

**Regular Meeting
Highway Committee
December 9th, 2013**

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

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: RJ Betzinger representing Miller Bradford & Risberg; Tom Olsen Jr. representing FABCO Equipment; Ryan Castellion representing NorTrax, Bob Weier and John Collaran representing Aring Equipment Company, Jeff DeMuri and Francie Freeberg.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steber.

Agenda: Since there were five (4) salesmen present to review their Loader bid it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Neuens and voted unanimous to move item 6-A up to item 4-A and approve the agenda as revised.

Minutes: It was then moved by Neuens, seconded by Halada and voted unanimous to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting held on November 11th, 2013 and the minutes of the two bid openings which were held on November 11th and December 5th, 2013.

Discussion and/or action on the Wheel Loader bids: The salesmen were present to explain their bids and to ask questions of the committee. It was decided to take each company, one at a time, and give them five (5) minutes to discuss the Tractor Loader bids. They drew numbers to see what order they would talk to the Committee. Ryan Castellion representing NorTrax was the first one. He said that he was concerned about the bid presented by Aring Equipment for the Volvo Loaders and he wasn't sure they (Airing) met all the specifications in our bid package. He said the NorTrax bid met spec's. He mentioned several items from other bidders including a hydrostatic drive on the Cat loaders. The John Deere Loader has a four (4) plate loader frame opposed to a stacked frame with no brace. Castellion asked about the swapping of the loader scales if Aring Equipment got the bid since they could be exchanging the loaders possibly two times per year. Castellion said that they had approximately \$2,400 in their bid, for each loader, to swap out the scales. He thought this might be a cost that the County would have to endure after the initial set up.

Bob Weier and John Collaran from Aring Equipment were next. They said that they would have the option to swap each loader every 6 months, if buyers became available. Doing it this way we would be starting with a brand new warranty. They did not bid the loaders with the idea that Aring Equipment would pay for the swapping of the loader scales each time. The initial swap was included in the bid price but each swap thereafter would be our responsibility. They did mention that perhaps we could remove the scales and send them to their shop for installation on the new loader. This might mean there could be three (3) to four (4) days of down time on that machine. They presented the committee with a list of municipalities that currently use the Volvo loaders. They suggested contacting the Dodge County Highway Department as they too have scales and they made "brackets" for the scales. They also noted that there would be a full warranty on these loaders for the duration of the contract.

Tom Olsen Jr. representing FABCO Equipment was next. He reminded the Committee that back in 2009 it was decided to purchase the loaders every five years. Mr. Olsen distributed a summary he prepared comparing the Cat and the Volvo machine costs, including an estimate for swapping out the scales. His overall summary shows that the Caterpillar Loaders are approximately \$2,745 cheaper at the end of the five years. He noted that earlier this year we did test a Caterpillar 924K loader with a counter weight on it, but it was felt that machine was too light and needed more counterweight. So when they bid this machine, they include a larger counterweight than was on the test machine. He noted that the Volvo was a lighter machine and felt we would have problems with that. The bid specs asked for a 3 yard bucket and the Volvo only has a 2.7 yard capacity when heaped. The Cat loader's hydraulic pump puts out 70 gallons per minute and the Volvo only puts out 40+ gallons per minute, making it less efficient. The bid spec's also specified no Urea and Caterpillar guarantees that their machine will not have any Urea in it for the term of the contract. The Caterpillar service person is located in Hermansville (35.7 miles away) and they also have an overnight drop station in Iron Mountain, meaning parts ordered today will be there tomorrow morning. He reminded the Committee that the Volvo machine did not meet specs for both the weight and the bucket size and they did meet all the specs.

RJ from Miller Bradford said he was here to find out what loader bids were submitted. DeMuri noted that he advertised in the Mining News and also sent out the request for bids by email. This happened was right before deer season and he did ask for the bidders to let him know that they had received the request for bids. By the time he realized that he had not heard from Miller Bradford, it was only a couple days before the bids were due. He then contacted them by phone and was told that they were having computer/server problems for close to two weeks. In fact their email system was still not up and running. RJ did come to Florence and picked up a set of specifications but he did not have enough time to submit a bid. DeMuri apologized for not realizing they had not contacted him.

After some discussion it was felt that they would like to review the bids a little more closely. With that in mind, it was moved by Gardner, seconded by Bomberg and voted unanimous to table action on the bids at this time. The bidders were thanked for taking the time to submit and bid and will be notified when these will be discussed again. DeMuri noted that we need the couplings to fit five different attachments for the loaders, as the couplers we now have fit only the Cat machine. After further discussion, it was agreed that they would go into closed session at their next meeting to discuss the loader bids.

Old Business

Update on STP Project for CTH “N”: DeMuri said that he still has not received any information from the DOT regarding his project application(s). It appears it will not be the middle of January before they hear anything. It was decided they will go ahead with the selection of a Consultant for the STP Project (CTH “N” from the Pine River Bridge to Johnson Creek Road). Some of the Committee member took copies of the consultant proposals home with them for review prior to this meeting. Proposals were received from Coleman Engineering, Ayres Associates, Robert E. Lee & Associates, and Corre Engineering. DeMuri completed a summary of the consultant proposals and rated them from 1 to 5 for each item, with five (5) being the highest. Criteria used for rating included capabilities, staff qualifications, proposed rates, references, office locations, past experience with Florence County, technical requirements, performance requirements and support requirements. The overall rankings ranged from 39 to 43. After discussion it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Gardner, and voted unanimous to select the consultant firm with the highest rating of 43, which was Coleman Engineering

Update on hiring process: DeMuri said that he did go to the Personnel Committee last week and was given the OK to proceed with the hiring process. After discussion it was agreed that Steber and DeMuri will review the applications and pick the top five (5) or six (6) applicants to be interviewed. DeMuri will try to get an ad in the Mining News ASAP. Our only problem is that the holidays are fast approaching so that will slow the process.

New Business

Discussion on bonding for roads: Jeff Belongie from the bonding firm is working with Marinette County on a bonding project for improvements to their roads. Unfortunately, since the decision on the STP Projects has been delayed till January, DeMuri doesn't have enough information to discuss this. Without knowing if any of our projects are approved he can't tell the Committee what direction the County needs to go. CHIP and CHIP “D” project applications are due January 15th, 2014. DeMuri said that he plans to apply for CHIP and CHIP “D” projects for CTH “N” but if his STP application is approved he will have to shift gears. Interest rates are still low so this might be the time to consider bonding in order to bring our roads up to a much higher condition. The Committee felt it would be good to have Mr. Belongie come to Florence and explain the bonding process.

Winter Highway Conference: The 2014 WCHA Winter Highway Conference is January 13th, 14th, and 15th at Wisconsin Dells. DeMuri said he had some other events scheduled and could not attend this year. If anyone wants to attend they need to let DeMuri know ASAP.

Commissioner's Report: DeMuri praised the work that the crew did during the ice storm. Bomberg said that she has heard many people comment about the good condition of the County roads, compared to surrounding counties. She said thank you to everyone.

Distribute monthly financial statements: The monthly financial statements were distributed and reviewed. It was moved by Gardner, seconded by Neuens, and voted unanimous to approve the financial report as submitted.

Present bills: The bills were then presented for review. After review, it was moved by Neuens, seconded by Gardner and voted to pay this month's bills for a total not to exceed \$38,336.11.

Committee Members comments, concerns and future agenda items: Next month's agenda should include the loader bids, bonding, the STP Project and a job description.

Adjourn to next regular meeting: There being no further business it was moved by Neuens, seconded by Gardner and voted unanimous to adjourn to January 13th, 2014 for the next regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Freeberg
Office Manager