

**Regular Meeting
Highway Committee
June 13th, 2016**

Members Present: Gary Steber, Jeanette Bomberg, Larry Neuens, Fran Modschiedler, and Larry Dzekute.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Jeff DeMuri and Tiffany White

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steber.

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

Approval of Minutes: It was then moved by Dzekute, seconded by Bomberg, and voted unanimous to approve the minutes of the May 9th Highway Committee meeting, the June 9th Ad-Hoc Highway Committee meeting and the June 2nd Special Highway Committee meeting with an amendment to show Fran Modschiedler was excused for that meeting.

Old Business

Discussion and/or Action on June 9th bid opening (chip seal): Three different bids were received, from Scott Construction, Fahrner Asphalt and Pitlick and Wick. DeMuri notified the committee that the bids were for the oil and the placement of the aggregate only, as the highway department would be purchasing the aggregate itself. After some discussion of the bids, it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Dzekute and voted unanimous to accept the bid from Scott Construction.

Update on STP CTH 'N' project: The required soil borings and survey work has been done. DeMuri is planning to meet with representatives of Corre and the landowner to purchase approximately 25 feet of right of way, hopefully that will be worked out within the new few weeks.

New Business

Discussion and/or Action on hiring two employees: DeMuri requested permission to go to the Personnel Committee to hire two new employees. The plan is to hire two employees for the Highway Department and not have anyone specifically designated as a combined Highway/Forestry employee as was the case in the past. Instead, DeMuri plans to just share employees with Forestry as needed. It was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Neuens and voted unanimous to move to Personnel.

Discussion and/or action on employee job descriptions: DeMuri said that Raymond Thomas is serving as temporary foreman, however he is going to open the application to all employees who may be interested and then determine the new foreman. The committee consensus was that they did not need to be involved in the selection of the new foreman, but Neuens requested that DeMuri report back regarding all who had applied and why the new foreman was selected. DeMuri also noted that depending on who becomes the new foreman, it is likely that a new county and/or state patrolman will need to be selected.

2015 Financial Report: The 2015 Financial Report was provided to the committee members. DeMuri suggested they review it and if they have any questions they can ask them at the next meeting.

Discussion on highway conference: DeMuri gave a short report of the Summer Highway Conference that was held June 6th-8th. One of the big topics of discussion at the conference was of the possibility of weight limits being raised on intrastate highways. Neuens, who also attended the conference, said he had some things to add but would do it later in the meeting.

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Discussion on CTH 'U' culvert: DeMuri is planning to replace a culvert on CTH 'U' on Popple Creek. He originally had estimated \$50,000-\$60,000. He received two plans from Contech for aluminum culverts that would come in plates and need to be assembled by the Highway Department which would lead to a multi-day install. One is an arch (\$37,000) and the other is an oval (\$30,000). He also received a plan from UP Concrete Pipe (\$48,000) which would come in several 8' sections but could be placed in one day. It was moved by Dzekute, seconded by Neuens and voted unanimous to move forward with the plan from UP Concrete Pipe.

Commissioner's Report: DeMuri informed the committee that we are finishing up some Forestry ATV projects, two of which are ending on June 30th. The PBM job has been completed on HWY 139, and it came in under budget. Also, the summer help has started mowing on the county highways.

Distribute monthly financial statement: The monthly financial report was presented by White. Neuens questioned why the Restricted Cash doesn't earn any interest. DeMuri and White said they would speak with Joe Bestor to find out. It was then moved by Bomberg, seconded by Dzekute and voted unanimous to approve the financial report as presented.

Present bills: The current monthly bills were presented to the Committee for their review. After review and discussion of the bills, it was moved by Dzekute, seconded by Bomberg and voted unanimous to approve payment of the bills not to exceed \$34,797.49.

Committee Members comments, concerns and future agenda items: DeMuri said that the next agenda will include an update of both the STP and new hires. Also, he mentioned that if the chip seal planned for CTH 'B' comes in under budget, he'd like to consider doing a Fog Seal to CTH 'B' which is essentially another layer of oil and helps extend the life of the chip seal.

Neuens asked about the feasibility of a traffic mirror on Sand Lake Road on CTH 'U'; he said it is not due to vegetation, it is just very difficult to see unless you pull out into the first lane of traffic.

Neuens then shared with the committee some of his observations from the Summer Highway Conference. He learned that the fuel tax in WI is the lowest of any state in the Midwest and an increase to the fuel tax would provide more funding for road construction and improvement, which is important because currently WisDOT is slashing the construction budget. There was general concern about an increase in distracted drivers.

Adjourn to next regular meeting: There being no further business, it was moved by Neuens, seconded by Bomberg and voted unanimous to adjourn to July 11th, 2016 for the next regular highway meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany White,
Office Manager