

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Public Works
CHAIRPERSON: John Creighton
DATE/TIME September 23, 2024 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

☒ Creighton
☒ Heitkamp
☒ Trost

☒ Endress
☒ Heuerman

☒ Grizzoffi
☒ Holt (Zoom)

Others: Steve Keeffer

MINUTES

1. Minutes

Steve Endress made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2024 Public Works meeting, John Grizzoffi 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. County Owned Cemeteries

Steve Keeffer was asked to coordinate the installation of some type of memorial sign at the old 'Poor Farm' Cemetery on Irish Hollow Road.

3. Unmarked State Route Maintenance Issues

The committee continued a discussion on the possible options regarding the condition of unmarked state routes associated with the Apple River Canyon State Park. Steve Endress indicated that he had an email discussion with State Senator Chesney regarding this issue and that he understood that improvements to some of the roadways in question were including in the IDOT 5-year plan. Steve Keeffer will reach out to some of his IDOT contacts and see what he can learn as well.

b. New Business

1. Engine Braking Signs South of Warren

Jeff Dickens addressed the committee with a request for Engine Braking signage to be installed on Illinois Route 78 south of Warren. Mr. Dickens has an older home that is very close to the highway within a ¼ mile of the city limits of Warren. IDOT will not install engine braking signs on their roads, but will allow the county to do so in areas outside of municipalities. There are engine braking signs on Route 78 at the city limits. After some discussion, John Creighton made a motion to install the requested signage, LaDon Trost seconded, and the motion carried.

2. Warren Township Altered Speed Zone

The committee reviewed information regarding a request from the Warren Township Highway Commissioner to lower the speed limit on Cole Street from the Warren city limits to the Wisconsin state line. The request is for the speed limit to be lowered to 35 miles per hour on Cole Street to allow for the use of Off Highway Vehicles (UTV's). This proposed route would offer UTV's access from the State of Wisconsin to the Village of Warren. A speed study was conducted on the route that indicated the 85th percentile speed to be 53mph and the upper end of the 10mph pace to be 54mph. After some discussion, LaDon made a motion to pass an ordinance lowering the speed limit to 35mph on Cole Street, John Grizzoffi seconded, and the motion carried.

3. Nora Township Speed Study

The committee reviewed a speed study done on Quarry Hill Road in Nora Township. The speed study indicated the 85th percentile speed to be 49 mph and the upper end of the 10mph pace to be 44mph. At this time, the Nora Township Highway Commissioner has not requested the speed zone to be altered.

4. Rush Township Bridge Repair Project

Steve Keeffer presented the committee with bid tabulations for a bridge repair project on Chelsea Road in Rush Township. The project consists of the construction of concrete wing walls on an existing bridge. For whatever reason, the wingwalls were never constructed on this bridge when it was built over 40 years ago and erosion of the roadway embankment has been an issue that has gotten worse. The low bid for the project was submitted by Vincent Earth Moving from Elizabeth, Illinois at a bid price of \$71,206.83. After some discussion, Joe Heitkamp made a motion to award the bid from Vincent Earth Moving at a price of \$71,206.83, Bob Heuerman seconded, and the motion carried.

5. International Truck Chassis

Thompson Truck from Dubuque, Iowa, has contacted Steve Keeffer and indicated that there is an opportunity to order a new International truck chassis. Since Covid, the county has only been able to order one truck, putting us 3 to 4 years out of our traditional rotation of one new truck a year. A new Freightliner with Bonnell body equipment was ordered earlier this year with delivery scheduled for sometime early next year. This opportunity from Thompson Truck for a new International truck would be built next year, but once delivered, the body equipment would have to be installed which could take a few additional months. The price for the new International chassis is \$125,000. The body equipment would be a separate item that could be purchased through sourcewell or bid. Mike Holt asked about the differences between a Freightliner and International truck. Steve Keeffer indicated that each brand has their pros and cons, but the drivetrain for each is identical. After some additional discussion, LaDon made a motion to purchase a new International truck from Thompson Truck of Dubuque, Iowa at a price of \$125,000, Steve Endress seconded, and the motion carried with Mike Holt voting no.

6. Resolution for the Anticipation of TBP Funds

Steve Keeffer presented the committee with a resolution to allow for the anticipation of yet to be allotted Township Bridge Funds (TBP) for the recently awarded Guilford Road Bridge. The cost of the bridge will exceed the amount of TBP funds that are currently allotted to Jo Daviess County. With the receipt of next year's TPB allotment, the project cost can be appropriated as planned. Until the receipt of next years TBP allotment, funds from the Matching Fund will be used and then paid back after the TBP funds are available. This temporary TBP shortfall is expected to be \$250,000. After some additional discussion, LaDon Trost made a motion to approve the resolution allowing for the anticipation of \$250,000 of TBP Funds from the Matching Fund, Joe Heitkamp seconded, and the motion carried.

4. Citizens Comments

None

5. Board Member Concerns

None

The meeting concluded 7:15 P.M.