

**Regular Meeting  
Highway Committee  
September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

Members Present: Don Gardner, Jeanette Bomberg, John Halada and Larry Neuens (seated at 4:15 PM).

Members Absent: Gary Steber (excused).

Others Present: Jeff DeMuri and Francie Freeberg.

The meeting was called to order by Don Gardner.

**Agenda:** On a motion by Halada, seconded by Bomberg, and voted three (3) to zero (0) the agenda was approved as submitted.

**Minutes:** On a motion by Bomberg, seconded by Halada, and voted three (3) to zero (0) the minutes of the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as submitted.

### **Old Business**

**Paving Bid Opening:** Bids for the C.H.I. paving on CTH “N” (Frazen Lane to 1.35 miles westerly) and the back parking lot were opened on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August. DeMuri informed the Committee that there was only one bid received. Bids were sent to Bacco Construction, Northeast Asphalt and Pitlick and Wick. DeMuri handed out a copy of the bid summary showing the detail of each bid. After discussion it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Halada and voted three (3) to zero (0) to accept the bid as presented. He said that Northeast is in Iron Mountain working on a project and will be here after the end of September.

**CTH “N” Project Update:** There was nothing new to report on the S.T.P. Project.

**Update on Summer Projects:** Northeast should be here sometime by the end of September to work on CTH “N”. The parking lot work will be done in conjunction with the work on CTH “N”. The plans for the cold storage building are in the works. We have to wait for the State approval of the plans before we can proceed to put out for bids. The building will be approximately 50’ x 72’.

**CTH “D” Culverts:** The culvert projects on CTH “D” were started today. The culvert East of the Campground was completed today. On September 16<sup>th</sup> we will be installing the one West of the campground. They are being installed with grant monies through the LCD. We did a similar project for the Town of Fern and DeMuri said he’s hoping for approximately 70% reimbursement on these projects.

Larry Neuens was seated at 4:15 PM.

**Consultant Selection for STP Project:** DeMuri has been working on the RFP’s (request for proposals) for the selection of a consultant for the design of the STP Project. He plans to send these out to four or five consultants. DeMuri and some committee members are pretty familiar with the consultant firms so after discussion it was decided to send out for the proposals and just open and review them without having the consultants coming in to do a “sales pitch” about their company. If they have questions about their proposal they will contact the company/person at that time. It was then moved by Bomberg, seconded by Halada and voted four (4) to zero (0) to send out the RFP’s and review with only the committee present.

### **New Business**

**Grader Rental:** DeMuri reminded the Committee that in the past we rented a motor grader to Gogebic County for the winter months but they have purchased their own grader. The City of Ironwood asked for a similar deal as they need a grader for their use. After discussion, it was moved by Neuens, seconded by Bomberg and voted four (4) to zero (0) to rent the grader to the City of Ironwood.

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**Insurance Claim:** DeMuri informed the committee that while he was on vacation one of our employees laid a Tandem Truck (#027) on its side. They crew was working on an ATV project and two of our trucks met on a bad corner on a town road in Tipler. The loaded truck pulled off to let the other truck get by him. There are no shoulders on the road and when he pulled off the loaded truck rolled onto its side. There were no injuries but there is a fair amount of damage to the truck. The truck will have to be towed to Appleton to have the frame examined, as there is a possibility of the frame having been bent or twisted. DeMuri said he was upset that we did not notify him even though he was on vacation. He said he found out from people other than his own staff. Freeberg said that she had talked to the County Clerk and informed her what had happened and they agreed that since no one was hurt we shouldn't ruin his vacation. From now on, he will be notified of any accidents, even if he is out of town.

