

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Public Works
CHAIRPERSON: LaDon Trost
DATE/TIME March 22, 2021 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

☐ Heuerman
☒ O'Connor

☒ Hill
☒ Toot

☒ Korth
☒ Trost

Others: Steve Keeffer, Dan Reimer, Ken Zehnder (Zoom)

MINUTES

1. Minutes

Don Hill made a motion to approve minutes from the February 22, 2021 Public Works meeting, John Korth seconded, and a roll call vote resulted in all ayes.

2. Citizens' Comments

Ken Zehnder, 2 Dogwood Court, Galena IL, expressed his opposition to House Bill 720, which would allow off road vehicles to utilize roadways with speed limits up to 55mph.

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. Skid Loader Purchase

Steve Keeffer presented the committee with some information on a used skid steer loader that has been located at Sloan Equipment in Lanark Illinois. It is a 2010 John Deere 329D and is similar to units that have been leased in the past. The proposed purchase would include an additional new toothed bucket, and the trade-in of a no longer needed Ford 250C utility tractor. The cost of

the loader with the new bucket and the trade in, is \$28,170. This price is within the amount budgeted. Steve Keeffer and mechanic, Paul Girot, have inspected the loader and found it to be in good used condition. Steve Keeffer prepared a resolution for the purchase of the loader that allows the claim to be processed at the same time as the purchase is approved by the County Board. Scott Toot made a motion to approve the resolution to purchase the used 2010 John Deere 329D skid steer loader, and trade in the 1995 Ford 250C utility tractor at a final cost of \$28,170, Don Hill seconded and a roll call vote resulted in all ayes.

b. New Business

1. UTV Usage of County Roads

The committee discussed the current situation regarding the usage of county roads by off road vehicles – often referred to as ‘side by sides’ or utv’s. Current state statutes do not allow off road vehicles to use roadways with speed limits above 35 miles per hour. With very few exceptions, county and township roads have speed limits in excess of 35 miles per hour. This situation has been discussed in the past and those discussions have always concluded that the statute will need to be changed before utv usage can be considered. Committee consensus was that they were not opposed to the concept if the statute were changed. Steve Keeffer expressed concern over other language in the statute regarding the determination of whether public safety would be jeopardized by the operation of off road vehicles. There is currently legislation being considered to raise the speed limit requirement to 55 miles per hour. The committee agreed to keep the item on the agenda to monitor further developments.

2. 2021 MFT Maintenance Bids

Steve Keeffer informed the committee that the annual MFT maintenance letting for both the county and townships will be held on April 1st. A special committee meeting will need to be held before the county board meeting to consider the bids.

4. Citizens Comments

None

5. Board Member Concerns

None

The meeting concluded at 6:54 P.M.