

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Public Works
CHAIRPERSON: LaDon Trost
DATE/TIME June 27, 2022 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

☒ Heuerman
☒ O'Connor

☒ Hill
☐ Korth

☒ McIntyre (Zoom)
☒ Trost

Others: Steve Keeffer, Scott Toot, Dennis Steffes, Jane Steffes,
John Schultz (Zoom)

MINUTES

1. Minutes

Don Hill made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2022 Public Works meeting, Bob O'Connor 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 is still waiting to hear back from Stateline Solar with system cost quotations.

3. County Cemetery Discussion

Scott Toot is still researching the 1927 incorporation of the Miner's Cemetery on Temperly Lane

4. Proposed Bethel Road Entrance Discussion

The committee continued to discuss a proposed entrance onto Bethel Road for an expanding dairy operation. The proposed entrance has to cross a large stream that runs parallel to Bethel Road. After some discussion, Steve Keeffer suggested that it would be in the county's interest to acquire additional Bethel Road right of way where the large stream is located so the county can properly maintain and manage the stream as it has changed course through the years and is getting closer to Bethel Road. The additional right of way in question is in excess of 2 acres and the county is currently paying \$8,000 per acre for property needed for projects. Bob Heuerman made a motion to purchase the right of way at a cost of \$16,500, Steve McIntyre seconded, and the motion carried.

b. New Business

1. 50/50 Bridge Repair Project in Derinda Township

The committee reviewed a petition from Derinda Township for culvert repairs to two culverts on Plosch Road. One culvert is in need of repairs to the downstream concrete apron and the installation of stone rip rap. The other culvert needs additional stone rip rap on the downstream end. The estimated cost of the repairs to both culverts is \$10,000 with the township and county each paying half. Bob O'Connor made a motion to approve the request, Bob Heuerman seconded, and the motion carried.

2. Seal Coat Equipment Discussion

Steve Keeffer made the committee aware of an opportunity to purchase updated seal coat equipment from Whiteside County. Whiteside County has decided to no longer apply chip seal with their own forces and is interested in liquidating their equipment. Jo Daviess County has been seal coating for over 20 years with the used equipment they originally purchased and all of that equipment is now 45 plus years old. The Whiteside equipment is 25 or more years newer than what we are currently using. Steve Keeffer has done some cost analysis and the county currently saves at least \$3,000 per mile by doing the work 'in house'. The committee was in favor of updating the county's seal coat equipment and Steve Keeffer will craft the FY 2023 budget accordingly. The committee also discussed a more immediate need to purchase a different asphalt tanker since the current tanker has developed an unrepairable leak. Steve Keeffer and mechanic Paul Girot will look at used tankers to see what is available.

3. Upcoming Bid Openings

Two township projects will be bid before the July County Board meeting. Steve Keeffer would like to have a special Public Works Committee meeting before the County Board meeting to forward these bids to the County Board for approval.

4. Citizens Comments

None

5. Board Member Concerns

Steve McIntyre asked some questions about the increased cost of fuel and how it has impacted the County Highway Budget. Steve Keeffer indicated that the mild winter has helped the situation since we did not use as much fuel early in the year for snow plowing operations as we sometimes do.

The meeting concluded 7:00 P.M.