

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Public Works
CHAIRPERSON: Merri Berlage
DATE/TIME: September 24, 2012 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Berlage
 Jackson

Dittmar
 Schultz

Hill
 Sheridan

Others: Steve Keeffer, Dan Reimer, and Brad Petersburg

MINUTES

1. Citizens' Comments

Brad Petersburg briefed the committee on the current status of efforts to establish a group to work with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to assist in the maintenance of trails in IDNR owned properties.

2. Minutes

Rick Dittmar asked to clarify some information that was in the July 23, 2012 Public Works Committee minutes. Specifically the Blackjack Road/Batey Hollow Road intersection tree discussion – he wanted to confirm that the cost of the tree mowing was going to be a total of \$3,000 for all the trees, and the county and the tree owners were going to split that cost.

Marvin Schultz made a motion to approve minutes from the August 14th meeting, Dane Jackson seconded, and the motion carried.

3. Highway Department

a. Project Schedule Update

The committee reviewed the list of current projects. Steve Keeffer with the committee about the issues identified at the July meeting with the Longhollow Road Bridge project has some additional issues to resolve. Steve Keeffer has been working with the consulting engineer to implement some cost saving measures and to phase the project construction to make it more affordable. In addition, the proposed funding source for the first phase of the project has been changed to federal funding. Steve Keeffer will continue to update the committee.



b. Blackjack Road/Batey Hollow Road Intersection Discussion

Steve Keeffer informed the committee that additional pavement striping has been added to the intersection to better delineate Batey Hollow Road. The agreement has been signed, and we are waiting for the proper conditions to move the trees (after the first hard freeze).

c. Stagecoach Trail Tiling/Wetland Discussion

Steve Keeffer has met with a representative of the Army Corps of Engineers on site regarding this issue. This will be a rather involved process. A joint application for the proposed work would have to be submitted and the project would be subject to the wetland requirements. This would involve hiring a consultant to do a wetland delineation and the project would most likely require wetland mitigation since the wetland impact would be over the established thresholds. Steve Keeffer will contact the property owner and advise him of the situation.

d. Witkowsky Trail Volunteer Agreement

Brad Peterson updated the committee on his efforts to form a group to do trail maintenance in the Witkowsky Wildlife Area. This area is owned and managed by the IDNR and there is a group that would like to assist the IDNR in updating/maintaining a trail network at the property. The IDNR will only enter into agreements with a taxing body like the county or a township. The committee had some concerns including allocating county resources to this item and insurance. The committee would like the group to explore options with more local units of government – perhaps townships or park districts.

e. Radio Narrow Banding

Steve Keeffer updated the committee on the narrow banding project. The equipment has been ordered and delivered, but not installed. They are still finalizing the programming of frequencies before installing the equipment.



f. I Fiber Equipment Housing Discussion

The committee considered a request from I Fiber to house some broadband equipment at the Highway Department Building. Steve Keeffer has spoke with Joe Kratcha about the situation and learned that they cannot offer a rebate on the internet service for housing the equipment. They would also need 24/7 access to their equipment and there would be some insurance issues to work out. The committee thought it may be better to house the equipment in a facility that had better “after hour” accessibility (ie. Hospital). The committee instructed Steve Keeffer to contact I Fiber and ask that they consider other options.

g. County Bridge Issues

The committee discussed issues about county bridges. Steve Keeffer has been able to look at the older county maintained bridges to identify potential problems. There are several bridges that will require replacement and/or repair in the next few years. Steve Keeffer has discussed funding options with IDOT and has identified some funding sources. Some funds may have to be re allocated from other road maintenance projects to pay for bridge work. The committee instructed Steve Keeffer to prepare a written report detailing the bridges and the issues, remedies, funding sources, and consequences of the possible actions.

i. Blackjack Road Bridge Repair Update

The committee discussed the Blackjack Road/Small Pox Bridge project. The bids have been received and the project was awarded to Brandt Construction from Milan, Illinois at a cost of \$117,585.75. The project is slated to begin on October 9th and completed by November 17th.

j. Hanover Building Material Quotes

Steve Keeffer informed the committee that quotes are being solicited for materials for work to be done to the Hanover Facility. Materials include concrete, rebar, rebar accessories, windows, insulation, and pex piping.



k. Unit Price Agreement for Pleasant Valley Road Seal Coat Project

The committee considered a ‘Unit Price Agreement’ with IDOT for a federally funded day labor seal coat project in Pleasant Valley Township on Elmoville and Groezinger Roads. This project is being funded as a FHWA ‘Emergency Repair’ project associated with the bridge on Bethel Road that remains closed from last years flooding. The aforementioned bridge is scheduled for replacement next year utilizing the same ER funds. The roads that were seal coated are the local township roads that are receiving additional traffic as a result of the bridge closure. These agreements have to be approved for the county to receive the reimbursement for the seal coat work. Rick Dittmar made a motion to approve the Unit Price Agreement, Don Hill seconded, and the motion carried.

l. Weed Commissioner Discussion

The committee briefly discussed the Weed Commissioner position. The committee asked Dan Reimer to maintain the current funding level, \$1,500, for the weed commissioner activities in the county budget.

j. Review Committee Goals and Objectives

The committee reviewed the list of goals and objectives.

4. Citizen Comments

None

5. Board Member Concerns

The committee was informed of an upcoming electronics pick up in Elizabeth scheduled for October 1st.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.