

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Public Works
CHAIRPERSON: Randy Jobgen
DATE/TIME: July 28, 2014 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berlage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dittmar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heurman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hughes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jobgen	<input type="checkbox"/> Smith

Others: Steve Keeffer, Gene Shick

MINUTES

1. Minutes

Merri Berlage made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2014 meeting, Rick Dittmar seconded, and the motion carried.

2. Citizens' Comments

Gene Shick from Warren advised the committee that there is still a lot of traffic driving past the road closed signs on Stagecoach Trail and turning around in his driveway.

3. Highway Department

a. Old Business

1. Stagecoach Trail Temporary Culvert

The committee reviewed bids for the culvert pipe and end section for the temporary culvert to be installed on Stagecoach Trail to replace the closed bridge. There was a brief discussion on the wisdom of installing the culverts because a past situation with some similarities was not successful. The general consensus was that this location has different conditions and characteristics. There was also some discussion on what thickness of pipe to install. Since the intent is to remove the pipe, it will be better to have a thicker pipe to stand up to the stress of the additional moving and handling. The thicker pipe will also last longer in a permanent installation. Dan Hughes made a motion to purchase the end section and 8 guage pipe from Contech Construction Products at a price of \$38,343.00, Bob Heurman seconded, and the motion carried. Steve Keeffer indicated that he is waiting

to receive a few more quotes for the pipe installation and would like to have a short meeting before the county board meeting to consider them.

2. Project Schedule Update

The list of ongoing projects was reviewed and discussed. Steve Keeffer informed the committee that he had negotiated the final piece of ROW for the Longhollow Road project and needs to get a check wrote ASAP to make the September bid letting.

3. Committee Goals and Objectives

The committee goals and objectives were reviewed.

4. County Board Retreat Items

The committee reviewed the county board retreat items

5. River Road/Bike Trail Discussion

The committee did not have any new information to consider.

6. Hybrid Robotic Total Station/GPS Survey Equipment Bid

The committee reviewed two bids for new survey equipment. The bids are for a robotic total station and gps receiver that work in conjunction. This equipment will allow one person to perform construction layout and data collection duties that in the past has taken at least a 2 person crew. The old survey equipment is approaching 20 years old and needs to be updated. The bids that were received were for Topcon Equipment and include the data collector, gps receiver, hand held data collector, and all the necessary accessories (poles, brackets, prisms, etc.). The low bid was from Positioning Solutions Company from Carol Stream, Illinois at a price of \$29,540. Merri Berlage made a motion to award the bid to Positioning Solutions Company, Rick Dittmar seconded, and the motion carried.

b. New Business

1. FY 2015 Budget Items

Steve Keeffer updated the committee on his efforts to prepare the budget for 2015. He indicated that he had made some adjustments to allow for the purchase of a used motor grader to update the aging fleet. He also informed them that he would like to add an additional 100 hours for the Office Manager. Steve Keeffer also asked the committee if they would consider adding a full time technical position with an advanced degree to assist in bridge and culvert plan preparation. With the aging infrastructure and all the recent bridge problems the situation will only get worse. Steve Keeffer would like to do as much of this work 'in house' because the county can simply not afford the consultant fees. Steve Keeffer is the only staff member that has an advanced degree and most of his time is allocated to other activities. The remaining current technical staff is also splitting their time between other duties. The net result is that projects are not getting done in a timely manner and the culvert and bridge issues are occurring at an accelerating rate. Rick Dittmar made a motion to add the funding for a full time technical position to the Highway Fund budget, Merri Berlage seconded, and the motion carried.

2. 2015 Lead Rush Marathon

The committee reviewed the information for the 2015 Lead Rush Marathon to be conducted on Blackjack Road the first weekend of November. After a brief discussion, Merri Berlage made a motion to approve the marathon, Rick Dittmar seconded, and the motion carried.

3. Rental Fees for County Highway Facilities

The committee discussed what kind of 'rent' should be charged to other county departments that are storing items in County Highway Department Facilities. The committee instructed Steve Keeffer to do some research and find out what commercial storage facilities charge.

4. Inviting Other County Board Members to Committee Meetings

The committee discussed the possibility of inviting other county board members to committee meeting when items/projects in their district are being considered. There were concerns about when you would or wouldn't offer the invitation – for all items, only certain items, what criteria would be used to decide, etc. The committee consensus was to send committee agendas to all county board members. Merri Berlage indicated that she may bring the item up an executive committee meeting and have all committee agendas sent to all county board members.

5. 2014 MFT Maintenance Resolution

The committee reviewed the MFT Maintenance Resolution for the 2014 construction season. This resolution authorizes the obligation of \$298,211.06 of MFT funds for the 2014 maintenance program. Merri Berlage made a motion to approve the resolution, Rick Dittmar seconded, and the motion carried.

4. Noxious Weeds

a. Old Business

1. Appointment of a Weed Commissioner

The committee discussed the lack of a county weed commissioner. Mike Malon with the Jo Daviess County Soil and Water Conservation District is still interested in the position. The county will be contracting with the Soil and Water Conservation District for the work, not directly with Mr. Malon. Merri Berlage made a motion to have States Attorney John Hay create an intergovernmental agreement between the county and the SWCD for the weed commissioner, Dan Hughes seconded, and the motion carried.

5. Board Member Concerns

Rick Dittmar made the committee aware of some ADA surveys that were being done by IDOT in the Village of Elizabeth.

6. Citizens Comments

None

The meeting concluded at 9:30 P.M.