

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Public Works
CHAIRPERSON: LaDon Trost
DATE/TIME June 28, 2021 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

☒ Heuerman
☒ O'Connor

☒ Hill
☒ Korth (Zoom)

☒ Trost

Others: Steve Keeffer, Scott Toot, Mark Fritsch, Rick Dittmar, John Dwinnells
Hendrica Regez (Zoom), Angela Devere (Zoom) and Emily Legel (Zoom)

MINUTES

1. Minutes

Bob Heuerman made a motion to approve minutes from the April 26, 2021 Public Works meeting, Bob O'Connor seconded, and a roll call vote resulted in all ayes.

2. Citizens' Comments

Hendrica Regez, Angela Devere, and Emily Legel made a few comments about reviving the Adopt-A-Highway program.

3. Highway Department

a. Old Business

1. Adopt-A-Highway Program

Steve Keeffer presented the committee with his findings on the questions raised at the last meeting regarding Adopt-A-Highway. Specifically, State Attorney Allendorf did not have an issue with the county participating in the Adopt-A-Highway program. He did offer some suggestions on how to structure the agreements with the adopting groups. Steve Keeffer also estimated the cost of adopting a section of highway to be an initial \$580 with an additional \$85 per pickup. There was additional discussion with Hendrica Regez, Angela Devere, and Emily Legel about the virtues of the program and the number of groups that may be interested in adopting highway sections. Steve Keeffer explained that not all sections of county highways are safe for adoption. The committee asked Steve Keeffer to prepare a map of 'adoptable' county highway sections.

2. 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.

b. New Business

1. Woodbine Engine Braking Signs

Rick Dittmar, John Dwinnells and Mark Fritsch addressed the committee about the need for 'No Engine Braking' signs in Woodbine. Engine Braking signs have been discussed before and IDOT would allow the county to install signage on state routes via an application process. The signs are paid for, installed, and maintained by the county. Mark Fritsch also indicated his desire for a digital speed sign to be installed that would indicate vehicle speed versus the posted speed limit. If these signs were to be used, it would have to be done by the county as well. After some discussion, Bob Heuerman made a motion to proceed with the engine braking signs, Bob O'Connor seconded, and a roll call vote resulted in all ayes.

2. Sale of Hanover Property

Steve Keeffer presented the committee with a request from a company that owns property contiguous to the Hanover Highway facility to purchase some county property to expand their existing facility. After some discussion, it was decided to talk to the States Attorney to determine how to proceed and whether an appraisal would be needed.

3. Rush Township Cost Share Project Request

Rush Township is requesting 50/50 aid for the repair of a bridge on Kuppersmith Road. The estimated cost of the work is \$10,000, with the county and township each paying half. Bob Heuerman made a motion to approve the request at a cost not to exceed \$10,000, Bob O'Connor seconded, and a roll call vote resulted in all ayes.

4. City of Galena Dewey Avenue Bridge Project Engineering Agreement

An engineering agreement for the City of Galena bridge replacement project on Dewey Avenue was reviewed. The agreement is from Willett Hoffman to design the replacement structure, secure all required permits, and provide construction/bidding documents. Since this structure is in an urban area and a FEMA flood zone, there will be additional permitting and work required. The cost of the engineering design work is \$167,740, with the county and city each paying half. Bob Heuerman made a motion to approve the agreement at a cost of \$167,740, John Korth seconded, and a roll call vote resulted in all ayes.

5. TBP Funding Anticipation Resolution

The Nora Township Box Culvert project will be bid on July 1st. The estimated cost of the project exceeds the current balance of Township Bridge Program (TBP) funding. TBP funds are allotted annually in August or September, are based on Township road mileage, and the yearly allotment is about \$151,000. By anticipating the TBP funding, the county can construct township bridges and be reimbursed as the TBP funding is allotted. This has been done for over 10 years in an effort to replace structures in a timely fashion. Bob O'Connor made a motion to approve the TBP anticipation resolution, Bob Heuerman seconded, and a roll call vote resulted in all ayes.

6. 2022 Budget Discussion

Steve Keeffer informed the committee on a few items of interest regarding the developing 2022 budget. There is an opportunity to hire a Staff Engineer – a current part time engineering technician is graduating from UW Platteville this December and is interested in a full time Staff Engineer position. This individual could eventually fill the County Engineer position when it becomes open. There have been some inquiries from non-union employees regarding the longevity provisions of the new union contract. The delivery of the next dump/plow truck chassis may be delayed due to manufacturing issues – truck vendors are indicating that it may take a year to deliver a new chassis based on current orders/factory schedules.

4. Citizens Comments

None

5. Board Member Concerns

LaDon Trost asked to look into summer part time employees as a way to accomplish more road construction by county crews.

The meeting concluded at 7:19 P.M.