

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, October 8, 2014

COMMITTEE: Highway

CHAIRMAN: William Bostwick

MEMBERS PRESENT: William Bostwick, Richard Hurlbert, Arlene Bonacci, Jim Jansen and Pete Pennington.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Rusch, Patrol Superintendent Washatko, Office Manager Wells and Rick Satterlee from Ayres Associates.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bostwick at 7:30 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVE AGENDA/MINUTES:

Chairman Bostwick asked for additions to the agenda. There were none. Motion by Pennington, second by Bonacci, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. Motion by Jansen, second by Hurlbert, to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2014 meeting. Motion carried.

DISCUSS MACHINERY, SHOP AND REPAIRS:

Routine maintenance continues in the shop as needed. Seasonal and preventative maintenance on plow trucks continues. The main rails/box repair on plow truck #86, the engine replacement on plow truck #97, and the head replacement on the paver have been completed. Repairs to the concrete around the pit scale will be completed this week. The two new International single-axle patrol trucks #28 and #29, which will be replacing #8 and #9, will be delivered next week to the vendor shop for equipment transfer. The new Mack single-axle patrol truck #2 and the new Mack quad-axle dump truck #140 are at the vendor shop for equipment installation.

DISCUSS HIGHWAY OPERATIONS:

Summer work is wrapping up for the year. There are only a few days left of pavement marking. There also are only a few days of paving remaining (Town of Rolling and CTH "W"). We are patching and brushing as needed. We only have a few more days left of crushing and then will be shutting down for the season. We will be crack sealing on STH "64", Pioneer Road for the Town of Antigo, and County roads. The gravel haul for the Forestry Department Wolf River State Trail has been completed. Winter prep work, including making salt sand, will begin in a couple weeks. The September budget report was distributed.

DISCUSS ATV ROUTE REQUEST FROM VILAS-DEERBROOK RIDERS ATV CLUB, ON CTH "J", FROM KENNEDY ROAD (WEST) TO ORMSBY ROAD:

Vilas-Deerbrook Riders ATV Club submitted a request for an ATV route on CTH "J", from Kennedy Road (west) to Ormsby Road. Commissioner Rusch stated it is about a 2-1/2 mile stretch, and the daily traffic count is approximately 200, with quite a few being trucks. The roadway in this area was reconstructed approximately six years ago, and though it improved the alignment, the easterly portion is hilly and curvy. Motion by Pennington, second by Hurlbert, to approve the ATV route request from the Vilas-Deerbrook Riders ATV Club on CTH "J", from Kennedy Road (west) to Ormsby Road. Motion carried.

DISCUSS EMPLOYEE USE OF CELL PHONES DURING WORK HOURS:

Chairman Bostwick stated he feels that the policy discussed last month (no personal use of a cell phone while on County time and no talking on cell phones while driving County trucks) is adequate. He would like to have truck numbers placed on the back tailgate of dump boxes, in addition to the numbers already on the doors, so the public can see the truck numbers more easily. The Commissioner and Patrol Superintendent will emphasize the policy to employees.

DISCUSS NEW IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY STATUTES AND PERMITS:

The State Legislature has passed Act 377 which will go into effect in 2015. The legislation addresses Implements of Husbandry (farm equipment) size and weight, with the most significant change being increasing the allowable weight to 92,000 pounds, which will shorten the life of roads. Oversize/overweight permits will be required. WCHA and DOT have determined there are six options counties can consider to comply with the new rules. The Commissioner and several Committee members will be attending the North Central Region Fall meeting on October 10, and this will be one of the topics of discussion. This item will be put on the November agenda and the Committee will need to select an option, and a resolution or ordinance may be required for County Board approval.

STATUS UPDATE ON CTH B PROJECT:

The Commissioner updated the Committee on the status of the CTH "B" project. The paving, pavement marking, and signing have been completed. With the additional work and the wet weather we had this summer some of the landscaping from the project might have to be touched up in the spring. Rick Satterlee from Ayres Associates addressed the Committee regarding the cost overrun due to the sub-standard soils (silty clays) found under the old road bed. He assured the Committee that Ayres Associates wants to work with Langlade County on cost overruns. Now that final costs are known, Ayres Associates would like to have a meeting with Corporation Counsel Stowe and Commissioner Rusch to address cost sharing.

CONTINUED REVIEW OF CURRENT FEES AND CHARGES:

Discussion continued regarding the fees and charges that were established by prior Highway Committees. At the September meeting it was approved to charge a 2-1/2% administration fee to all non WI DOT customers effective January 1, 2015. The Commissioner has talked to several of our key Town customers to explain the addition of the administration fee.

Office Manager Wells discussed equipment storage costs. WIDOT reimburses the County for the State highway share, but equipment storage costs were removed from other customers' equipment charges in 1994, and are being funded along with the County's share by the County Road and Bridge Fund road maintenance budget. After discussion, Office Manager Wells was asked to put together ideas to implement charging equipment storage costs to other customers. This will be put on the November agenda.

DISCUSS LONG TERM PLANNING/ECONOMIC CONDITIONS:

There was no discussion on this topic.

ADJOURN MEETING:

Motion by Pennington, second by Bonacci, to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 a.m. Motion carried.

Arlene Bonacci, Secretary