

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

Members Gary Steber, excused.

Others Present: Brent Matthews, from WisDOT, Jeff DeMuri and Francie Freeberg.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Neuens.

Agenda: Due to Mr. Matthews being present from the DOT, and his long drive back to Stevens Point, it was suggested that we move item 6-C (State Routine Maintenance Agreement) to the beginning of the agenda. It was then moved by Bomberg, seconded by Halada, and voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve the agenda with the change to accommodate Mr. Matthews.

Minutes: It was then moved by Bomberg, seconded by Gardner, and four (4) to zero (0) to approve to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting held on October 14th, 2013 as submitted.

State Routine Maintenance Agreement: Mr. Matthews is from the Wisconsin Rapids office of the WisDOT. He was here to review the state RMA's and get them signed so that he can take the copies back with him. He noted that there was a significant increase (approx. 50 million) in the dollars allotted for the 2014 -15 fiscal year Routine Maintenance Agreements (RMA's) in the State. Mark Gottlieb, WisDOT Secretary, was a major influence in getting the increase. Florence County received an increase of \$44,900 for 2014, bringing our total RMA to \$468,900. They are hoping there will be additional funds added for the following fiscal year. Mr. Matthews explained the "performance based" maintenance program, as he understands it today, that the State hopes to implement in the near future. They are still working on the rules and guidelines for this program. Considerable discussion was had with committee members asking numerous questions as well. DeMuri and Matthews both expressed thanks to each other for the cooperation/working agreements that they both have had in the past. It was both of their opinions that this working relationship will continue into the future. The DOT will be focusing on getting the deficiencies in the state transportation system brought up to specifications. We can expect more accountability for work performed. It was also noted that LFA's (Local Force Accounts) are going away for bridges but will still be available for road work. After additional discussion, it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Halada, and voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve and sign the RMA.

Old Business

Update on STP Project for CTH "N": DeMuri said that he has not received any additional information from the DOT regarding his application(s). They had hoped to know something by the middle of November but now it looks like it will be the end of December or even January before they hear anything. DeMuri has proposals from four (4) different firms and the Committee members are welcome to review them prior to the next highway meeting. Neuens said that he did get a thank you from Rick Satterlee of Ayres & Associates for allowing them to submit a proposal. Some of the Committee members took proposals home to review as will Steber when he returns. It was also agreed that a synopsis of the bid/proposals should be prepared for the Committee for review. DeMuri said that the firms that submitted proposals are aware of the delay in getting word about funding.

Update on Highway Budget: The Audit and Budget Committee met with DeMuri and they agreed to cut \$25,000 from his budget request. They will also allow him to make this cut wherever he feels will best suit his needs. The highway budget was approved for \$575,000. DeMuri said that he plans to keep what he has in his budget as he has some money left from his 2013 budget. This is thanks to the work that has been provided by outside departments, especially the Forestry Department. Highway and Forestry have been working together for several years, to the betterment of each department. Because of the changes in emission requirements, etc. for the purchase of new equipment it was noted that bids will need to be opened before January 1st, 2014 to avoid the increase in these costs. After discussion it was moved by Gardner, seconded by Bomberg and voted four (4) to zero (0) to take bids before the end of 2013.

Update on Cold Storage Building: DeMuri contacted the person working on the plans for the cold storage building over three weeks ago. He did talk to him and was told he'd have the plans in just a few days. To date he has not received the plans. It is too late for this project to get completed this year so will have to pursue this in the spring.

North Central Region Fall Meeting: Neuens and DeMuri both attended the North Central Regional Fall Meeting. DeMuri said that there was a lot of good information presented. He noted that WisDOT Secretary Gottlieb wants to keep the relationship between the Counties and the DOT. He expressed desire to get additional monies for the counties. The "performance based projects" were also discussed and to date nothing is set in stone. It was noted that the counties need to work more efficiently if we want to get more money for our counties. The 13.10 requests will no longer be given as a supplement to the counties. DeMuri noted that Florence County got an extra \$82,000 for the 2013 13.10 request.

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Review of Paser Ratings: On the 24th of October Neuens and DeMuri toured all the County roads and completed the Paser ratings. DeMuri summarized the ratings as follows: With 10 being the best, 5 being fair and 1 being the worst

CTH "B" – Not much change, remained at a 7.

CTH "C" – Mixture of ratings between 9 to 7.

CTH "D" – Chip seal applied it 2009, so it is rated at an 8.

CTH "NN" – A chip seal was applied in 2012 and is rated at an 8.

CTH "N" – The new section on "N", by the Little Popple River, which was done this year is rated at a 10. CTH "N" East of Aurora to the four-way (excluding the new section) is rated at a 7, and from the four-way to the Pine River it is rated at a 6. From the Pine River to the town of Florence the rating is only a 4.

CTH "U" – This highway is in good shape and it's rated at a 9.

New Business

Discussion and/or action on the One-ton truck bids: Bids were opened this morning for the purchase of a one ton truck chassis. Bomberg attended the bid opening with Witynski and Freeberg in attendance. DeMuri left at the time, due to a possible conflict with one of the companies bidding. It was noted that there was only one bid received and it was from Florence Motor Sales. Their bid was for a 2014 F350 truck chassis for a total cost of \$28,012.00. Options of a spare tire and wheel and a limited slip rear axle were offered for \$350.00 each. It was noted that the trailer towing package is not available with the brake controller. DeMuri said that he had \$30,000 in his budget this year for this purchase. He plans to take the box off our existing one-ton truck (# 113) and put it on this new chassis as it is a stainless steel box. After discussion it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Halada and voted fur (4) to zero (0) to award the bid to Florence Motor Sales for \$28,712 including the spare tire and wheel and a limited slip rear axle.

Retirement of a Highway Worker: DeMuri said that he has received a letter of resignation from Dave Bauer, our highway foreman. With that happening we need to go to Personnel to start the hiring process. The last sets of applications were for a combined position between Highway and Forestry and it is felt that these will not suit our needs. The filling of this vacancy will be based on qualifications, not on the former "seniority" list that is no longer applicable. It was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Halada and voted four (4) to zero (0) to start the hiring process.

State Routine Maintenance Agreement: This was moved to the beginning of the agenda/meeting.

Commissioner's Report: DeMuri said that we are winding down on the summer projects. We've almost completed all maintenance projects and are in the process of switching our equipment over to winter applications. We have had to go out three (3) different times and actually had to plow on one of the occasions. We still have some minor projects to complete for the Forestry dept.

Distribute monthly financial statements: The monthly financial statements were distributed and reviewed. It was moved by Gardner, seconded by Halada and voted fur (4) to zero (0) to approve the financial report as submitted.

Present bills: The bills were then presented for review. After discussion it was moved by Gardner, seconded by Halada and voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve payment of the bills not to exceed the amount of \$347,983.29.

Committee Members comments, concerns and future agenda items: Next month's agenda should include the loader bids, consultant selection and the hiring process.

Adjourn to next regular meeting: There being no further business it was moved by Halada, seconded by Gardner and voted four (4) to zero (0) to adjourn to December 9th, 2013 for the next regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Freeberg
Office Manager