

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE:** Public Works  
**CHAIRPERSON:** Merri Berlage  
**DATE/TIME:** June 25, 2012 7:00 P.M.

**PRESENT:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berlage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dittmar	<input type="checkbox"/> Hill
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schultz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sheridan

Others: Steve Keeffer, Dan Reimer, Sandra Principe, Steven Briggs, Barbara Briggs, Jim Musich, Julie Musich, Brad Petersburg, Peg Tonne, Karen Greiner, Jake Blevians

### MINUTES

#### 1. Citizens' Comments

Several citizens provided comments on the intersection of Blackjack Road and Batey Hollow Road, and the trees that have been planted in that location. Sandra Principe suggested that stop signs be installed as an interim solution. Several others offered comments that opposed the stop sign idea. There was a general consensus that the parties should keep moving forward to resolve the issue.

#### 2. Minutes

Dane Jackson made a motion to approve minutes from the May 29th meeting, Dan Sheridan seconded, and the motion carried.

#### 3. Highway Department

##### a. Blackjack Road/Batey Hollow Road Intersection Discussion

Steve Keeffer updated the committee on the progress that has been made regarding the concerns raised about the intersection of Blackjack Road and Batey Hollow Road. Steve Keeffer, Terry Kurt, and Larry Begun were supposed to meet at the site to discuss options to move trees. Mr. Begun had some unexpected health issues and that discussion has not taken place. Mr. Begun is recovering and the parties will meet as soon as they can. The committee discussed the stop sign suggestion. Steve Keeffer did not recommend this idea because it is contrary to the guidance given in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Steve Keeffer also provided some anecdotal evidence of accidents at other stop controlled intersections in

the county. No one on the committee was in favor of pursuing the stop sign idea. The committee would like to continue to negotiate for the removal/moving of the trees.

**b. Project Schedule Update**

The committee performed their monthly review of ongoing projects. Steve Keeffer updated them on project progress and current status.

**c. Stagecoach Trail Tiling/Wetland Discussion**

Steve Keeffer has left a message with the Army Corps of Engineers about this issue. Steve Keeffer has also estimated the costs of adding an addition tile line as was suggested during the discussion last month. Steve Keeffer will advise the committee of the results of his discussion with the ACOE.

**d. Pleasant Valley Township, Thoren Road Bridge, 50/50 Project**

The committee considered a request from Pleasant Valley Township for assistance for the installation of stone rip rap to armor the abutment of an existing bridge. The existing bridge has been subject to abutment scour from the recent flooding and it needs to be protected. The estimated cost of the project is \$15,000. The county share of the project would be half (\$7,500). Dane Jackson made a motion to approve the request, Dan Sheridan seconded, and the motion carried.

**e. TBP Funding Discussion**

Steve Keeffer provided the committee with some information on TBP funding and how it affects the county's budget. The question has been raised about how far into the future to anticipate future TBP allotments. Steve Keeffer would like to augment the existing information with a cash flow analysis. Steve Keeffer will continue the analysis.

**f. Radio Narrow Banding**

The committee considered a quote from Ira Wiesenfeld for \$2,000 to provide bidding documents to update the County Highway Department radio system to comply with mandated narrow banding. The project will consist of new equipment and should cost around \$20,000. Dane Jackson made a motion to accept Ira Wiesenfeld's proposal, Rick Dittmar seconded, and the motion carried.

**g. Galena Salt Storage Discussion**

The City of Galena has contacted the county making them aware of a compliant about the outdoor salt stockpile on West Street in Galena. Steve Keeffer told the committee that this is the last outdoor stockpile that the highway department uses and there are 3 or 4 townships that also use the material in the stock pile. Steve Keeffer believes that this stock pile could be eliminated once a salt building is built in Hanover and if there was a building to park salt truck(s) in Galena so the material does not freeze in the dump box. Steve Keeffer suggested that the current building at Galena could serve this purpose with some modification. Steve Keeffer would also like the option of getting salt from the City of Galena's stockpile in extreme weather situations (ice storm). The committee asked Steve Keeffer to gather more information for further discussion at future meetings.

**h. Discussion and possible action on Hazard Mitigation Projects for the JDC Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Steve Keeffer informed the committee that a list of potential projects has to be compiled for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Steve Keeffer will also solicit projects from the township highway commissioners.

**i. Timber Piling Inspection**

Steve Keeffer advised the committee that the county has two bridges on timber piles. Steve Keeffer suggested that these two structures should be a high priority for replacement and be carefully watched for signs of distress/pile compromise.

**j. Hanover Building Updates**

Steve Keeffer informed the committee that he would like to begin replacing some of the existing windows in the office building this year. He has prepared a proposed future floor plan to ensure that any new windows will not be installed in a location that will cause future problems. The committee advised Steve Keeffer to move forward with the window replacement plans.

**k. Part Time Job Description**

The committee reviewed a proposed job description for part time maintenance worker. Dan Sheridan made a motion to forward the description to the Executive Committee, Rick Dittmar seconded, and the motion carried.

**l. PEP Bid**

The committee reviewed a bid tab for asphalt prime (PEP) that is needed for the Bethel Road Detour project in Pleasant Valley Township. The low bid was from Flint Hills Resources in Dubuque at a price of \$479.42 per ton. This is the same price and vendor that had the low bid on PEP from the annual township MFT letting in April. Marvin Schultz made a motion to award the bid to Flint Hills Resources, Dan Sheridan seconded, and the motion carried.

**m. Joint Agreement for Elmo/Elmville/Groezinger Road Project**

The committee reviewed a Joint Agreement for the Bethel Road Detour project in Pleasant Valley Township. This agreement is necessary to secure the federal emergency repair funds for this project. Rick Dittmar made a motion to approve the agreement, Dane Jackson seconded, and the motion carried

**n. Review Committee Goals and Objectives**

The committee reviewed the list of goals and objectives.

**4. Citizen Comments**

None

**5. Board Member Concerns**

Marvin Schultz advised the committee of the options to distribute the property tax levies for the upcoming budget year.

Marvin Schultz commented on the reduction in fence line brush management by rural land owners as the nature of agriculture has changed through the years. Fences are not being maintained as they were when there was more livestock and less absentee land owners. The result is brush and trees that encroach onto the right of way creating more work for highway agencies.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 P.M.