

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Public Works
CHAIRPERSON: Randy Jobgen
DATE/TIME: November 24, 2014 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Berlage
 Hughes

Dittmar
 Jobgen

Heurman
 Smith

Others: Steve Keeffer

MINUTES

1. Minutes

Dan Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2014, August 12, 2014, September 22, 2014, and November 10, 2014 meetings, Bob Heurman seconded, and the motion carried.

2. Citizens' Comments

None

3. Highway Department

a. Old Business

1. Project Schedule Update

The list of ongoing projects was reviewed and discussed. Steve Keeffer informed the committee that IDOT has asked for more county bridges to be load posted.

2. Committee Goals and Objectives

The committee goals and objectives were reviewed.

3. County Board Retreat Items

The committee reviewed the county board retreat items

4. Blackjack Road/Batey Hollow Road Trees

The committee reviewed a letter from Larry Begun regarding trees that were moved along Blackjack Road 2 years ago. There is an agreement in place that states the county will replace any trees that are dead or dying within two years of being moved. While none of the trees are dead, Mr. Begun is concerned that some may be dying. Steve Keeffer has spoken with Mr. Begun and suggested that the agreement be extended an additional 2 years to see if the trees improve. Mr. Begun was amenable to that concept and agreed to draft a revised agreement.

b. New Business

1. Engineering agreement for providing structural sheets for the culvert project on Stagecoach Trail over Clear Creek

The committee reviewed an engineering agreement from Willet Hofmann and Associates for providing structural sheets for the culvert project on Stagecoach Trail over Clear Creek west of Warren. Steve Keeffer explained that most of the project plans would be completed 'in house' but the plans for the actual culvert (structure) need to be stamped by a structural engineer. The estimated cost of these services is \$12,832. Merri Berlage made a motion to approve the agreement, Bob Heuerman seconded and the motion carried.

2. Engineering agreement for providing structural sheets for the culvert project on Stagecoach Trail over a Tributary of Clear Creek

The committee reviewed an engineering agreement from Willet Hofmann and Associates for providing structural sheets for the culvert project on Stagecoach Trail over a Tributary of Clear Creek west of Warren. The estimated cost of these services is \$10,697.40. Merri Berlage made a motion to approve the agreement, Bob Heuerman seconded and the motion carried.

3. Engineering agreement for providing structural sheets for the culvert project on Willow Road over Muddy Plum River

The committee reviewed an engineering agreement from Willet Hofmann and Associates for providing structural sheets for the culvert project on Willow Road over Muddy Plum River south of Stockton. The estimated cost of these services is \$13,991. Bob Heuerman made a motion to approve the agreement, Dan Hughes seconded and the motion carried.

4. Engineering agreement for providing structural sheets for the culvert project on Massbach Road over Scrub Creek

The committee reviewed an engineering agreement from Willet Hofmann and Associates for providing structural sheets for the culvert project on Massbach Road over Scrub Creek south of Elizabeth. The estimated cost of these services is \$13,991. Dan Hughes made a motion to approve the agreement, Merri Berlage seconded and the motion carried.

5. Savanna Army Depot Road Maintenance Agreement

An intergovernmental agreement identical to the one used last year was reviewed by the committee. This agreement is between Jo Daviess County and Washington Township for the winter maintenance (snow plowing) of 1.6 miles of Jo Daviess County highways in the former Savanna Army Depot. For a cost of \$2,250, Washington Township will maintain our section of road in the depot. This has been done since the roads were accepted by the county. Dan Hughes made a motion to accept the agreement, Merri Berlage seconded, and the motion carried.

6. Petition from the City of Galena for County Aid in the Replacement of a Bridge on Dewey Avenue over Hughlett Branch

The committee reviewed a petition from the City of Galena requesting 50/50 county aid for the replacement of a bridge carrying Dewey Avenue over Hughlett Branch. Steve Keeffer explained that like townships, the county is obligated by statute to assist municipalities in the repair and replacement of drainage structures if they meet certain conditions. The bridge in question is 60+ years old and is deteriorating. The cost to the county is estimated to be \$60,000. Merri Berlage made a motion to approve the petition noting that the city will have to meet all the statutory requirements, Bob Heurman seconded, and the motion carried.

4. Noxious Weeds

a. Old Business

1. Appointment of a Weed Commissioner

Steve Keeffer has spoken with State's Attorney John Hay regarding the Weed Commissioner. Mr. Hay stated that the Weed Commissioner needs to be an employee of the county, not a contractor. The committee discussed what may be involved in adding an employee and the costs involved and if the county really needs a weed commissioner. The FSA office has indicated that the county needs a weed commissioner for them to administrate parts of the CRP program. Merri Berlage agreed to speak with FSA offices in other counties to see how they enforce noxious weed issues.

5. Board Member Concerns

Ron Smith indicated that he had received a comment from a constituent that was having difficulty contacting the Animal Control Office. Randy Jobgen mentioned that there was a news story from the Quad Cities about Scott County not salting bridges.

6. Citizens Comments

None

The meeting concluded at 8:32 P.M.