

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE:** Public Works  
**CHAIRPERSON:** Jody Carroll  
**DATE/TIME:** May 20, 2008 7:00 P.M.

**PRESENT:**

Berlage  
 Carroll

Jackson  
 Kent

Lorig  
 Schultz

Others: Steve Keeffer

**MINUTES**

**1. Citizen's Comments**

None

**2. Minutes**

Mike Lorig made a motion to approve the April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, Alan Kent seconded, and the motion carried.

**3. Highway Department**

**a. Project Schedule Update.**

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

**b. Village of Hanover Seal Coating Request.**

Steve Keeffer informed the committee that he has been approached by the Mayor of Hanover with a request for County Highway forces to perform their seal coating work. The County Highway Department has been seal coating county highways for over 10 years, and have occasionally assisted various townships with small seal coat patches when it has been convenient to do so. The Village of Hanover asked for the county to seal coat all the village streets on the premise that it would cost less money than hiring a contractor to do the work. The committee discussed the resources it would take to do this type of project. There was also discussion about the precedent that would be set, and the likely potential for requests from other villages and townships. The committee determined that it would not be a good idea to start doing additional seal coat work at this time. If this type of additional work were to be considered, the existing county work force size and seal coating equipment

would have to be evaluated. Additional seal coating work could be an additional source of revenue, but it should be studied carefully.

**c. Weed Spraying Contract.**

The committee reviewed a contract for guardrail weed spraying work. The contract is with Primary Contractors Inc. (PCI) from Scales Mound. PCI did the weed spraying work last year, and did a good job. Alan Kent made a motion to approve the contract with PCI, Mike Lorig seconded, and the motion carried.

**d. Hanover Township Culvert Project Request.**

The committee considered a petition from Hanover Township requesting 50/50 aid for a culvert project along Steele Road over an unnamed creek. The existing structure is an 18in dia. corrugated metal pipe. The existing culvert is not large enough and not adequately armored to withstand high flow situations. There have been several failures. The proposed project is to replace the culvert with a larger metal pipe and concrete headwalls and armoring to improve high flow performance. The estimated construction cost is \$5,000. Mike Lorig made a motion to accept the petition, Marvin Schultz seconded, and the motion carried.

**e. Proposed Elizabeth Storage Building.**

Steve Keeffer presented the committee with a site plan to locate the proposed building on the recently acquired property east of the existing county highway department facility. Working around the limitations of topography and overhead electrical wires resulted in a less than ideal situation. The committee toured the grounds and considered other options. The committee instructed Steve Keeffer to contact Jo Carroll Energy about the possibility of moving electric wires and/or purchasing/trading property. There was also discussion about the size and configuration of the building, and the general consensus was that it should be convenient to use, and large enough to fit additional equipment. The committee will continue the discussion at the next meeting.

**f. New Vehicle Purchase.**

Funds were put in the current budget to allow for the purchase of a vehicle for the county engineer. For the last several years, the vehicle used by the county engineer (1/2 ton full size 4x4 pickup) has been placed in the highway maintenance fleet when a new county engineer vehicle is purchased. Steve Keeffer presented the committee with other options for more fuel efficient

vehicles for their consideration. Compact pickup trucks and small SUVs were compared to full size pickup trucks. After some discussion, the committee concluded that since the county engineer vehicle will eventually be part of the maintenance fleet, a full size pick up is the best choice. Steve Keeffer will solicit bids for a full size truck to be considered at the next committee meeting.

#### **4. Noxious Weeds**

##### **a. Weed Commissioner.**

The committee discussed the Weed Commissioner position. Steve Keeffer does not know if Cory Ritterbusch is interested in being the Weed Commissioner for this year. The committee instructed Steve Keeffer to contact Mr. Ritterbusch and inquire. If a new Weed Commissioner is needed, Steve Keeffer will review last year's applications, and advertise if necessary.

#### **5. Other Business**

None

#### **6. Citizen's Comments**

None

#### **7. Board Member Concerns**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.