

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Public Works
CHAIRPERSON: John Creighton
DATE/TIME November 25, 2024 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

☒ Creighton
☒ Heitkamp
☒ Trost

☒ Endress
☒ Heuerman

☒ Grizzoffi
☒ Holt (Zoom)

Others: Steve Keeffer, Karen Koester, Tim Koester, unidentified Zoom observer

MINUTES

1. Minutes

Joe Heitkamp made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 23, 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

The committee reviewed a possible memorial sign for the old 'Poor Farm' Cemetery on Irish Hollow Road. The committee asked Steve Keeffer to do some additional research to verify the accuracy of the dates to be shown on the sign.

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. After the last meeting, Steve Endress, forwarded an email discussion with State Senator Chesney regarding this issue. According to the provided emails, the improvements to some of the roadways in question are including in the IDOT 5-year plan.

b. New Business

1. Massbach Road Altered Speed Zone

The committee reviewed information regarding a request for an altered speed zone on Massbach Road. The request is for a lower speed limit on Massbach Road essentially where the historic Village of Massbach is. Portions of the road in this area currently meet the definition of an urban zone. By statute, the speed limit in an urban zone is 30 mph. Steve Keeffer did conduct a speed study and the results of the speed study indicated that the current prevailing speed is 55 mph. Tim and Karen Koester attended the meeting to convey their concerns with a 55 mph speed in this area and presented a petition with 24 signatures asking for the speed limit to be lowered. Steve Keeffer recommended that if the speed limit is altered, the zone should be established from St. John's Church to E. Mueller Road. He further recommended that the limit be set at 30 mph to coincide with the Urban Zone speed limit. After some additional discussion, LaDon Trost made a motion to pass an ordinance lowering the speed limit to 30 mph on a portion of Massbach Road, Bob Heuerman seconded, and the motion carried.

2. 2025 Meeting Dates

The committee reviewed a list of proposed meeting dates for 2025. After some discussion, Joe Heitkamp made a motion to approve the meeting schedule as proposed with no December 2024 meeting the May meeting date yet to be determined, Bob Heuerman seconded, and the motion carried.

4. Citizens Comments

None

5. Board Member Concerns

There was a brief discussion about noxious weeds.

The meeting concluded 6:37 P.M.