

Members Present: Gary Steber, Jeanette Bomberg, Larry Dzekute, Larry Neuens and John Halada.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Jeff DeMuri and Francie Freeberg.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steber.

Approval and/or revisions to current agenda: A motion was made by Bomberg, seconded by Neuens and voted unanimous to approve the agenda as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: Neuens said that in the second to last paragraph of the 04-13-2015 minutes it was said that he was gone all winter. He asked that be corrected to state he was gone only two (2) months, and these were excused absences. It was then moved by Neuens, seconded by Bomberg and voted unanimous to approve the April 13th minutes as corrected and the April 14th Ad-Hoc Committee minutes.

Old Business

CTH “N” Bonding Project: (1) Curve re-alignment and (2) the Ox Bowl ATV Trail: DeMuri informed the Committee that Northeast Asphalt started work on the Ox Bowl project last Tuesday. The outside areas of the roadway and the side slopes are done. Five thousand yards of dirt were hauled out and placed at three different locations along CTH “N”. They have pulverized by the ox bowl but got rained out today. Currently, they are ahead of schedule. They hope to start pulverizing from the rail road grade to the end of the project this week and then start paving the binder course next Monday. Everything depends on weather. Due to the curbing in town, CTH “N” from US ‘2’ to the rail road grade will have to be milled. Our crews have been removing the guard rail on Buckeye Hill. We still have some culverts to get replaced in Finn Town and by Holmberg’s. Due to a sink hole in the highway by Holmberg’s, DeMuri said he plans to have Northeast Asphalt do it. Mailboxes will be removed and then re-installed, adjusting the heights as needed as the project moves along. The bids for the completion of the work at the Ox Bowl parking area have been sent to the DNR. DeMuri wanted the work completed prior to this project on “N” but that hasn’t happened. Now they will have to wait for the completion of the highway as we can’t have two (2) different contractors working in this area at the same time.

Gravel Crushing Bids: On April 14th we opened bids for our gravel crushing needs. Bids were sent to five companies but only three bidders responded. The following is a summary of the bids received.

Pit Locations:	NE Asphalt Inc. W6380 Design Ave. Greenville, WI 54942	Pitlik & Wick, Inc. 4949 Cr. “D” Eagle River, WI 54521	Midwest Gravel Inc. 1910 N. Stephenson Iron Mountain, MI 49801
CTH “D”	\$3.20 per ton	\$2.33 per ton	\$4.72 per ton
CTH “C”	\$3.20 per ton	\$2.33 per ton	\$4.92 per ton

The crushing in the County “D” pit is to be completed by July 1st. There will be 5,000 Cu. Yds. stockpiled in each pit. The material in the county “D” pit will be split between the Town of Florence and ourselves and the material in the county “C” pit will be split between the County Forestry Dept. and ourselves. After discussion, it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Neuens and voted unanimous to accept the bid from the low bidder, Pitlik & Wick, Inc.

Update on the Aurora Bridge: Not much news from MDOT regarding the repairs to the Aurora Bridge. MDOT contacted DeMuri with a price of \$40,000 to do the “injections” on the surface of the bridge. DeMuri had gotten a price of \$10,000 for repairs to the beams. The Wisconsin DOT Bridge people have looked at the bridge and they and DeMuri are of the opinion that the beam repair is the most critical. It was felt that Florence County should try to get this bridge into the DOT Bridge Program as it will take a good five (5) to seven (7) years to get the funds for a re-habilitation on the bridge deck. We believe that Michigan is only putting a band-aid on the problem. Any repairs to the bridge will be split between Michigan DOT and Florence County. After considerable discussion it was moved by Neuens, seconded by Bomberg and voted unanimous to send a letter to MDOT noting our concerns for safety.

