

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

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Donna Trudell, Florence County Clerk, Jeff DeMuri and Francie Freeberg.

The meeting was called to order by Jeff DeMuri.

Election of Committee Chairman: A motion was made by Bomberg, seconded by Halada to nominated Gary Steber as Committee Chairman. Nominations were then closed and the members cast a unanimous vote for Steber as Chairman.

DeMuri then turned the meeting over to Chairman Steber.

Election of Committee Vice Chairman: It was then moved by Gardner, seconded by Halada to nominate Larry Neuens as Committee Vice Chairman. There were no more nominations and the committee members present cast a unanimous vote for Neuens as Vice Chairman.

Approval and/or revisions to current agenda: It was then moved by Bomberg, seconded by Neuens and voted unanimous to approve the agenda as submitted.

Minutes: It was moved by Gardner, seconded by Bomberg, and voted unanimous to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting held on April 7th, and the special meeting with the County Board on April 29th, and the Ad-Hoc Bid Opening on April 30th, 2014.

Old Business

Discussion and/or action on tandem truck equipment bids: DeMuri passed out another copy of the bid summary for the tandem truck equipment. These bids were opened on the 30th of April. There were only two bids received. One bid was from Truck Equipment of Schofield, WI and one from Monroe Truck Equipment from DePere, WI. Considerable discussion was had. It was noted that the overall difference between the two bids was \$3,290. All of our dump trucks since 2003 have had Monroe equipment installed on them. In the past we did have some issues with their equipment but a few years ago they had several of the “top personnel” of Monroe come to Florence and work with our department. Upon discussing what the issues were they ended up taking care of the problems we had. They have been very good to work with ever since. Since so most all of our trucks have Monroe Equipment installed on them, it would be nice to continue with this brand of equipment. Much of the equipment and parts are interchangeable, cutting down on the amount of supplies we need in inventory. Their wing also comes with a paraglide system which allows it to “float” over cracks/humps in the pavement. After additional discussion, it was moved by Neuens, seconded by Gardner and voted to award the bid to Monroe Truck Equipment.

Discussion on Bonding for Roads: Donna Trudell was present to update the Committee on the paperwork that has been prepared for the next County Board meeting. She informed the Committee that a “Note” actually has a balloon payment after ten (10) years where a bond goes for the life of the bond as set up in the original documents. Jeff Belongie has been working with her and helping prepare the necessary paperwork for the next County Board meeting. To go ahead with financing by either a Bond or a Note, the County Board would have to pass an “intent resolution” by 75% of the total county board members. Then the resolution is good for three (3) years but we are not under any obligation at this point. This is just to get the ball rolling. Once the “intent resolution” is passed they will then apply for the investment rating. Previously Mr. Belongie had run a scenario of bonding for 2.5 million and it appears the estimated cost would be around \$.35 per thousand dollars of valuation. The County Board members will vote on the “intent” resolution on the 20th of May to see if we want to go pursue funding with either a bond or note for repairs to the county highways. Right now it will cost approximately \$160,000 – 180,000 (based on pavement width) per mile to resurface one mile of highways. So just to complete the 9 miles of CTH “N” from the four-way to Florence we’re looking at approximately 1.6 million dollars. DeMuri said he would like to see us borrow 2.5 million then he could complete the three (3) miles on CTH “C” in addition to CTH “N” from Aurora to the county line. DeMuri has his five (5) year highway plan and he will again share that with the county board members. If the county decides to go ahead with this then he will have to shift his CHIP and

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CHIP D projects to different highways. At this time DeMuri doesn't have anything for renovating or replacing the existing highway building. He has talked to Gundlach Champion but felt that prices were very high and it would be a tough sell for bonding for both the highways and a new building. His first priority is the highways. Considerable discussion continued. DeMuri will attend the County Board meeting and print copies of his highway plan. This resolution is good for three years, so nothing has to be done immediately once the resolution has passed. With interest rates so low right now this is the time to pursue funding for road improvements. Economic Development Director Wendy Gehlhoff is asking us to consider making CTH "N" a class A highway. The existing structure and base would not be able to withstand those heavy loads and this funding is to resurface, not reconstruct, the highways. It is possible that there could still be sections of the highway that has corduroy under it and that would be extremely costly to remove and upgrade with appropriate materials.

Occasional labor for summer: DeMuri informed the committee that he had put an ad in the paper for "occasional labor" for this summer. The application deadline is on the 19th of May.

