

**Regular Meeting
Highway Committee
July 13th, 2015**

Members Present: Gary Steber, Jeanette Bomberg, Larry Dzekute, John Halada, and Larry Neuens (seated @ 3:45 PM).

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 Dzekute, seconded by Halada, and voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve the agenda as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: It was then moved by Bomberg, seconded by Dzekute and voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve the minutes of the June 8th and June 17th Highway Committee meetings, as printed.

Old Business

CTH “N” Bonding Project: (1) Curve re-alignment; (2) the Ox Bowl ATV Trail and (3) additional paving on CTH “N”: DeMuri informed the Committee that the work on CTH “N”, involving Northeast Asphalt and the “Bonding Monies”, is about 98% complete. The snowmobile crossing area needs to be epoxied and Pitlik & Wick will be doing that in the next week or so. The county has to complete the shouldering and the grass is growing good at the Ox Bowl area.

Update on office manager’s position: Tiffany White has accepted the office Manager’s position. She will be starting next week on the 21st. DeMuri informed the Committee that Freeberg agreed to stay until the 30th of September to allow for additional training time.

Larry Neuens was seated.

STP Project Selection / Project Application: DeMuri said that he got the STP Project Application submitted on time. The DOT has it now and will be reviewing it in the next few weeks. They will contact DeMuri if there are any questions. The next phase is to make the request for proposals. The project area is CTH “N” East of Aurora. The length of the project is approximately 2.5 miles and this road is heavily traveled by big trucks. DeMuri felt the County has a 75 to 80 percent chance of getting the project approved. DeMuri also stated that he will be applying for an additional highway safety improvement project to go along with the STP project for the re-alignment of Fischer Park Way on to CTH “N”.

Update on Gravel Crushing: The gravel crushing is complete for now. We had 7,500 cu yds. crushed in the CTH “D” pit and the Town of Florence had 6,800 cu. yds. crushed. DeMuri said that the gravel is sporadic in this pit. There is some great sand that could be used for our winter needs. In the pit on “C” there were 5,000 cu. yds. of gravel crushed for the County Forestry and for ourselves. The gravel has been tested and meets our needs. Neuens said that he talked to the Town of Homestead and asked if they would be interested in getting their own pile of gravel, and they declined the offer.

New Business

Control of Invasive Species (Wild Parsnip): There was extensive discussion about the control of the Wild Parsnip alongside STH ‘101’. The problem is growing and the DOT is limiting us to making one (1) pass for cutting on the R/W. DeMuri asked the DOT if we could make a second pass as that would help a little bit but he hasn’t heard back from them. The problem is that this weed has to be cut at a certain time of the year to be effective in eradicating the wild parsnip.

Building Maintenance: DeMuri said that he is working on sprucing up the office area. He plans to paint the walls, and put in new ceiling tiles. The back office will be updated with the new energy efficient LED lights. The concrete aprons to the shop area have been repaired. Hopefully he will also get a new canopy over the front door entrance.

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Commissioner's Report: DeMuri said that he just got some paperwork today from the DOT for another signing project in Florence County. The project is for \$7,500 for labor and machinery to replace STH signs, as specified by them. It was then moved by Bomberg, seconded by Neuens and voted five (5) to zero (0) to approve and sign the documents for them. There is another DOT project on the bridge over the Menominee River on US '2 that we will also be doing this year. MDOT has also agreed to work with us in repairing some of the decking.

DeMuri said that they had tried their best to fix CTH "N" so that it would have some passing lanes in the area of Lindows. There was a line striping contractor hired to mark the passing lanes. Unfortunately, the road still does not meet the criteria for passing in this area, due to the low profile cars. He said that we had some in the past, but was informed that these passing zones were illegal.

We have been mowing along the roadsides but one of our mowers had a breakdown. Once repaired, we will resume that task.

Distribute monthly financial statements: The monthly financial report was presented by Freeberg. Upon review, it was moved by Dzekute, seconded by Halada and voted unanimous to approve the report as presented.

Present bills: The current monthly bills were presented to the Committee for their review. This was a very large list of bills, due to the payment of the construction work on CTH "N", fuel charges, the second half of the payment for the new roof on the highway shop, gravel crushing, etc. DeMuri explained each of the bills to the Committee. 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 \$2,085,149.62.

Committee Members comments, concerns and future agenda items: Steber said that he was confronted by an Olson that lives next to S. Sjoquist on CTH "N" in Aurora. She was complaining about mud running into her yard. DeMuri will look into it to see if something can be done. Neuens reported that the Summer Highway Conference he attended was a good one. There were a total of 43 counties represented. He said that they were reminded that if counties are in need of a new highway shop, that it should be designed to last 70 years. He said that counties should be checking out their classes of machinery as changes have been made in the past few years. They are 46 new highway commissioners since 2006. DeMuri noted that he has gone from # 18 in our region to # 3, for years of service.

Next month's agenda should include discussions about the Olson property in Aurora. Bomberg said that she didn't understand why the DNR doesn't do anything about the invasive species problem and that maybe we should send a letter to them regarding this issue. The rest of the Committee was in agreement.

Adjourn to next regular meeting: There being no further business, it was moved by Dzekute, seconded by Halada and voted unanimous to adjourn to August 10th, 2015 for the next regular highway meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Freeberg,
Office Manager