

**Regular Meeting
Highway Committee
October 12th, 2015**

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

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Norb Sojka, representative of Blue Ox Trail Riders Club, two (2) Lake Emily residents, 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 Bomberg, seconded by Neuens, and voted unanimous to approve the agenda as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: It was then moved by Bomberg, seconded by Halada, and voted unanimous to approve the minutes of the September 14th Highway Committee meeting, as printed.

Old Business

Request to open portion of CTH 'D' to ATV use: DeMuri said that he had contacted Steve Garbowicz for a legal opinion as requested by the board at the last meeting. Garbowicz said that it is likely that landowners would be protected by Recreational Immunity if an injury occurred while someone was riding an ATV on their private land, as they are currently in order to get from Horseshoe Drive to the Lake Emily Park. DeMuri mentioned that there is not a wide enough right-of-way to create an ATV trail alongside CTH 'D.' Neuens asked the attendees to speak. They said that they are looking for a way to get to the park/trail system without breaking the law. They mentioned that the property owners in question have approximately 25 ATVs and there wouldn't be enough room to park vehicles/trailers at the Lake Emily Park. DeMuri commented that opening up a portion of CTH 'D' would likely lead to residents on other CTHs requesting those roads to be open to ATV use as well. Steber recommended that the Blue Ox Trail Riders Club approach the landowners and make it a trail where they are currently running under the powerlines alongside CTH 'D.' After further discussion by the committee regarding liability and safety, a motion was made by Bomberg, seconded by Dzekute to table the discussion.

2016 Budget: DeMuri said he has been asked to take a smaller levy. Also, the GTA from the state is \$14,000 less than what was anticipated when he presented the budget last meeting. Dzekute asked why the rates fluctuate so much. DeMuri explained that they are dependent on how much is spent and are taken from a 6 year average and a 3 year average. For many years the GTA had been dropping by roughly 2.5% each year, but a few years ago it started dropping by around 10% each year. Once a big project is done, like the CTH 'N' project, the GTA should increase, then steadily start falling again.

Highway Office improvements: New epoxy flooring is going to be put down, likely in November. DeMuri will be moving the furniture out to do the floors, not going around it because he is looking at other improvements as well. He is planning to paint the hallways and offices and may do something to try to open up the receptionist office a bit more to the front entrance area. There will likely be new cabinetry put in the hallway and the office(s). DeMuri said that in several years, the plan is to redo the parking area outside and the entryway.

New Business

Work Policies: First, with the change back to 8 hour days the crews requested the work time of 6:30 am - 2:30 pm but DeMuri told them it would be up to the committee. DeMuri wanted to bring it up with the board if they had any input, but the board members expressed support for the 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. work time.

Second, Joe Witynski and DeMuri have been speaking with a representative from Unifirst. They originally came in to quote rugs (and gave a better price than Aramark), but also mentioned providing pants and work shirts to any interested employees. You would get 5 pairs of pants and 5 shirts, you would then turn them in at the end of the week and they

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would be taken and laundered. If the employees do choose to go to the Unifirst option, the current clothing allowance would cover a portion of the cost and then the employees would be responsible for covering the difference.

Commissioner's Report: DeMuri reiterated that the department is back to working five 8-hour days until spring. This past month the crews have worked on crack-filling, done work for the Forestry Department, put several culverts in for Fence and Long Lake, and put the underbodies on the 5 main trucks to be ready for snow.

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

Present bills: The current monthly bills were presented to the Committee for their review. DeMuri explained the large bills to the Committee. After review and discussion of the bills, it was moved by Dzekute, seconded by Neuens and voted unanimous to approve payment of the bills not to exceed \$54,471.17.

Committee Members comments, concerns and future agenda items: The PASER rating will be done on Wednesday 10/21/2015. The board members who would like to attend can meet at the Highway building at 9am.

Neuens asked for information about the County Traffic Safety Commission. DeMuri said that when they meet next, maybe they could discuss ATV use on CTHs.

Neuens also asked where things stood on the vacuum excavator that was discussed at the last meeting. DeMuri said that after using Florence Utilities' machine, he's not so sure it will do what he'd like it to do. He has also been in contact with Marathon County to express his interest in a sign truck they may be getting rid of. He hasn't seen the truck, but he heard that it's in decent shape and they are just looking to upgrade.

Neuens asked if everything is set for using the Grailer Welding building for winter storage for our truck and DeMuri confirmed that everything is worked out.

Adjourn to next regular meeting: There being no further business, it was moved by Dzekute, seconded by Bomberg and voted unanimous to adjourn to November 9th, 2015 for the next regular highway meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany White,
Office Manager