

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Public Works
CHAIRPERSON: John Grizzoffi
DATE/TIME: April 1, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: John Grizzoffi, Bob Heuerman, LaDon Trost, Steve Endress, John Creighton, Joseph Heitkamp and Jacob Ambrosia. A quorum was established.

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Angela Kaiser and Dylan Oppold.

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Grizzoffi called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Minutes Approval:

- a) Minutes of the February 24, 2025 Public Works Committee meeting – Endress/Creighton **motioned to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2025 Public Works Committee meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.**

3. Citizens' Comments: None.

3. Unfinished Business:

- a) FY2023/FY2024 Strategic Goals and Plans – The committee did not discuss the past goals and plans. There was discussion later in the meeting regarding their goals for the upcoming County Board Retreat in May.

4. New Business:

- a) Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of 2025 Township MFT Maintenance Bids – Acting County Engineer Dylan Oppold explained that the County typically awards most township bids, as contractors usually submit proposals for locations near their own quarries, allowing for efficient use of all available sources. **Grizzoffi/Endress motioned to recommend approval of 2025 Township MFT Maintenance Bids as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.**
- b) Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of 2025 County MFT Maintenance Bids – Oppold reported that the County MFT Maintenance bids came in below his projected estimates, which he noted was a positive outcome. He explained that like the township bids, they typically recommend awarding most bids, since contractors usually target areas near their own quarries, making sourcing more efficient and practical. **Endress/Heitkamp motioned to recommend approval of 2025 County MFT Maintenance Bids as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.**
- c) Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of the County MFT Resolution for Improvement for the Canyon Park Resurfacing Project – Oppold explained that the project was originally recommended by former County Engineer Steve Keeffer. In August 2024, a Resolution was passed to utilize Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds to contribute toward the Canyon Park Resurfacing Project. At that time, \$1,001,522.10 was allocated from the MFT Fund, leaving a remaining balance of \$638,323.89 to be paid from the Highway Fund. The current Resolution presented proposes using an additional \$450,000 from the MFT Fund, reducing the amount needed from the Highway Fund to \$188,323.89. Oppold noted that this would provide significant relief to the Highway Fund, which may be tight by year-end. He also mentioned that this Resolution has been submitted to IDOT but no response has been received to date. The overall project total stands at just over \$1.6 million. Additional

discussion was held regarding the condition of Canyon Park Road north of the State Park, which was noted to be in greater need of repair than the southern portion. However, it was clarified that the section north of the State Park falls under the jurisdiction of IDOT.

Creighton/Heitkamp motioned to recommend approval of the County MFT Resolution for Improvement for the Canyon Park Resurfacing Project. The motion carried by voice vote.

5. Citizens' Comments: None.

6. Committee Member Concerns: Member Heitkamp shared that Dubuque County maintains 300 miles of gravel roads, highlighting a contrast with this County, which maintains none. In anticipation of the upcoming retreat, Member Creighton recommended revisiting the current sales tax distribution, expressing concern over the strain on the Highway Department, especially with a new department head and limited resources. He noted the County has not budgeted for depreciation, despite ongoing costs to maintain roads, bridges, and equipment. Creighton provided historical context on the 1% sales tax allocation, of which 100% was allocated to the Highway Fund originally, but now is allocated only 25%. He stressed the need for consistent investment in infrastructure. Member Ambrosia suggested an equipment replacement plan as a helpful step, and Kaiser identified a key goal moving forward: developing that plan and reevaluating sales tax allocations to better support Highway Department needs to achieve that goal. Trost proposed setting a goal of grinding and recycling three miles of roadway per year. Oppold described the process of deep grinding, rebuilding the base, and seal coating. He noted an alternative method discussed by staff—grinding 4–6 inches and adding new rock to strengthen the base.. There was also discussion regarding a conceptual project to build a new road from Blackjack Road to Highway 20 to improve water management and potentially reduce tourism traffic through downtown Galena. Kaiser explained the idea originated from a trail proposal and expanded two years ago when the Blackjack Watershed volunteers approached the County about sponsoring the project. Brad Petersburg has engaged with many individuals and secured landowner support. Kaiser noted former County Engineer Keeffer has also been involved independently. Kaiser noted that one of the main challenges facing another project is the 4th Street intersection—though not directly related, it reflects broader infrastructure concerns tied to economic development. Kaiser emphasized that while many ideas are still conceptual, progress must begin with the County's commitment to the road itself. A key hurdle would be if securing land currently held by the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF) would be required. She noted that while land can be condemned for public use, the project would need to clearly serve a public purpose—such as transportation infrastructure—to justify such action. Member Ambrosia supported the road concept in principle but expressed concern over funding responsibilities.

7. Adjourn: Heuerman/Ambrosia motioned to adjourn at 6:10 p.m. The motion carried by voice vote.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 28, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.