

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Highway Committee

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Filing Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. Grisen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. Larry Grisen, Mr. Michael Taylor, Mr. Dennis Bork, and Mr. David Danzinger. Mr. Bernard Brunkow joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Bob Platteter, Mr. Kelly Johnston, Mr. Glen Dehnk, Mr. Jamie Davis, Ms. Judy Sage, and members of the public.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Mr. Danzinger made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items: Mr. Platteter discussed a letter he received regarding roadwork that is to be done on State Highway 121. The letter indicated that ISG would be at today's meeting to present information on this construction. Mr. Platteter said he did not know of this until he received the letter in the mail so the item is not on the agenda, however he did feel some of the guests present were there to talk about this project.

ISG distributed a packet that reviewed the project for State Highway 121. She apologized for not contacting Mr. Platteter earlier. The project will begin in the Town of Gilmanton and move into Trempealeau County. There are culverts and guardrail to be replaced as well as ditches to be cleaned out. The project will mill 1 inch of the pavement and replace it with 3.25 inches of asphalt. The preliminary cost of the project is \$5 million, which comes from state and federal funding. This project is set to begin in 2021, but if funds become available sooner it could move up to 2020. There will be lane closures with flagging operations.

Mr. Glen Dehnk, Gilmanton School Superintendent, expressed concerns with how late the notice of this meeting came and wondered if notice of the start of construction would come sooner. He has concerns with how this will affect bus traffic for both regular school and summer school activities.

Mr. Jamie Davis, Town of Gilmanton Supervisor, also expressed his concerns with receiving proper notice for construction so that the school and town citizens can prepare.

Review/ Discussion regarding ATV Trail: This item was tabled at the County Board meeting due to receiving the DNR guidelines at the last minute. Highway Committee then voted to accept the DNR guidelines. These guidelines set how things must be done in order to open roads for ATV use. Ms. Sage discussed how a person does not need to be 16-years old or have a valid driver license to operate an ATV, nor does the ATV get licensed only registered. She gave the committee a picture of a warning label on an ATV that shows that they are not designed for road use. She indicated that those she has spoken with have concerns for safety and enforcement of violations. The committee explained that the

guidelines call for the towns to approve the roads being opened and the approval is reviewed and renewed on an annual basis. This item will be discussed at an upcoming County Board meeting.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Vouchers: The Ancom bill, year-end bills, a bill for new tires and a skid-steer purchase were discussed. Mr. Brunkow made a motion to approve the vouchers, seconded by Mr. Bork. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Staffing (Shared Recycling Staff and Spring Safety Training): Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer and Mr. Platteter worked on a position description for the shared staff. Mr. Fuerbringer is putting the final touches on this and will bring that to the next Finance meeting.

The Spring Safety Training is scheduled for April 25th and will be held at the Alma Highway Shop. MSHA Recertification will be put on by United Safety Solutions. There will also be an active shooter training. The training starts at 6:30 a.m.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Equipment (Skid Steer Broom/ Bucket Attachment): The broom/bucket attachment is not on the original equipment list for this year, but could be used on state and county roads to clear off debris. The broom attachments that are currently in the Highway equipment inventory are not able to push the debris up and over gutters. This broom/bucket will sweep the debris into the bucket for disposal. The 2019 equipment request listing was reviewed. This budget line item, including the purchase of the broom/bucket attachment will be \$44,283 under budget. Mr. Bork made a motion to approve the purchase from Komro Sales for \$4,500, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

The single axle patrol truck is something that is not needed immediately, but should be discussed. This truck is used to mix salt and sand, used as a spare truck, and also used as a crash simulator. It was discussed if a tandem axle truck could be kept back instead of trading in during the next purchase. Mr. Platteter was not sure if the equipment set up on this single axle truck could be transferred to a tandem axle truck. This will be looked into.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Building & Grounds (Fuel Management and Town of Waumandee Use Agreement): Mr. Platteter explained that he contracted with Pehler for 50,000 gallons of fuel at \$2.18 per gallon. To split a transport between Mondovi and Fountain City will be a \$35 drop fee. To haul to Waumandee and Urne will be \$.08 above the contracted price. Mr. Platteter explained the price quoted for shipping to other shops is cheaper than he can have it done in-house. He is still working on the cost for upsizing the tanks in Mondovi and Fountain City. The laws have changed and as long as you have a double walled tank it can be as close as 15 feet to buildings.

Mr. Platteter has not received a comment from Corporation Counsel on the Town of Waumandee Use Agreement. He had been contacting Mr. Bilski's assistant, but last week contacted Mr. Bilski himself and still has not heard anything. He will talk with Sonya about this. There have been no major issues. The overhead door was damaged, but the past agreement was if you broke it you pay for it. The Town of Waumandee employee broke the door so the Town of Waumandee paid for the replacement.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Roads & Bridges (Report on Road Damage, Flood Update, County Road Y Bridge Status, and 2019 Construction & Maintenance): The spring and winter has been very hard on the roads this year. There were numerous frost boils and roads coming apart. The repairs to County Road P will be paid for up to 75% by the State because of the road being closed due to flooding.

If the road was not closed there would be no aid available. These repairs will not be able to be started until the frost has gone out and the road ban is lifted. He is hesitant to add additional projects to the workload for this year due to the amount of damage.

Flood Update- The floods were not as bad as predicted. State Highway 35 was closed for about a week. Mr. Platteter felt this could have been avoided if the State would have made a decision to make a berm along the area where the flooding occurred.

The bridge on County Road Y, East of Mondovi, will need to be replaced. It is failing and has been placed on the critical finding list. One side of the bridge is completely shut down and the weight limit has been reduced to 10 tons. Mr. Platteter will be looking further into this matter as this bridge was not even on the watch list. Bridge inspections are done by a separate company and the person that did the inspection no longer works for this company. He feels this bridge failure should have been caught prior to this.

2019 Construction – Road conditions will be reviewed next week. A discussion was held on advantages of focusing on chip sealing for a full year to extend the life of the road. Mr. Platteter explained that this could help if wedging was done and heavier chips were used in the process. Highway 95 chip sealing is moving ahead. Road tours with the towns will be scheduled soon.

Mr. Platteter explained he has not received the information back on the bids. The deadline is set for the 22nd. A special meeting to review these will be held once the bids are received.

Review/Discussion regarding the Commissioner's Report: Mr. Platteter reported:

- April 30th is the Commissioners' meeting in Menomonie with registration at 8:45 a.m.
- June 3, 4, 5 will be Summer Road School
- The first of the 10 hour holiday weeks will be next week.
- There is an unwritten policy that if Highway equipment hits a mailbox or damages a culvert the Highway Department would pay for the repair/replacement. If snow damages the mailbox Highway is not responsible for it. Mr. Platteter will be working on a written policy for this.
- Road ban weights will be reviewed. Other counties have higher weight limits which has caused some concern for citizens here. There will also be some research into charging a permit fee for single use permits.
- PTO cap of 320 hours may become an issue with 10 out of the 32 employees. May want HR to look at changing the cap but also have a limit to the amount of hours that can be taken prior to leaving employment.

Review/Discussion regarding Committee Member's Report: None.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn at 10:45 a.m., seconded by Mr. Bork. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann M. Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk