

**Regular Meeting
Highway Committee
July 8th, 2013**

Members Present: Don Gardner, Larry Neuens and Jeanette Bomberg.

Members Absent: Gary Steber and John Halada (Both are excused).

Others Present: Jeff DeMuri and Francie Freeberg.

The meeting was called to order by Larry Neuens.

Agenda: It was moved by Gardner, seconded by Bomberg, and voted three (3) to zero (0) to approve the agenda as submitted.

Minutes: It was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Gardner, and voted three (3) to zero (0) to approve the minutes of the June 10th, 2013 Highway Committee Meeting, as submitted.

Old Business

CTH “N” Project Update: DeMuri said that he heard from the DOT and they reviewed the project on “N”(Pine River bridge to Johnson Creek Road) that he’d like to have reconstructed. Due to time constraints, the DOT reviewed the project area without DeMuri. They did say that there should not be any major issues such as environmental or constructability concerns with this project. The DOT also said the design funds were moved back into the construction account for the project. DeMuri estimate approximately 700 to 800 thousand dollars to complete the reconstruction of these two (2) miles. This will be an STP funded project so the county share will be 20%. DeMuri said that he hopes to hear by this fall is we will be getting funding for the construction phase of the project.

Joint Position Forestry/Highway: There we 34 applications received for the joint Forestry/Highway position. Some of them were very qualified for the job. It was felt that the two Department Administrators and the two Committee Chairmen should conduct the interviews. Pat Smith and Jeff DeMuri both reviewed all applications independently and Gary Steber also reviewed all the applications and offered his input. Smith and DeMuri then discussed and reviewed their selections together and narrowed the field to eight (8) individuals. Ed Kelley said that he was comfortable with the choices made by Smith and DeMuri. Kelley, Steber, Smith and DeMuri will be conducting the interviews and they are scheduled for Thursday, July 11th starting at 4:00 PM. They plan to do this on a ranking system and hope to get this finalized to go to the Personnel Committee in August.

Update on Summer Projects: DeMuri noted that he has been working to get the epoxy overlay on the Little Popple River Bridge on CTH “N”. The epoxy overlay project is a preventative maintenance technique that will preserve the condition of the bridge. DeMuri said that he estimated the project to cost approximately \$13,000 plus our own labor/equipment. The epoxy itself is approximately \$8,600 and the stones are approximately \$1,200. We will have to hire a contractor to “shop blast” the bridge. DeMuri said that he did check with a local person suggested by Steber at our last meeting and was quoted \$6,600. The contractor DeMuri select for the project gave him a quote of \$2,700. DeMuri said that he doesn’t like to do it but he is going to shut the bridge down for approximately 1-1/2 days. It will be much easier to complete the work without having to work around traffic and the epoxy needs to cure before we can allow traffic to travel on it. People will have to use CTH “B” as their connection to “N” and “U”. He will notify local emergency departments so they are aware of the detour as well as the general public. The work is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday of next week weather permitting.

Another summer project is the construction of the cold storage building. DeMuri said that he will be meeting with a contractor to discuss the drafting of the plans. CTH “N” at the Little Popple River Bridge will be paved after the epoxy overlay is completed as well as the paving behind the highway building. The specs for the biding of these paving projects are nearly complete.

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Review 2012 Highway Financial Report: Each schedule of the 2012 Highway Financial report was reviewed. The DOT made a correction to the Reconciliation of Current Years Depreciation schedule. They also revised the Equipment Operations schedule to reflect the gain on the sale of equipment in 2012. These new schedules were given to Committee Member present. Copies will be put in the rest of the County Board Supervisor's mailboxes at the courthouse.

New Business

DNR Deer Removal Contract: The DNR has received many complaints regarding the pickup of the deer carcasses in Florence County. Thus the Highway Department was contacted to see if we would be interested in this project. In 2010 there were 186 deer removed at a cost of approximately \$16.00 per deer. The DNR issued a contract for Florence County for \$3,000 for one year. Their year runs July 1st through June 30th. DeMuri has been contacted many times by the previous deer removal person for our county, stating he was interested in the job should it ever arise. With the small crew we have DeMuri felt it was in the best interest of Florence County to contract this out. Thus he contacted Warren Soderberg to see if he was still interested in doing that job. He said that he was so DeMuri contracted with Mr. Soderberg to remove the deer at a fee of \$200 per month. The very first day of his contract, he had a bear and two deer to be removed. DeMuri said that he has complete control of this contract and if it doesn't get done as required by the DNR contract, he can pull the contract and find a replacement.

CTH "D" Culvert: DeMuri said that he has been working with Margie Yadro and the DNR to replace some culverts in Florence County. There are pipes in the Town of Fern, Town Commonwealth as well as on CTH "D". This replacement is being done with grant monies at a 70%/30% split. It was felt that the replacements should be done while the 70% funding is available. The pipes will be replaced using Black Clad pipes instead of the usual galvanized as they have a better life expectancy. DeMuri said he was meeting with the person from the DNR on Tuesday to review the County Project. Because the pipe will be in one piece, they will have to shut the road down during the installation on CTH "D".

Distribute monthly financial statements: There was a mistake on the monthly financial statement prepared by Freeberg. After discussion it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Gardner and voted three (3) to zero (0) to table action on this until next month after the error is resolved.

Future Agenda Items: Epoxy overlay of the Little Popple River Bridge, CTH "D" culvert project, status of joint position, updates of the summer projects, and bid openings if they are ready to go.

Present bills: The bills were presented for review. After discussion it was moved by Gardner, seconded by Bomberg and voted three (3) to zero (0) to approve payment of the bills not to exceed the amount of \$53,931.37.

Adjourn to next regular meeting: There being no further business, it was moved by Gardner, seconded by Bomberg and voted three (3) to zero (0) to adjourn to Monday, August 12th, 2013 for the next regular highway committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Freeberg
Office Manager