

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Public Works
CHAIRPERSON: Jody Carroll
DATE/TIME: January 23, 2007 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Berlage
 Carroll

Jackson
 Kent

Lorig
 Schultz

Others: Steve Keeffer, Warren Offenheiser

MINUTES

1. Minutes

Dane Jackson made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes, Mike Lorig seconded, and the motion carried.

2. Highway Department

a. Annual Spring Road Posting.

The committee discussed the annual spring road postings. Local farmer, Warren Offenheiser attended the meeting to explain the difficulties he has when the roads are posted. Mr. Offenheiser recently constructed a grain storage facility on his farm on Derinda Road. He is unable to efficiently transport corn during the spring postings, and his cash flow is disrupted. Mr. Offenheiser would also like to see some county roads upgraded to support heavier trucks (80,000 pounds versus 73,280 pounds). There was some discussion about the state funded Truck Access Route Program (TARP). TARP funds are available to counties and townships to pay for a portion of the cost to improve roads so they can support 80,000 pound trucks. In order to be eligible for this funding, the pavement has to be designed to support the loads, the road has to meet current geometric design policy, and the intersections have to be configured to allow the turning movement of a larger semi truck. After more discussion, Steve Keeffer suggested that it would be beneficial to core some of the county roads to accurately access the current pavement structure. This information could then be used to determine what would have to be done to upgrade the roads to support 80,000 pound trucks. The committee supported this idea and instructed Steve Keeffer to proceed with the coring process. Marv Schultz made a motion to approve a resolution for the annual spring road posting, Alan Kent seconded, and the motion carried.

b. Project Schedule Update.

The committee reviewed a list of current projects, and discussed their progress and status.

c. Dump/Plow Truck Specifications.

The committee reviewed specifications for a new dump/plow truck. There was some discussion about the need for a building to store the trucks in. Concerns were expressed about the affect of the elements on the trucks and how much deterioration is occurring. In order to have the funding to construct a building, it may be necessary to not purchase a truck one year and use that money for a building. Steve Keeffer suggested that next year may be a good year to skip a truck purchase, since the truck that will be replaced next year has lower miles. The committee will consider this when developing next year's budget. The only change made to the specifications for this year was power windows. With all the cab controls, it is difficult to reach the window crank on the passenger door. This window is often fogged up and or snow covered making it difficult to see traffic when pulling out from an intersection.

d. Miscellaneous Discussion.

The committee quickly discussed several other topics including, moving the meeting night to Monday night, a possible project on Cording Road, Rentech, a development on the east side of Galena, and coyote population problems.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.