

**Regular Meeting  
Highway Committee  
March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Members Present: Gary Steber, Jeanette Bomberg, Don Gardner, and John Halada.

Members Absent: Larry Neuens was excused.

Others Present: DeMuri and Francie Freeberg.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steber.

**Agenda:** It was moved by Halada, seconded by Gardner and voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve the agenda as submitted.

**Minutes:** It was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Gardner and voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting held on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Old Business**

**Update on Highway Personnel:** DeMuri said that he attended the Personnel Committee Meeting last Thursday and presented the Committee's first and second choice for the position of Common Laborer/Truck Driver. The Personnel Committee approved the choices presented. DeMuri then noted that after the personnel meeting, he contacted their first choice, Ryan McLain, and he accepted the offer. DeMuri also explained what happened regarding the Working Foreman's Position and had that approved for Todd Donaldson, as well. A wage adjustment was also presented by Pat Smith and Jeff DeMuri for Bob Butterfield's position as he completed his six month probation period the end of February. Both Donaldson and Butterfield will be given retro pay to the effective dates of each of their change of pay class.

**Five (5) Year Highway Plan:** DeMuri presented the Committee with an extensive scenario regarding his proposed highway work for the next five years. Since we did not get the STP funding, there will be no paving work completed in 2014. We can only work on securing funds for the future. With anticipated budget funds, and the use of CHIP and CHIP D funds DeMuri is proposing paving of CTH "N" from the Pine River Bridge to Dump Lane in 2015. He has additional project projections through 2018 but it will all depend on what funding he is able to secure in addition to his regular budget funds from the County.

**Discussion on Bonding for Roads:** Last month Mr. Belongie from Hutchinson Shockey Erley & Co was here to explain what has to be done if we decided to bond to complete some paving projects. Again, DeMuri presented the Committee with a revised five year road plan if the County Board would decide to bond for these road projects. He noted that we would have quite a bit of work to get done in preparation of these road projects, including replacement of approximately 20 culverts on CTH "N", the side slopes and brushing. Due to traffic volumes on CTH "N" we have to provide a 28' wide pavement, allowing for a bicycle lane. There was an extensive amount of discussion had regarding future highway project and whether we should consider bonding at this time when interest rates are low. Bomberg said that she felt we need to invest in our infrastructure and safety should be # 1 in addition to providing cost containment. DeMuri reminded everyone that even if we do bond to get a significant amount of our roads done they will still need continued maintenance to keep them in good shape. After considerable more discussion, it was moved by Gardner, seconded by Bomberg and voted four (4) to zero (0) to bring the issue of bonding for our County Roads to the Audit and Budget Committee.

**New Business**

**Equipment Bid Openings:** There will be a bid opening for a Tandem Truck Chassis at 11:00 AM on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Gary Steber will plan to attend and if need be Don Gardner will then attend.

**Winter Severity:** DeMuri informed the committee that the DOT and been cutting back on the usage of salt these past few weeks. The big reason is due to the salt shortage in the State. Thus our roads have not been as clear as they have been in the past.

**Commissioner's Report:** The County has also cut down on salt use due to the shortages. DeMuri said that he has a request from the Forest Industry/Timber Producers Association asking to delay putting on the road restrictions as long as possible due to the shortages of wood at our mills. They claim that the shortage is due to the harsh winter we've had. Weight restrictions will be going on sometime in the future, but not sure exactly when. This is dependent upon Mother Nature. The Forestry & Parks Department and Highway Department have been working with the Ski Hill Committee preparing the Ski Hill for the snow cross and hill climb races that will be held out there this weekend. It was felt that this would be good for our tourist industry.

**Distribute monthly financial statements:** The monthly financial statements were distributed and reviewed by Freeberg. It was moved by Gardner, seconded by Halada, and voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve the financial report as submitted.

**Present bills:** The bills were presented for review. After discussion and review, it was moved by Halada, seconded by Gardner and voted four (4) to zero (0) to pay this month's bills for a total not to exceed \$58,416.42.

**Committee Members comments, concerns and future agenda items:** Next month's agenda should include discussions on bonding, update on the snow cross event, motor graders and Tandem Truck Chassis bid results.

**Adjourn to next regular meeting:** There being no further business it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Gardner and voted four (4) to zero (0) to adjourn to April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 for the next regular meeting and March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 for the bid opening.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Freeberg  
Office Manager