomas Snyder, Jr. and second by Mike Specha to recommend to the full Board to approve and authorize Chairman Sharp to sign Request for Expenditure/Authorization of Motor Fuel Tax Funds; Section Number 24-00052-03-RS for engineering services totally \$46,655.44. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

IDOT Multi-Year Program

County Engineer Frye presented IDOT's proposed FY 2025-2030 Highway Improvement Program highlighting projects to be undertaken on state routes in Christian County.

**ANIMAL CONTROL**

Dwanna Kelmel presented the month report for August noting it was a very busy month. She received an estimate from Charlie Sampson on getting the walls in the dog cages repaired and to hang ceiling fans in the dog room. The estimated cost was \$4,282.05 which is in the budget. Materials will be ordered and work will be done when Mr. Sampson can work it in.

Animal Control Issues, Incorporated areas Memorandums of Understanding

Work continues on this matter with information coming in upcoming meetings.

Chairman Sharp commended Dwanna on the excellent job she is doing at animal control in light of the ever changing challenges the job brings. While animal control is not a shelter, Dwanna does all she can to help the animals.

## COURTHOUSE AND BUILDING BUSINESS

### Ongoing Project Updates

Bill Kennedy advised the elevator project for AMP is moving along. This elevator project for disabled clients was in part made possible with ARPA funding. Credits were given to Charles Sampson and CCI who have donated a lot of materials and time on this project as well as Taylor May who dropped everything to make sure electrical was completed.

Bill highlighted the HVAC capacity issue in the courtrooms which will be discussed later in the agenda.

Ron Brown noted the siding job had been completed at the former Health Department Building and majority of the building had been cleaned out. Chairman Sharp indicated that he would have liked to discuss the expenditure of a dumpster for this project with the Board but the cost was so minimal (less than \$500) that he did authorize the expense.

Ron mentioned that Two Guys should be here sometime this week to get a list together for the steeple repair.

### Change Order – HVAC Costs

The change order with a cost of \$88,194.45 for Henson Robinson to increase the HVAC capacity in the courtrooms was presented and reviewed.

Motion by Mike Specha and second by Thomas Snyder, Jr. to recommend to the full Board to authorize Chairman Sharp to sign the change order allowing Henson Robinson to proceed with the work to increase the HVAC capacity in all court rooms and to use ARPA funds from the Court House Improvements Ordinance, O2023 CB 024, in the amount of \$88,194.45 to pay Henson Robinson for the cost of this work order change. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

### Standard Agreement to be provided for any bids related to county properties

The committee reviewed the draft form agreement to be entered into in connection with bids pertaining to county properties.

Motion by Ray Koonce and second by Mike Specha to recommend to the full Board to approve the form agreement to be entered into in connection with bids pertaining to county properties subject to any changes therein for any particular bid as approved by the Maintenance Supervisor and the State's Attorney's Office. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

### Other Courthouse Business

None

## OTHER MATTERS

None

Motion was made by David Buckles and second by Mike Specha to adjourn. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Snyder, Jr. Chairman  
Buildings/Highway/Environmental/Zoning  
Welfare Committee  
09/09/2024