

**Regular Meeting
Highway Committee
April 14th, 2014**

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

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Jeff DeMuri and Francie Freeberg.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steber.

Agenda: It was moved by Gardner, seconded by Halada and unanimous to approve the agenda as submitted.

Minutes: It was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Gardner and voted unanimous to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting held on March 10th, 2014 and the truck chassis bid opening held on March 13th, 2014.

Old Business

Discussion and/or action on tandem truck chassis bids: DeMuri updated the Committee on the truck chassis bids that were opened on March 13th. There were three bids received as follows:

	UP Truck Center	JX Peterbilt	FABCO Equip.
Make	Western Star	Peterbilt	FABCO
Model	4700 Set Back	348	CT681SG
Year	2015	2015	2015
Base Bid	\$96,495.00	\$97,474.50	\$130,234.13

This is the first time that FABCO has submitted a truck bid for us and their bid amount is way over budget. Both the Western Star and the Peterbilt truck have a 345 HP engine. It was noted that Peterbilt has a two year warranty compared to the one year on the Western Star truck. The Committee felt that the addition of an extra year on the warranty was worth the difference in prices. Considerable more discussion was had on the bids and what was best for Florence County. It was then moved by Gardner, seconded by Neuens and voted unanimous to recommend the Peterbilt Model 348 to the County Board for purchase.

Discussion on Bonding for Roads: DeMuri informed the Committee that he had gone before the Audit and Budget Committee regarding bonding for resurfacing of some of our county highways. The interest rates are lower now, than they have been in years. The Audit & Budget Committee recommended that DeMuri present this to the full County Board. There appeared to be many unanswered questions on the minds of some County Board Members. In an effort to have everyone properly informed, DeMuri said that he would like to see a special highway committee meeting held to discuss this. He would then have Jeff Belongie from Hutchinson Shockey Erley & Co here again to review the county's options and to answer any questions that arise. He can then explain the process that the county must go through in order to bond for this work. DeMuri felt that he would extend an invitation to ALL County Board members as well as our new financial manager and the County Clerk to attend this meeting so that everyone can make an educated decision when this comes before the County Board. DeMuri said that he has "ball park figures" for the highway work but not for a highway building, whether it be repairs to the existing building or the construction of a new one. The Committee felt that they would like something more specific on the highway building. After discussion, it was decided that they would meet on Tuesday, April 29th at 6:00 PM. Hopefully all County Board members will plan to attend.

New Business

Occasional labor for summer: DeMuri asked for permission to hire two (2) people for summer help, as we have in the past few years. DeMuri stated he has \$2000 in the budget for this. He further noted that if the County goes ahead with bonding for our roads he will especially need them to help with the prep work that would need to be completed. It was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Halada and voted unanimous for DeMuri to get approval from the Personnel Committee to hire two "occasional" summer laborers.

Summer work hours: In years past, the highway department has gone on "summer" work hours, meaning four 10 hour days. Depending upon weather DeMuri said he would like permission to do this again this year and would possibly start on Monday, April 28th. It was then moved by Bomberg, seconded by Gardner and voted unanimous to start "summer" work hours whenever it best fits the work schedule.

Equipment bid opening for truck equipment: There is a bid opening for the tandem truck equipment scheduled for Wednesday, April 30th, 2014 at 12:00 noon. Steber said that he would plan to attend.

Forestry equipment: Pat Smith, County Forest Administrator and Jeff DeMuri have been talking about equipment purchases and maintenance of Forestry's equipment. Smith approached DeMuri and asked him about taking over ownership of their Cat backhoe and Cat Skid Steer so that the maintenance is performed in a timely manner. There are many unanswered questions at this point and DeMuri will try to get more answers for the Committee for our next meeting.

Commissioner's Report: For the past couple weeks DeMuri has had our truck # 113, less the box, on an on-line auction web site. He put a reserve of \$7,500 on it and currently the price is over \$8,000 so that truck will be gone in the very near future.

Distribute monthly financial statements: The monthly financial statements were distributed and reviewed by Freeberg. It was moved by Gardner, seconded by Neuens and voted unanimous to approve the financial report as submitted.

Present bills: The bills were presented for review. After discussion and review, it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Halada and voted unanimous to pay this month's bills for a total not to exceed \$48,963.74.

Committee Members comments, concerns and future agenda items: Next month's agenda should include discussions on bonding, tandem truck equipment bids, and the forestry equipment.

Adjourn to next regular meeting: There being no further business it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Gardner and voted unanimous to adjourn to 6:00 PM on April 29th, 2014 for a special highway meeting and May 12th, 2014 for the next regular highway committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Freeberg
Office Manager