

**Regular Meeting
Highway Committee
October 14th, 2013**

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Jeff DeMuri and Francie Freeberg.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steber.

Agenda: It was moved by Neuens, seconded by Gardner and voted unanimous to approve the agenda as submitted.

Minutes: It was then moved by Bomberg, seconded by Gardner, and voted unanimous to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting held on September 9th and the Ad-Hoc meeting held on August 28th, 2013, as submitted.

Old Business

Update on STP Project for CTH “N”: DeMuri reported that he has an ad in this week’s Mining News requesting proposals for the Consultant Engineer for the STP Project design. This will give the Committee time to review before the November Highway Committee Meeting. He’s hoping to hear from the D.O.T. by mid-November to the beginning of December on whether or not Florence County’s project(s) get approved. Neuens asked if he was considering having the engineering done for both of the projects. DeMuri said that they will probably do the environmental / Archeological review for the full 3 miles, but not the design at this point.

Update on CTH “N” Paving: Northeast Asphalt has finalized the 1.35 miles of paving work on CTH “N”. The project is pretty smooth for the most part. There is one dip in the pavement which DeMuri said he mentioned to Northeast Asphalt. He’s not sure if anything can be done about it at this time. He said that he went for two (2) foot shoulders as the bid price was better than he had expected. He also said that they actually put blacktop under the guardrails by the bridge, hoping to aid the drainage issues. We haven’t received the bill from NE Asphalt, but he is estimating it to be approximately \$225,000. We also rented the shouldering machine from NE Asphalt, as they were already in the area, and did approximately 2.5 miles of shoulder work.

Update on Cold Storage Building: DeMuri tried contacting the person working on the plans for the cold storage building last week and he did not receive a call back from him. He was finally able to talk to him today and told the contractor that time is getting very short so he needs to hear back from the architect soon.

Update on CTH “D” Culverts: The culvert work on CTH “D” is complete. The total cost of the two culvert installations was approximately \$37,600 including the in-kind monies. Margie Yadro has all the figures for the cost of these projects. She will be submitting these to the people at DATCAP for reimbursement. It looks like we will be getting approximately \$26,000 back for these projects. DeMuri said that she will be working again with the townships and county next year on some additional projects as some of this funding was left in the program.

Highway Budget: As of today, DeMuri said that he has not received anything “official” regarding the highway budget. He said that he has heard rumors that they were looking at cutting one of the loaders that is in our budget. Our guaranteed buy back on our existing loader expires next year. If we don’t take advantage of this the trade-in price would probably drop dramatically and we will then be required to meet the Tier 4 Emissions Standards which will then raise the price of the machines. Bomberg said that they have to be concerned about the bottom line and they felt it is better to cut things than to cut people. Discussion continued and it was agreed that they should give the Administrators the \$ amount that needs to be cut from each budget and that the Administrators should take responsibility of where to do the cutting. DeMuri said that it was his understanding that our General Transportation Aids were increasing 4% but now he found out that isn’t going to happen until the following year. DeMuri just got his notice for next year’s GTA payment and found out it is decreased by \$36,000. DeMuri said he will review the budget and make deductions where he thinks best. Be further noted that the roads are his number one priority and that equipment is very important to the operation of this department. Bomberg said that they really don’t care where it gets cut; their concern is the bottom line.

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New Business

Paser Ratings: This is the year that we have to do the highway ratings. In the past a couple of highway committee members have go along to help with the ratings. It was decided that they will do them on October 24th, departing from the shop at 8:30 AM.

North Central Region Fall Meeting: The annual North Central Region Fall Meeting is scheduled for October 25th at Stratford, WI. Registration starts at 8:30 AM. This meeting normally has some Legislators as well at DOT staff in attendance. DeMuri and Neuens will attend.

Distribute monthly financial statements: The monthly financial statement was presented to the committee and reviewed by Freeberg. It was then moved by Gardner, seconded by Halada voted unanimous to approve the financial statement as presented.

Present bills: The bills were then presented for review. DeMuri explained what the larger bills. After discussion it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Gardner and voted unanimous to approve payment of the bills not to exceed the amount of \$76, 069.92.

Committee Members comments, concerns and future agenda items: Bomberg informed the Committee that they were notified by the County Mutual that the Highway and Sheriff's Departments were both recognized for their safety record.

Next month's agenda will include an update on the Cold Storage Building, Budget, and information from the Fall Regional Meeting,

Adjourn to next regular meeting: There being no further business it was moved by Neuens, seconded by Gardner and voted unanimous November 11th, 2013 for the next regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Freeberg
Office Manager