

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:** A motion was made by Bomberg, seconded by Gardner and voted unanimous to approve the agenda as submitted.

**Approval of Minutes:** It was then moved by Neuens, seconded by Gardner and voted unanimous to approve the minutes of the September 8<sup>th</sup>, regular Highway Committee Meeting, as submitted.

### **Old Business**

**Cold Storage Building:** DeMuri said that he had received the revised plans from Bay Architects regarding the 50' x 120' cold storage building and will be getting the certified drawings from the State. The building itself will be 16' high and the lean-to will be 80' in length. DeMuri noted that A & M Concrete Construction is requesting 15% down and another 50% when the materials arrive. He will be meeting with them on Wednesday to discuss the plans, construction, etc. The contract was signed last week. It was noted that there will be two overhead doors and electric in the building with a gravel base/floor.

**CTH "N" Bonding Project:** Curve re-alignment: To date we have spent \$68,021.27 on the bonding project, including \$8,751.50 from Coleman Engineering. All bills have been paid out of our regular budget so far and these expenses will help in boosting our GTA aids. Rather than spending any of the bonding monies this year, we would like to continue to use our budget monies and keep all of the bonding monies for next year's work. DeMuri said that he has discussed this with JoAnne Friberg and Joe Bestor and asked that they reinvest those monies in a six (6) month CD giving the county some additional interest monies. It won't be much, but is better than nothing.

**Curve re-alignment:** DeMuri said that he has been working with the DNR and Jeff Pennucci on the permits for the curve re-alignment. Emails with questions have been going back & forth. Pat Smith has submitted a request for a grant for the trail re-alignment. The DNR wants some cad plans, acreage information, exact quantities, etc. It was noted that Johnny G. will be here the first Monday of November and DeMuri should discuss this project with him. DeMuri will be meeting with Coleman to discuss these plans more in-depth.

**Paving:** Northeast has moved out of the area so there will be no paving done this year. The patches in the areas of the culvert replacements have been completed. It was noted that the blacktop is currently at 26' in width and will be 28' wide after the paving.

**2015 Highway Budget:** DeMuri said that he made his plea to the Audit & Budget Committee for the \$500,000 as recommended by the Committee at last month's highway meeting. He was estimating that Florence County's GTA payments were going to be cut again this year but they were actually increased to \$212,000. Thus he talked to Joe Bestor and told him that if need be he could lower the highway department's budget request by \$32,000.

**Update North Central Region Fall Meeting:** Neuens and DeMuri attended the North Central Region Fall Meeting last week. DOT staff discussed their budgets and noted that there will be some increases in upcoming years. Most of these increases will be used for maintenance activities. Overweight issues were discussed. Our county roads are actually posted for a designated weight and if need be people can apply for an overweight permit. Discussions were had about ways to increase the transportation funds including increasing of gas tax and higher registration fees. There will be an item on the November 4<sup>th</sup> election ballot asking if people want to create a Transportation Fund. This would then mean that revenues "generated by use of the state transportation system be deposited into a transportation fund administered by a department of transportation for the exclusive purpose of funding Wisconsin's transportation systems and to prohibit any transfers or lapses from this fund". Other things discussed included having chips in cars so that registration would be based on the number of miles driven or maybe even toll fees for use of the interstate system. Neuens said that he learned about the differences in aggregate sizes for bituminous, invasive species problems, one heavily overloaded vehicle can cause the same amount of damage that it would take 96,000 vehicles to do. There were discussions about the differences between the cold, warm, and hot mix bituminous.

**Building maintenance:** As things have turned out, the contractor was not able to complete the CHIP and CHIP 'D' paving projects as planned. Thus we will not have the reimbursement money from these projects to use for the roof of the building this year. DeMuri has been in contact with both Lake States Roofing and Markell Roofing regarding the roof repairs/replacement. He will be meeting with one of the firms later this week. He may bid this project out later this fall/winter to be completed in 2015. He said that Lake States uses 2 inches of insulation over the existing roof and then rolls out the PVC covering. This will have a 15 year warranty on it.

**New Business**

**Equipment sale/purchase:** Our new truck should be coming in early to mid November. DeMuri said that he has a 2001 Sterling that he is planning on selling. He heard that there was someone local interested in purchasing this truck. He reviewed what this size, age, make and model truck was going for on the open market and set a minimum amount at \$21,500. Thus he would be willing to accept \$21,500 as the lowest amount locally. He advertised in the Florence Mining News and has a bid opening on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 @ 11:30 AM. The truck has a dump box, plow and underbody. After discussion, it was moved by Neuens, seconded by Gardner and voted unanimous to sell the truck if any bidder meets the minimum bid.

**Sand/gravel pit:** We are in need of approximately 400 tons of screened sand to make our salt sand. Northeast Asphalt now owns the business and equipment that Duffek had. They did dig some test holes in the county pit on "D". He would like to get 2,000 cubic yards made up this year if he could. After discussion it was moved by Gardner, seconded by Neuens and voted unanimous to enter into a contract with Northeast Asphalt and out a posting in the Mining News.

**Commissioner's Report:** So far, we have completed some graveling of shoulders for both the State and the county. We're getting the trucks ready for winter. DeMuri has a small to-do list from Pat Smith and we are working on a gravel road for him both today and Tuesday. We are back to our regular eight hour days. Plan to cut the dead heads on highway 70 as time permits.

**Distribute monthly financial statements:** The monthly financial statements were distributed and reviewed by Freeberg. After review, it was moved by Gardner, seconded by Halada and voted unanimous to approve the report as submitted.

**Present bills:** The bills were presented for review. After discussion, it was moved by Neuens, seconded by Gardner and voted unanimous to approve payment of the bills for a total not to exceed \$138,500.36.

**Committee Members comments, concerns and future agenda items:** Halada said that the school bus drive from Long Lake talked to him about the plowing on highway '70' and '139'. DeMuri said that we have five beats to plow including US '2'. Some of the beats take at least three (3) hours to complete one (1) round. The crews normally start at 4 or 5 AM. He could possibly send a second person up that direction when we have a bigger snow storm, but the DOT controls the cost, so it would have to be approved by them. The Committee felt that since we have some new deputies, they should be explained how our plow beats work and the time it takes to complete some of these routes. DeMuri will be setting up a meeting with the Sheriff's office to discuss some of issues we have. Bomberg said that most people say that Florence County's roads are much better than our two adjoining Michigan Counties. Next month's agenda should include an update on cold storage building and bonding work.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Gardner, and voted unanimous to adjourn to November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 for the next regular highway meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Freeberg,  
Office Manager

**Ad-Hoc Meeting  
Highway Committee  
October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Members Present: Don Gardner.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Jeff DeMuri and Francie Freeberg.

The meeting was called to order by Don Gardner.

**Approval and/or revisions to current agenda:** It was the general consensus to approve the agenda as submitted.

**Open, record and award the bid for the sale of tandem truck # 022, if bidder(s) meets minimum bid:** The purpose of this meeting was to open and record bids for the sale of truck # 022. There was only one bid received. The bid was from McCoy Gravel and Excavating for a total of \$21,500.00. This was the minimum bid that DeMuri printed in the advertisement for bids that was in the Florence Mining News. With that being said, it was noted that the highway committee had moved, seconded and voted unanimous at their meeting on Monday to award the bid to the highest bidder meeting the advertised minimum. Thus the truck will be sold to McCoy Gravel and Excavating for \$21,500.00.

**Adjourn:** There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Freeberg,  
Office Manager