

COMMITTEE REPORT

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

PRESENT:

☒ Creighton
☒ Heitkamp
☒ Trost

☒ Endress
☒ Heuerman

☒ Grizzoffi
☒ Holt

Others: Steve Keeffer, Scott Toot, Tim Eden (Zoom), John Schultz (Zoom)

MINUTES

1. Minutes

John Grizzoffi made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2023 Public Works meeting, Steve Endress 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

Steve Keeffer has not had an opportunity to talk with other solar power vendors to see if they offer a power share arrangement.

3. County Cemetery Discussion

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 spoken to a dump truck chassis vendor to gather more information on how the process works. This vendor will be able to order trucks in May or June. Steve wants to reach out to a couple of other vendors as well.

5. UTV Usage on Public Roads

The committee continued the discussion on off road vehicles (UTV/'side by sides') using their public roadways. John Creighton had some updates on proposed legislation and the opposition to that legislation by the State Police. Committee consensus was to explore passing an ordinance to allow UTV's on county highways as some other counties in the state have done. La Don Trost agreed to talk to State's Attorney Allendorf about the issue. John Creighton will draft a proposed ordinance. La Don Trost will talk to his counterparts in Stephenson and Carroll County to see if they would support this concept.

6. Purchase of Seal Coat Equipment from Whiteside County

The committee reviewed a list of used seal coat equipment available from Whiteside County. The items are a chip spreader and two rubber-tired rollers at a price of \$70,000 for all three items. The purchase of these items was discussed last year and their purchase was considered in the current budget. Steve Keeffer made the committee aware of an additional item that is available. An asphalt distributor truck was not discussed last year, however, the chip spreader that is being considered has the ability to spread chips the entire width of the road to eliminate the center seam. Components of the county's current distributor truck are 54 years old and it can only spray one lane at a time creating a sometimes problematic center seam. The distributor truck that Whiteside County has is the same capacity, is 30 years newer and will spray full width of the road. The price of the Whiteside County distributor truck is \$25,000. There are funds available in the current budget due to the inability to get a new dump truck in a timely fashion. La Don Trost made a motion to purchase a 4wd Etnyre chip spreader and two Hypac rubber-tired rollers from Whiteside County at a cost of \$70,000, Bob Heuerman seconded and the motion carried. Mike Holt made a motion to purchase a 1999 Etnyre/Freightliner distributor truck from Whiteside County at a cost of \$25,000, Steve Endress seconded and the motion carried.

7. Purchase of a used Pickup Truck

Steve Keeffer presented the committee with a couple of used truck options to replace a failing truck being driven by the engineering technician. One truck is a used 2012 GMC Sierra 1500 with 71,000 miles at Elizabeth Garage in Elizabeth. The other truck is a 2018 Ford F150 with 67,000 miles from JD Auto Sales in Dubuque. After some discussion, Bob Heuerman made a motion to purchase the GMC Sierra from Elizabeth Garage at a cost of \$17,500 plus document fees, LaDon Trost seconded and the motion carried with Mike Holt voting Nay.

8. County Accident Map

Steve Keeffer has gotten information from IDOT to create a county wide accident map. The county GIS Department has begun the process and the committee offered some suggestions on how to delineate the information. This map will then be used to identify any locations that warrant further study for mitigative efforts to improve safety.

b. New Business

1. Upcoming Bids

Steve Keeffer informed the committee of upcoming. The annual MFT County and Township bid letting will be March 30th and there will need to be a special Public Works Committee meeting to approve those bids before the County Board Meeting on April 10th. Steve Keeffer also hopes to have some smaller township projects bid soon.

5. Citizens Comments

None

6. Board Member Concerns

There was brief discussion about efforts to increase Township Bridge Program funding and also a recent break in at one of the Highway Department buildings in Hanover where it was later discovered that a catalytic converter was stolen from an EMA vehicle.

The meeting concluded 7:25 P.M.