Forestry Equipment: DeMuri said that he and Pat Smith have worked out an agreement on how to handle the forestry equipment rentals, repairs, and fuels, etc. The equipment is set up in our CHEMS system whereby when we use it we will charge ourselves and if revenues are earned on it we will keep those revenues. If used for a county forestry "grant" program the program will then pay the regular rental rate and the revenues will stay with the highway department. If used for regular county forestry jobs they will turn in the hours for record keeping purposes, but we will not charge for any use of the machine except for the fuel they use. In exchange for any rental fees from the county forestry we will be responsible for the maintenance of the equipment. The Committee asked about the turnaround time for this equipment and about lending it to the townships. The life expectancy is 10 years for both the backhoe and the skid steer. DeMuri said he didn't think other departments could use these pieces of equipment but Smith would be the one to make that decision. After discussion it was moved by Neuens, seconded by Halada and voted unanimous to have Smith and DeMuri write up a formal agreement between the two departments.

Loaders/Sale: The first Volvo loader was delivered today and the second one will be later this month. Aring Equipment bid \$80,000 apiece for the trade of our existing Caterpillar loaders. We have a guaranteed buy back from FABCO Equipment for \$84,500 so we will not be trading them to Aring Equipment. DeMuri said that he is trying to sell one of the loaders on the WI Surplus Online Auction web site. If he can get more than what FABCO is offering then he will sell them that way and if not FABCO will buy them back for their guaranteed buy back price. We won't know anything until the auction ends on June 2nd.

Testing Services: The state is giving out "performance based" contracts and DeMuri said that Florence County was granted such a project. Essentially the contract is written for a specific amount of money and if we complete it under our estimate we can keep the excess money. If we go over our estimate then we cannot charge for the excess charges and will have to eat that cost ourselves. We will need to have any gravel we use for these projects tested by an independent contractor as well as the DOT themselves. We will be responsible for paying for the testing done by the independent contractor. We have essentially three (3) pits that will need testing: Rocky's pit, Sharon's pit and the County Pit on CTH "D". It was moved by Gardner, seconded by Neuens and voted unanimous to give DeMuri permission to proceed to get a testing firm.

Bridge Inspections: This year we are required to get our county bridges inspected. In the past Florence, Forest, Vilas, and Iron Counties went together as a group and secured a bridge inspector. DeMuri said that he is handling this process for this group of counties and has talked to the inspectors who performed the task in the past. This year his fee will be \$150 per bridge because there are additional requirements by the DOT and/or Feds. The Aurora bridge will cost approximately \$300 as we need to have a Snooper Truck come in to look at the underside of that bridge. It was then moved by Bomberg, seconded by Halada, and voted unanimous to have Jeff proceed with getting our county bridges inspected.

Procurement Policy: DeMuri said that he would like to see the bidding dollar amount specified in the County Procurement Policy increased for Public Works Projects. Ten or fifteen thousand would be nice. It's hard to get most public works projects completed for less than \$5,000. Considerable discussion followed. The committee was concerned that there may be specific state statutes that apply. There is a policies and procedures plan in place already and the needs

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to be review to see what would be in the best interest of our tax payers dollars. It was then moved by Gardner, seconded by Neuens and voted unanimous to send this request to the Personnel Committee for their review.

Commissioner's Report: DeMuri said that the winter equipment is off all the trucks at this time. He said that they have been busy getting the trucks ready for spring and summer work. The weight limits will be lifted on the County Roads at 10:00 AM on Thursday of this week.

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

Present bills: The bills were presented for review. DeMuri noted that the total of these bills were quite large due to the payments for both the loaders and fuels. Once the loaders are either sold or traded we will have \$169,000 + to replace part of these expenses. After discussion and review, it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Gardner and voted unanimous to pay this month's bills for a total not to exceed \$244,950.81.

Committee Members comments, concerns and future agenda items: Next month's agenda should include discussions on bonding, sale of the loaders, and the agreement for the forestry equipment. DeMuri will touch base with Alliance to see what could be done regarding a new highway building. Neuens asked about the paint used for the center lining on the county roads and was informed that we use a water born paint material, as the epoxy paint is very expensive.

Adjourn to next regular meeting: There being no further business it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Gardner and voted unanimous to adjourn to 4:00 PM on June 9th, 2014 for the next regular highway committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Freeberg
Office Manager