**Equipment Purchases:** DeMuri noted he and one of our employees went to Green Bay to check on some future equipment needs including a fork lift which he had in his budget for 2014. While looking at forklifts, they found out that this company had one up in Iron Mountain that was being leased by Grede Foundry. The lease was ending in just a few days and they would be picking up the machine and hauling it back to Green Bay. They were told that this machine would cost \$7,500 to purchase but that we could rent it a month with the option to purchase. The full amount of this rent would then be applied to the purchase price. Upon checking out the machine it was felt that this would be a good deal for us. The unit has a 5,000 lb. lifting capacity. If we rented the machine till the first of next year only part of the rental payment would apply to the purchase. DeMuri asked if we could possibly buy the machine now as it would save any additional charges for hauling, painting, etc., and he does have it in his 2014 budget and he has funds available now that he could use for the purchase. After discussion, it was moved by Halada, seconded by Bomberg and voted four (4) to zero (0) to have DeMuri talk to Karlyn and see if something could be worked out to purchase the machine now. The committee asked if DeMuri could work out a deal to have some service work included in the purchase price as the firm does have a person in this area that provides service to their machines.

**Highway Budget:** DeMuri presented the committee with his proposed 2014 budget. He put in a column showing a three (3) year average and the 2012 actual and the proposed 2014. DeMuri explained the budget, line it by line item. He said that he is budgeting for a new truck as we already have the dump box. This is the one we purchased from Marinette County this year and he's like to put that into use. There is no difference in emission standards for 2014 as far as trucks are concerned. He is budgeting for a new air compressor as the one in the shop is on its last leg but will not purchase one until the need arises. He is also budgeting for new front end loaders. We still have a guaranteed buy back on our existing loaders and it would be best to take advantage of that while we still have it as there is a 10% to 15% increase in the cost of this machinery after the first of the year. He's looking at a three (3) year payment option. We have approximately 1,800 hours on each loader but our loaders do experience a lot of wear and tear because of the salt we play in. The General Transportation Aids have been decreasing approximately 10% the last couple of years but will increase 10% in 2014. Next year we will not be getting the work from the Forestry Department as their grant programs have been put on hold for 2014. For these reasons DeMuri said that he has increased our proposed budget by \$110,000. The Committee discussed the budget options and requested that DeMuri remove the three(3) year average column and do the 2012 actual, 2013 estimated and 2014 proposal. It was then moved by Neuens, seconded by Halada, and voted four (4) to zero (0) to accept DeMuri's budget proposal and pass it on to the Audit & Budget Committee with the additional numbers.

**Commissioner's Report:** DeMuri said that Governor Scott Walker and Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Mark Gottlieb want to distribute more monies for the counties for work on the state highways. They are increasing the DOT monies by 10% for this year and could go up to 15% for next year. The "catch" is that these increases could be based on performance based pay type of work. The counties that can do the work cheaper could possibly be getting the work. So it would not be unreal to see other counties working on our state highways or vies versa. Counties will no longer be doing large paving and bridge work on state highways, as that will be going to the contractors. The goal is to give the larger jobs to the contractors and let the counties continue with the smaller type routine maintenance work, including crack sealing. DeMuri said that we have one more project to do for the Forestry Department and then we'll be done with their work for 2013.

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**Distribute monthly financial statements:** The monthly financial statement was presented to the committee and reviewed by Freeberg. It was then moved by Neuens, seconded by Halada voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve the financial statement as presented.

**Present bills:** The bills were presented for review. DeMuri explained what the larger bills were for. After discussion it was moved by Neuens, seconded by Halada and voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve payment of the bills not to exceed the amount of \$75,648.87.

**Committee Members comments, concerns and future agenda items:** DeMuri said that he was told that Marinette County is bonding for 30 miles of roads and that bonding rates are very low right now. He will be meeting with the Marinette County Highway Commissioner to find out all the detail of how they are doing the bonding. This could be something Florence County could look into for future road projects. It was agreed that there will be an update on the Cold Storage Building, Summer Projects, RFP's for the STP Project, Paser Ratings and approval of the 08-28-2013 bid opening.

**Adjourn to next regular meeting:** There being no further business it was moved by Neuens, seconded by Bomberg and voted four (4) to zero (0) to adjourn to October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 for the next regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Freeberg  
Office Manager