

**Regular Meeting
Highway Committee
August 11th, 2014**

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

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Jeff DeMuri and Francie Freeberg.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steber.

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

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Bomberg, seconded by Halada and voted unanimous the minutes of the July 14th, regular Highway Committee Meeting and the June 13th Special Highway Committee Meeting were approved as submitted.

Old Business

Cold Storage Building: The plans and specifications for a cold storage facility are complete and they've been sent to four (4) larger contractors. Bob Podnar and Lato Construction from Crystal Falls have also expressed an interest in bidding. The bids will be opened on August 20th, 2014 at 11:45 AM. The building will be 50' wide and 72' long with 16' high side walls. There will also be a lean-to on the side just to protect some things from the elements, such as tar kegs, blades, etc. Included in these bids, there is an option for a new roof on the salt shed(s).

CTH "N" Bonding Project:

Culverts: The department has been working diligently installing culverts on CTH "N" in preparation of the upcoming construction project. There were 16 culvert extensions installed and eight (8) culverts that went across the entire road. We have three (3) installs left to complete and hope to get them done this week. DeMuri said that the county has spent approximately \$43,000 on the culvert installs. That bill is included in the vouchers for tonight's meeting so has not been entered into the project expenses to date. DeMuri also said that he has plans to GPS the culvert locations for future use.

Curve Alignment: DeMuri said that he and Pat Smith met with Jeff Pennucci, NR Property Supervisor from the Rhinelander WI DNR office regarding the curve alignment and the parking lots by the Pine River Ox bowl on CTH "N". There are safety concerns for this area and Smith and DeMuri, with the help of Coleman Engineering have been working to come up with a solution for these concerns. They had a preliminary drawing and Mr. Pennucci liked the changes that were suggested. Unfortunately, the DNR cannot work with government agencies to do this work. It has to be done by a private contractor. There is a large amount of dirt work that has to be removed, etc. The county owns a lot of R/W in this area and there may be a swap of some land with the DNR to complete the necessary work. Unfortunately, Mr. Pennucci said that upon checking they have to go through all the required steps before this work can be done, including an archeological survey, history, etc. Thus it will be impossible to complete this work this year. The successful bidder will have to stop at the Ox bowl take out and then resume the work after the Pine River Bridge. The curve alignment will then have to be completed next year.

Project Specifications Package: The project specification package is being completed by Coleman Engineering Company and is scheduled for completion this week. The bids will be sent to Payne & Dolan, Bacco Construction, Pitlick & Wick and possibly American Asphalt. The bid opening has been **rescheduled to August 26th, 2014 at 12 noon.**

Future S.T.P. Project: DeMuri said that he has not had time to work on this right now as he has to complete a new RFP (Request for Proposals).

State Financed Salt Shed: DeMuri said that he met with the Building and Grounds Committee and got approval for the lot line to be moved in order to meet the requirements of the DOT. This new line will not affect the soccer fields, etc. and will go in a straight line to CTH "N". Coleman Engineering did the survey work for this new salt shed. It will be approximately 110' by 50' and tall enough for the large trucks to back into the shed and dump their entire load of salt in the shed. Currently, some of the trucks delivering salt are too large to back into our existing shed to raise their boxes and dump the complete load. Many times they have to dump on the outside of the shed and we have to push the salt into the shed with the loader. The new shed is designed to hold a full winter season's supply of salt, approximately 3,500 tons. There will be a MOU attached to the construction of this shed that will allow other people to enter and use the shed/premises if the highway department no longer provided the winter maintenance services for the WisDOT.

New Business

Highway's 2013 Financial Report: DeMuri said that he put copies of the highway financial report in everyone's box at the courthouse and that he himself hasn't had time to review the report. They will discuss it at the next Highway Committee meeting. Bomberg said that they want things getting done in a more timely matter on the financials end of it and would like a plan on how to get that accomplished. Joe Bestor has already talked to Freeberg about this issue and they are working on it.

2015 Highway Budget: DeMuri said that he received a memo asking for the budget to be completed by the 22nd of August. He said that he talked to Joe Bestor and told him he would get a preliminary figure to him, and the Committee, by September 8th, the day of our next highway committee meeting. Again, this will only be a preliminary number. In the past, we have been budgeting \$150,000 annually for paving/construction work in the County. After discussion, it was agreed that he should leave that amount the same and then let the Audit and Budget committee make the decision to cut it if need be. After 10 years we will have to make a very large balloon payout on the bonding monies or may have to consider bonding for the remaining balance due.

Commissioner's Report: The construction bids are for an 11' travel lane with 3' of paved shoulders. There will be a six (6) foot paved shoulder on "N" from downtown to the top of the hill by the fair grounds. This is for safety purposes as many people walk or bike that area to the fair grounds/soccer fields, etc. Some of the dips, such as by Lindow's, will be filled with a gravel lift. There will be a crossing put in at snowmobiles and ATV's crossings. Pat Smith and DeMuri will be looking at these crossings with the intent of improving the signing. Rock salt has started to be delivered for this winter season. The culverts for the Johnson Creek project have been installed. We will be working on the MI DNR snowmobile/ATV trail, hauling gravel for their trail that connects to one of our county trails, up in the Tipler area. We will also be installing six (6) culverts for the Town of Fence. Holly Wahlstrom-Stratton was in about Guard Rails by the Little Popple River on "N" and on "B" near Miller's Road. The Committee was concerned about liability if someone should hit guardrails. DeMuri will check into that and also consider signage for those areas.

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, it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Gardner and voted unanimous to approve payment of the bills for a total not to exceed \$167,047.61.

Committee Members comments, concerns and future agenda items: The committee was informed that the employee on leave due to having surgery should be returning in two (2) weeks. Next month's agenda should include discussions on the bid openings, cold storage building, bonding work, future STP Project, State Financed Salt Shed, highway financial report and the highway budget.

Adjourn: There being no further business it was moved by Neuens, seconded by Gardner, and voted unanimous to adjourn to September 8th, 2014 for the next regular highway meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Freeberg,
Office Manager