

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Public Works
CHAIRPERSON: John Creighton
DATE/TIME April 22, 2024 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

☒ Creighton
☒ Heitkamp
☒ Trost

☒ Endress
☒ Heuerman

☒ Grizzoffi
☒ Holt

Others: Steve Keeffer, Scott Toot, Lucas Holland, Joe Stumbaugh

MINUTES

1. Minutes

John Grizzoffi made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2024 Public Works meeting, Bob Heuerman 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. A question was asked about the status of the State maintained roads leading to and from the Apple Canyon State Park. Steve Keeffer will do some investigating and report back to the committee.

2. County Cemetery Discussion

The committee discussed options and obligations regarding the Miner Cemetery in East Galena Township. Scott Toot suggested that an

intergovernmental agreement with a township that currently maintains cemeteries may be a viable solution.

b. New Business

1. Guilford Township Bridge Bids

The committee reviewed bid tabulations for a bridge on Guilford Road in Guilford Township over the Small Pox Creek. The low bid was from Helm Construction of Freeport, IL at a cost of \$1,811,442.85. The low bid was 38% over the engineer's estimate. Options to consider would be to award the bid, rebid the project, or abandon the project. Steve Keeffer has talked to the township and they are in favor of awarding the bid since rebidding the project will most likely not result in any changes to the bid price, and abandoning the project is not an option since the current bridge is deteriorating. After some additional discussion, Steve Endress made a motion to approve the bid from Helm Construction of Freeport, IL at a cost of \$1,811,442.85, Mike Holt seconded, and the motion carried.

2. Skid Steer Lease/Purchase

Steve Keeffer informed the committee the current John Deere skid steer track loader is in need of some significant repairs. The current skid steer is 14 years old and has had a litany of issues the last few years. It now needs a new drive motor and tracks estimated to cost in excess of \$8,000. Steve Keeffer asked the committee to consider acquiring a new tracked skid steer in lieu of continuing to pour money into the current machine only to wait for the next issue to deal with. A new machine with an extended warranty would provide a long-term solution. Several vendors submitted proposals for a lease/purchase arrangement where the trade in value of the current skid steer loader and two rollers would pay for a lease up front with a lease buyout in the next fiscal year. The best option was from Prairie State Tractor in Freeport, IL on a John Deere 331 G with a 5-year warranty with a lease buyout after trade of \$56,222.12. Mike Holt made a motion to lease a John Deere 331G tracked skid steer loader from Prairie State Tractor of Freeport, IL with a lease buyout next year of \$56,222.12, LaDon Trost seconded, and the motion carried.

3. County Equipment Replacement Schedule

Steve Keeffer presented the committee with a schedule of county highway equipment and vehicles. In addition to listing the equipment, the schedule included the age of the equipment, replacement cost, and the ideal replacement age. The schedule can be used for capital planning and to gage

upcoming expenditures/budgetary needs. John Creighton asked that a similar list be compiled for bridges and other infrastructure. The schedule will continue to be discussed.

4. May Committee Meeting Date

The regularly scheduled May committee meeting day falls on Memorial Day. The committee pondered the options for other days to have a meeting if one is needed. Mike Holt made a motion to schedule the May Public Works Committee meeting for Wednesday, May 29th at 6:00 PM if needed, John Grizzoffi seconded, and the motion carried.

4. Citizens Comments

None

5. Board Member Concerns

None

The meeting concluded 7:11 P.M.