

**Regular Meeting
Highway Committee
August 12th, 2013**

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

Members Absent: John Halada (excused).

Others Present: Jeff DeMuri and Francie Freeberg.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steber.

Agenda: On a motion by Gardner, seconded by Bomberg, and voted four (4) to zero (0) the agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes: It was moved by Neuens, seconded by Gardner, and voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve the minutes of the July 8th, 2013 Highway Committee Meeting, as submitted.

Old Business

CTH “N” Project Update: DeMuri informed the Committee that the paper work is signed now and Florence County will be responsible for 100% of the cost of design for the construction project on “N”. This will then allow use of our STP funds for the construction phase of the project. DeMuri said that he is hoping to do the construction work on “N” after completion of the 2016 Fiscal year, which is really the calendar year 2015.

Joint Position Forestry/Highway: The interviews for the joint Forestry/Highway position were completed and a selection made. Smith and DeMuri attended the Personnel Committee meeting in August and presented the information regarding the person the Committee selected. They said it was a difficult decision but Bob Butterfield appeared to be the best candidate for the job and the Personnel Committee gave them the good ahead to complete the hiring process. DeMuri said that Mr. Butterfield had been contacted and that he accepted the job offer. He will be starting before the end of August as he needed to give a minimum of two (2) weeks’ notice at his current job.

Update on Summer Projects: DeMuri reported that the work for the Epoxy Overlay on the Little Popple River Bridge on “N” went better than anticipated. The weather was extremely hot and that aided in the application/drying process. He felt his crew did a great job considering this was something they had never done before. The cost of the overlay was less than \$23,000 and he had budgeted \$25,000 for the project. He had a person from the DOT present to help guide the crew, as this person works for the DOT installing these overlays. This gentleman was impressed with our crew and how well they worked together. He informed DeMuri that there are only few counties that do this on their own bridges. DeMuri showed a short slide show of the work and explained what was being done. This overlay should last approximately 15 to 20 years and will decrease the amount of maintenance needed over this time span.

There will be some blacktopping done on CTH “N” in the area of the Little Popple River bridge on “N”. The total length will be approximately 1.35 miles. DeMuri said that he was waiting for this overlay to be completed and to see who was awarded the bids on some projects in the Iron Mountain area. His bids are almost complete and he has August 28th as the bid opening date. There is a problem area on CTH “N” between Franzen Road and the Little Popple bridge. He plans to dig that area of the road out, install some road fabric, clean sand and/or drain tile. That is part of the area that will be blacktopped after completion of this work.

There will also some blacktopping done in the parking lot behind the Highway building. He plans to do approximately ¾’s of the lot. He doesn’t want to do it all as there are plans for the DOT to build another salt shed sometime in the near future and he doesn’t want to have to rip something out for that structure.

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There will be a general contractor coming to help design the plans for the proposed cold storage building. The building plans will then have to be sent to the state for approval. DeMuri said that he was told it could take five (5) to six (6) weeks to get these plans approved so it may be mid fall before anything can be done for that building. He further noted that he isn't sure if they will do a poured foundation or go with posts.

CTH "D" Culverts: Margie Yadro and DeMuri have been working together on several culvert projects for both the Towns and the County. This is the last year for funding for this type of project for the counties but towns may still be eligible in the future. Currently the grant funds approximately 70% of the cost of such projects. There are two large pipes being installed on CTH "D" and it will be necessary to shut down the road for installation of one of the pipes. DeMuri said that he is waiting for the necessary permits from the DNR and will then proceed with the installation at that time.

New Business

Paving Bid Opening: There will be a bid opening for the paving projects at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, August 28th, 2013. DeMuri said he will submit bid specs to NE Asphalt, Bacco Construction and Pitlik and Wick. Gary Steber will attend the bid opening if able to get away from his job that day.

Consultant Selection for STP Project: We are now ready to proceed with getting RFP's (request for proposals) for the selection of a consultant for the design of the STP Project. The state wants to see at least three (3) RFP's. After discussion it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Neuens and voted four (4) to zero (0) to send out the RFP's. DeMuri state there are numerous firms to choose locally and not locally. Our selection will focus on reputation and qualifications.

Distribute monthly financial statements: Freeberg gave the Committee updated financial statements from March through June, as well as the current monthly statement for activities in July. After discussion it was moved by Gardner, seconded by Neuens and voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve the financial statements.

Steber asked what could be done about the noxious weeds along the highway, in particular highway "101". The Committee said that each of them had been contacted by an individual expressing his concerns. DeMuri noted that this same individual had stopped in his office one day and at that time John Simonson from the DNR was also here. Currently the DOT only authorizes one (1) pass to be made along the highways and the cutting is supposed to be completed by August 1st. DeMuri said that he has talked the State into allowing vegetation control of the brush. Spraying of the weeds is a different matter and sometimes the spray can drift into areas you don't want sprayed. It was noted that NR-40 can charge the landowner for control of these noxious weeds, and it was felt that people could not afford this in the tough economic times we are in. Our hands are tied as the DOT pays the bill and sets the policies for cutting the grass/weeds along the state highways.

Bomberg asked if it would be possible to get some kind of a logo installed on our highway sign at the top of the hill.

Future Agenda Items: Results of the bid openings, update of summer projects and the highway budget should all be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Present bills: The bills were presented for review. After discussion it was moved by Gardner, seconded by Neuens and voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve payment of the bills not to exceed the amount of \$71,874.83.

Adjourn to next regular meeting: There being no further business, it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Neuens and voted four (4) to zero (0) to adjourn to Monday, September 9th, 2013 for the next regular highway committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Freeberg
Office Manager