

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Public Works
CHAIRPERSON: John Creighton
DATE/TIME February 27, 2023 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

☒ Creighton
☒ Heitkamp
☐ Trost

☒ Endress
☒ Heuerman

☒ Grizzoffi
☐ Holt

Others: Steve Keeffer, Scott Toot

MINUTES

1. Minutes

Bob Heuerman made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2023 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. Steve Keeffer has talked to the City of Galena to see how they funded their solar systems. The City's system is about 10 years old and was partially funded with grants. The City Administrator suggested that we may want to talk to some other vendors about a power agreement where a private entity would own the system and provide the solar generated power to the county. The private owner would be able to utilize the current tax benefits that are not available to

the county. Steve Keeffer will talk with other solar power vendors to see if they offer this type of arrangement.

3. County Cemetery Discussion

This item was discussed briefly. The recent ice storm caused some of the trees in the 'Poor Farm Cemetery' to fall onto an adjacent private drive. Highway Department staff removed the offending trees. There was discussion about how to preemptively remove some of the trees and brush from the cemetery. Steve Keeffer and Scott Toot will tour the cemetery when the weather allows and report back to the committee.

4. Sourcewell Procurement Methods

Steve Keeffer has communicated with State's Attorney Allendorf regarding his opinion of the usage of Sourcewell to procure vehicles. States Attorney Allendorf has a positive opinion of using Sourcewell. Steve Keeffer will talk to some dump truck chassis vendors to gather more information on how the process works and report back to the committee.

5. Planned Equipment Purchases for 2023

The committee continued to review planned equipment/vehicle purchases for 2023. Steve Keeffer will look for some pricing on used excavator for further discussion. Used seal coat equipment available from Whiteside County was also discussed. The committee will consider that purchase next month. A recent development regarding the pick-up truck that is driven by the engineering technician has become an issue. Frame rust through was discovered at the last service interval. The truck is 10 years old and is approaching 200,000 miles. The cost of repairing the frame exceeds the value of the truck. The committee instructed Steve Keeffer to see what used truck options can be found.

6. UTV Usage on Public Roads

The committee reviewed several ordinances from other counties that allow off road vehicles (UTV/'side by sides') to access their public roadways. John Creighton has discussed the situation with State's Attorney Allendorf and he is not in favor of allowing UTV's on county roads under the current statutes. John Creighton also received some feedback from township highway commissioners who have been advised by their insurance carriers not to allow UTV's on township roads.

b. New Business

1. County Accident Map

Steve Keeffer has begun to gather information to create a county wide accident map. This map will then be used to identify any locations that warrant further study for mitigative efforts to improve safety.

5. Citizens Comments

None

6. Board Member Concerns

LaDon Trost informed the committee that he received a phone call from a union representative concerned about closing the courthouse during winter weather events.

John Creighton spoke about the Courthouse renovation project.

The meeting concluded 7:45 P.M.