

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Public Works
CHAIRPERSON: Jody Carroll
DATE/TIME: August 23, 2005 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Berlage
 Carroll

Jackson
 Kent

Schubert
 Toepfer

Others: Steve Keeffer

MINUTES

1. Minutes

Domer Schubert made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes, Dane Jackson seconded, and the motion carried.

2. Highway Department

a. Project Schedule Update.

Steve Keeffer presented the committee with a list of current projects, and their respective status.

b. Intersection Improvements.

The committee discussed the intersection of Elizabeth Scales Mound Road and Stagecoach Trail. Steve Keeffer has compiled some information and cost data for different possible changes. The proposed changes range from the status quo, to flashing beacons, Stagecoach Trail realignment, and roadside embankment removal. The committee reviewed some documents that studied the effectiveness of flashing beacons. The cost of flashing beacons on the stop signs at the intersection and the warning signs before the intersection are estimated to cost \$10,000. Changing the vertical alignment to increase sight distance to the east is estimated to cost \$180,000. Removing the roadside embankments both north and south of Stagecoach Trail to open up the view of the intersection for westbound Stagecoach Trail traffic is estimated to cost \$250,000. After some deliberation, the committee advised Steve Keeffer to add additional Stop Ahead signs on the opposite side of the road on Elizabeth Scales Mound Road. Steve Keeffer will also have speed advisory placards added to the intersection signs on Stagecoach Trail.

c. Used End Loader Search Update.

Steve Keeffer updated the committee on the end loader issue. Local highway agencies with end loaders with snow wings were consulted on their experiences with this type of equipment. They all reported that they thought the machine was an effective snow mover, but a modern motor grader with six wheel drive does a better job. Steve Keeffer also considered if any other type of equipment could be utilized, and concluded that an end loader or grader is the only machine with enough mass to do the job. The purchase of a new end loader, and trading off the existing end loader was explored. A machine similar in size to the current end loader would cost about \$100,000.

Replacing the existing loader will require the purchase of a similar sized machine in order to use the existing snow blower. The snow blower will also require a removable front mounted wing in lieu of a less expensive mid mounted wing. A used end loader that is bigger than the current end loader has been located at a cost of \$60,000. Two older (1966 & 1967) Caterpillar motor graders would also be eliminated with the acquisition of a second end loader. These graders could either be traded or sold. After much discussion, it was decided that a used machine would be the most cost effective option. It would eliminate two aging machines, and provide an effective snow removal tool that will be utilized the rest of the year. Dane Jackson made a motion to purchase a used Case 821C wheel loader from McCann Industries in Bolingbrook, Illinois at a cost of \$60,000, Alan Kent seconded, and the motion carried. The committee asked Steve Keeffer to see if McCann Industries would take the old Caterpillar graders on trade, or investigate other ways to sell them.

d. Budget Discussion.

Budget information was passed out to the committee for their perusal. There was general discussion about the proposed budget. The budget will be discussed at a special meeting on August 30, 2005.

e. Building / Site Updates

The committee engaged in a discussion about possible changes to the Highway Department building and property. Concerns have been raised about the condition and layout of the parking and building and how it can be confusing to determine where to enter the building, and where the different offices are. There were also questions raised about where staff parks and how it may be taking up space that the public could use. Steve Keeffer indicated that he had been approached by the owner of the adjoining vacant lot to see if the county would be interested in buying the lot. There were also concerns raised about Highway Department dump trucks and equipment that sits

outside because there is no other place to put it. The lack of office space and an adequately sized conference room was also discussed. All county buildings appear to suffer from a lack of office space – the construction of more office space may allow some relief by rearranging offices. It was suggested that an ad hoc committee may be useful to study countywide office space issues. The committee instructed Steve Keeffer to prepare some preliminary sketches of different buildings and layouts that may address these concerns.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.