

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Public Works
CHAIRPERSON: John Creighton
DATE/TIME January 23, 2023 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

☒ Creighton
☒ Heitkamp
☐ Trost

☒ Endress
☒ Heuerman

☒ Grizzoffi
☒ Holt

Others: Steve Keeffer

MINUTES

1. Minutes

Bob Heuerman made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2022 Public Works meeting, John Grizzoffi seconded, and the motion carried.

2. Citizens' Comments

None

3. Highway Department

a. Old Business

1. Project Schedule Update

Steve Keeffer prepared a map of the county with all active projects delineated. The committee discussed many of the projects and their progress/status.

2. Solar Electricity Options at the Hanover Facility

There was continuing discussion about solar energy systems. After some discussion, the committee consensus was to keep the item on future agendas, monitor new state funding programs for tax free agencies to install solar systems, and talk to the City of Galena to see how they funded their solar systems.

3. County Cemetery Discussion

This item was discussed briefly. The new committee members had some questions and ideas on how to proceed. The item will remain on the agenda.

b. New Business

1. Spring Road Postings

Annual spring road postings were discussed. A resolution was reviewed that allows the County Engineer to post the county roads at his discretion for not more than 90 days between the dates of February 15 to May 15. John Grizzoffi made a motion to approve the resolution, Bob Heuerman, seconded and the motion carried.

2. Sourcewell Procurement Methods

Steve Keeffer enlightened the committee on the ongoing struggles to bid and procure vehicles and equipment using traditional bidding methods that have worked in the past. In the current supply strained market, vehicle and equipment manufacturers are limited in their ability to order new vehicles and now have a small 'window' to do so, and are limited on the number of orders. Using the traditional bidding methods, which typically take weeks/months to commit to a purchase' are no longer working. The Highway Department has not been able to order a new plow truck for 2 years when it used to be an annual purchase. As the current fleet ages, this will become an issue. Other counties have used a cooperative public purchasing coalition based in Minnesota now known as 'Sourcewell'. The agency negotiates pricing from several vendors which other counties have determined to meet the state procurement statutes. Steve Keeffer would like to get an opinion from State's Attorney Allendorf regarding the legitimacy of Sourcewell to see if it could be an alternative to traditional bidding. If Sourcewell is found to be a bidding alternative, we can simply commit to purchases without using the bidding process and be able to order items when the window of opportunity presents itself.

3. Skid Loader Trailer Purchase

The committee reviewed quotations for a new skid steer trailer. The low quote was from Nite Equipment in Pecatonica, IL at an after-trade cost of \$15,748. After some discussion, Mike Holt made a motion to approve the purchase of a new skid loader trailer at an after-trade cost of \$15,748 from Nite Equipment of Pecatonica, IL, Steve Endress seconded, and the motion passed.

4. Planned Equipment Purchases for 2023

Steve Keeffer reviewed planned equipment/vehicle purchases for 2023. In addition to what was contemplated at the time the 2023 budget was developed, there has been interdepartmental discussion about acquiring a mini excavator. The committee discussed this possibility but also thought a larger excavator may be a better choice. The discussion will continue.

5. UTV Usage on Public Roads

The committee reviewed prior discussions about the possibility of allowing off road vehicles (UTV/'side by sides') to access public roadways. Current state statutes do not allow these types of vehicles to use roadways with speed limits that are greater than 35 mph. The committee discussed the economic impact that other areas have realized by allowing UTVs to use public roadways. John Creighton will discuss the situation with State's Attorney Allendorf to see what options currently exist.

6. 2023 Public Works Committee Meeting Dates

The committee reviewed proposed dates and times for committee meetings for 2023. It was proposed to continue to have meetings on the 4th Monday of each month at Hanover at 6:00pm. Discussion ensued regarding the meeting time. After some discussion, John Grizzoffi made a motion to have the meetings on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:00pm with the exception of May through August meetings being held at 7:00pm, Joe Heitkamp seconded, and the motion passed.

5. Citizens Comments

None

6. Board Member Concerns

Steve Keeffer informed the committee that he has been struggling to fill the open Mechanics position.

John Grizzoffi has been asked about installing guardrail on Stagecoach Trail at the site of recent accidents. Steve Keeffer suggested that an accident map be developed to investigate if there are locations throughout the county that warrant an investigation into mitigation efforts to improve safety. Steve Keeffer will work to create a map.

The meeting concluded 8:02 P.M.