

## **HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, September 11, 2013

COMMITTEE: Highway

CHAIRMAN: Jeffrey Zalewski

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeffrey Zalewski, Arlene Bonacci, Richard Hurlbert, Rick Bina and William Bostwick.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Rusch, Patrol Superintendent Washatko, Rick Satterlee from Ayres and Associates, County Board Chairman Dave Solin and Troy Brown from Kretz Lumber.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **APPROVE AGENDA/MINUTES:**

Chairman Zalewski asked for additions to the agenda. There were none. Motion by Bonacci, second by Bina, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. County Board Chairman Solin noted he was at the Highway Committee meeting on August 19, 2013 those minutes will be amended to reflect Chairman Solin's presence. Motion by Hurlbert, second by Bonacci, to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2013 and the amended minutes of the August 19, 2013 meetings. Motion carried.

### **DISCUSS MACHINERY, SHOP AND REPAIRS:**

The new mechanic started work on September 9, 2013 and seems to be off to a good start. The crusher bearing work is complete. The hot mix plant is running well. The installation of a rebuilt transmission in #153 and clutch work on other quad axle dump trucks is complete. Routine and preventative maintenance continues on equipment. The two new plow trucks that were purchased this year are at the vendor having the snow equipment installed on them; Shop Supervisor Moyle will be going to inspect the progress on those trucks next week. Routine seasonal maintenance is being performed on plow trucks, prepping for the winter months.

### **DISCUSS HIGHWAY OPERATIONS:**

Today and tomorrow we will be paving on CTH "C" from USH "45 to CTH "A". After the potato harvest is completed next month we will be paving Star Neva Road for the Town of Neva. Gravel jobs for the Towns of Polar and Langlade and paving on North Clermont Street for the Town of Antigo were completed. Cracksealing and winter prep (including making salt/sand) will begin soon. The August budget report was distributed.

### **DISCUSS KRETZ LUMBER REQUEST FOR HEAVY LOAD PERMIT ON CTH G:**

In the state budget this year the legislature approved the DOT issuing permits for "Michigan Loads" (11 axles, 164,000#) on six State Highways in the northern part of the state. USH "45" is one of these roads, from the Michigan border to Langlade County Highway "G". Kretz Lumber is requesting the Highway Committee increase the weight limit on CTH "G" for a little over 3 miles so these trucks can haul logs and lumber to/from their firm. Troy Brown from Kretz Lumber explained their proposed use of the heavy trucks in their business.

Commissioner Rusch explained the Department's concerns regarding this request; the first concern being the 25 year-old bridge over Spring Brook, and second concern being the fact that the road structure is not designed for the heavy loads. With additional load weights traveling the road, it is anticipated that the road would deteriorate faster, with increased rutting and cracking, reducing the life of the pavement. Commissioner Rusch feels we should hire an engineering firm to analyze the bridge and roadway, so we can better understand the short-and- long-term costs of allowing the heavy loads.

The Committee needs to consider the cost to study the request, and the increased costs incurred due to the heavy loads. Commissioner Rusch will be contacting two engineering firms for proposals to analyze the bridge and roadway, and will contact Mr. Brown with the cost. Kretz Lumber will consider funding the engineering study. This item will be placed on the next Committee meeting agenda.

**DISCUSS ATV ROUTE REQUEST ON CTH T:**

At the request of the ATV Club, this item was tabled until the Club performs additional work on looking into alternatives.

**DISCUSS STAFFING RESOLUTION:**

At the August 14, 2013 meeting, the Committee requested Commissioner Rusch prepare a resolution for the County Board to "pre-approve" refilling any staffing vacancies which would occur during a critical winter maintenance window of September thru March, at the discretion of the Highway Committee. After review of the resolution, motion by Hurlbert, second by Bina, to approve the resolution and forward it to the Personnel and Executive Committees and the County Board for approval. Motion carried.

**DISCUSS NORTH CENTRAL REGION FALL MEETING - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2013:**

Motion by Hurlbert, second by Bostwick, to approve Commissioner Rusch and four Committee members to attend the North Central Region Fall Highway Conference on October 25, 2013 in Stratford, WI. Motion carried.

**DISCUSS COMMISSIONER TRAINING OCTOBER 21-22:**

Motion by Hurlbert, second by Bostwick, to allow Commissioner Rusch to attend Commissioner's training on October 21 and 22, 2013 in Oshkosh, WI. Motion carried.

**AT APPROXIMATELY 8:15 A.M., CONSIDER MOVING INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO WISCONSIN STATUTE 19.85 (1) (C) TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR TWO COMMON LABORER POSITIONS:**

Motion by Bonacci, second by Bina, to move into closed session at 8:48 a.m. By individual vote of the Committee; all ayes.

**AT APPROXIMATELY 9:15 A.M., RETURN TO OPEN SESSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION ON ANY MATTER DISCUSSED DURING CLOSED SESSION:**

Motion by Bonacci, second by Bostwick, to move out of closed session at 9:08 a.m. Motion carried.

Motion by Hurlbert, second by Bonacci, to offer interviews to the selected candidates for the two open Common Laborer positions and eligibility list. Interviews are to be conducted on September 24, 2013; the meeting will start at 3:15 p.m. with interviews starting at 3:30 p.m. Motion carried.

**ADJOURN MEETING:**

Motion by Bina, second by Bonacci, to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 a.m. Motion carried.

Richard H. Hurlbert, Secretary