STP Project Selection: DeMuri said that he has been considering his options for an STP project for the 2016-2017 project year. The last time he applied Florence County was ranked # 30 and they only had funds for 29 projects so he’s hoping we can do better this go around. He thinks that the best option at this time is to do a resurfacing project on CTH “N” South of Aurora. The project would run

from the Marinette County line, Westerly for approximately 2-1/2 miles. He proposed pulverizing the existing pavement and then putting on four (4) inches of blacktop on top of that. These cost estimates are due at the DOT on May 26th, 2015. STP projects are funded at 80/20. DeMuri said he thought it would be smart for the County to pay for the design and apply all STP funds received to the construction phase. DeMuri said that the traffic volume on CTH "N" is between 1,200 and 1,400 vehicles per day. Neuens said that he heard that it is smart to apply a chip seal two (2) to three (3) years after a resurfacing job and felt that wasn't necessary. DeMuri said they do recommend that to save on the oxidation of the blacktop. Florence County doesn't have enough financial resources to do that. It was then moved by Dzekute, seconded by Neuens, and voted unanimous to proceed with the STP application process.

Performance Based Maintenance Project (PBM): Florence County has been approved by the DOT for a PBM shouldering project on highway "70". This type of contract is one where we submit an estimate of the cost of the project. If we complete the project for less money, the county gets to keep the excess funds. If we run over our projected cost for the project then Florence County will have to pay for the overage out of County funds. DeMuri said that his estimate was for \$67,765 for completion of approximately 13 "lane" miles of shouldering. We have until the end of July to complete this project. After discussion, it was moved by Neuens, seconded by Dzekute and voted unanimous to approve and sign the PBM contract.

Approval to advertise for office manager position: DeMuri said that he had received the resignation of the office manager. Her last day of work is July 31st, 2015. He said that they had re-written the job description to include an associate's degree in accounting with a minimum of three (3) years of experience. A copy of the job description was presented to the committee for their review. After discussion, it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Neuens, and voted unanimous to approve the job description and written and to proceed with advertising for the Office Manager's position. Bomberg thanked Freeberg for her many years of service and wished her luck in whatever new adventures she decides to do upon her retirement.

Summer Highway Conference: This item should have been discussion regarding the "occasional" summer job applications. DeMuri said that he had received only three applications. One was from a retired highway employee, hoping to work only a couple days a week. Another one was from a local student graduating this year and the other one he didn't know. We currently have one "occasional" employee working and one will be returning after graduation. Unfortunately we are still in need of some additional workers, due to all the work the department has this year. After discussion it was noted that DeMuri and one committee member needs to interview these prospective employees before hiring any of them.

Summer Highway Conference: The summer highway conference is scheduled for June 8th, 9th and 10th. Registration deadline is May 14th so if any committee member plans to attend they need to let DeMuri know right away.

Commissioner's Report: The Highway Department has lots of work to get done this summer. Due to the construction on CTH "N" the DOT and Township work is being pushed back. The crew worked last Friday on a grant project for Forestry and then on a county highway project on Saturday. It looks like the employees will be working the next two or three weekends trying to get caught up. The 2005 one-ton crew cab truck (# 105) was sold for \$9,400 and the 2008 JD Offset Flail mower (# 288B) was sold for \$2,650 through Wisconsin Surplus. The tar kettle we purchased worked well for the first four days and then the wand blew up. That was an expensive repair, but it is back up and running again. The cold storage building is complete and Demko Electric may be in this week to start installing the electric in the building. DeMuri said that he did order a pallet system for stacking supplies. The floor will remain as gravel.

Distribute monthly financial statements: The monthly financial report was presented by Freeberg, including the month of March and April. Upon review, it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Halada and voted unanimous to approve the statement as presented.

Present bills: The current monthly bills were presented to the Committee for their review. DeMuri went over the list explaining the bills. After review and discussion of the bills, it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Neuens and voted unanimous to approve payment of the bills not to exceed \$58,718.40.

Committee Members comments, concerns and future agenda items: Next month's agenda should include discussions and/or action on the CTH "N" project, the office manager's position, an update on the Aurora Bridge and status of current projects.

Adjourn to next regular meeting: There being no further business, it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Neuens and voted unanimous to adjourn to June 8th, 2015 for the next regular highway meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Freeberg,
Office Manager