

IOWA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

May 5, 2008

The Transportation Committee met in the Highway Department Conference Room in the City of Dodgeville on Monday, May 5, 2008 at 6:02 p.m. and was called to order by Sup. Larry Steffes.

Roll call was taken:

Committee members present: Sups. Dave Bauer, Ron Benish, Ron Berg, Bob Bunker, Gerald Dorscheid, Mark Masters and Larry Steffes. John Meyers arrived during discussion of Item #1 of New Business.

Committee members excused/absent: Sup. Brad Wells.

Also present: Sups. Bill Ehr and Eric Anderson, Highway Commissioner Leo Klosterman, Office Administrator Jeri Grabbert, Patrol Superintendent Mark James, Personnel Director Bud Trader, and Finance Director Roxie Hamilton.

The floor was opened for nominations for Chairperson. Ron Benish nominated Larry Steffes. No other nominations were made and the floor was closed. Ron Benish moved to elect Larry Steffes as Chairperson, seconded by Ron Berg. Motion passed unanimously.

The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Bob Bunker nominated Ron Berg. No other nominations were made and the floor was closed. Bob Bunker moved to elect Ron Berg as Vice Chairperson, seconded by Ron Benish. Motion passed unanimously.

Sup. Ron Benish moved that the meeting had been duly advertised. Seconded by Dave Bauer. Motion passed unanimously.

Sup. Ron Berg moved for approval of the May 5, 2008 agenda and March 31, 2008 minutes. Motion was seconded by Sup. Bob Bunker. Motion passed unanimously.

Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the committee: Ron Benish noted that he had received a call from John Linscheid regarding a berm that had been placed near the edge of his property. Mr. Linscheid feels that the berm is a potential safety hazard if cars go off the road in that area. Previously a car would go down into the property. With the berm in place, if a car went off the road he feels it would be airborne. In addition, the berm now causes the water runoff to go directly onto his property. A written response from State Patrol

Superintendent Randy Sudmeier was distributed. The response notes that the berm was installed by the state and Randy has been in contact with the DOT, spoke with Mr. Linscheid, taken pictures of the area, and is pursuing a resolution with the DOT. Mr. Linscheid would like to be on the next Transportation Committee agenda if the issue continues without resolution.

Jim Griffiths from the audience discussed the increased volume of traffic and bigger vehicles traveling on county roads. He recently saw a tour bus on County ZZ. He felt that with the increase in fuel prices, county roads are being used more frequently to travel shorter distances and conserve fuel. Mr. Griffiths also noted that on CTH ZZ at the end of Griffiths Road there is a piece of the road dropped away. He feels that the spring under the road has more paths created due to the heavy snow and rains and it is washing away the road. He felt that the county roads may need higher quality to accommodate the increased traffic and bigger vehicles. Mark James noted that the Highway crews are out working on areas such as this one and it will be addressed.

Highway Commissioner Report: Leo Klosterman welcomed the new Transportation Committee members and introduced his management staff, Jeri Grabbert, Office Administrator, Mark James, County Patrol Superintendent, and recognized Randy Sudmeier, State Patrol Superintendent, who was unable to attend. Leo then reviewed the following items with the Committee:

1. A crew is building a limestone rock wall between Doug Corden's driveway and the road bank on CTH T, and will then fill over the banks of his property to reduce the slope. The road is breaking away at the top of the bank. Guardrails will be placed along the bank for safety and time. A meeting with the DNR occurred and there is no fast solution. The options discussed include pile driving an armor shield between the creek and the road bank or relocating the flow of the creek. Cost estimates are being obtained from an engineering firm.
2. Water damages are at about \$20,000 - \$25,000, especially in the Highland area. There are two crews working in that area and one crew on CTH T.
3. Crackfilling crews are out at this time. Wedging is scheduled for May and June. Crackfilling and wedging must be completed before sealcoating, which is planned to start the week of July 14 or July 21. There are 42 miles of county roads to sealcoat. None were done in 2007.

4. Other county projects scheduled are CTH E – 3 miles, CTH G – 1 mile, and another area of CTH G – 4 miles. Cold in place recycling will be done for a new base and then paving.
5. The scale house at the hot mix plant was in need of repair, estimated at \$4,600. A 28-foot camper trailer with 1 slide-out was available from Army Surplus that FEMA had owned. It was purchased for \$4,900 and has replaced the old scale house. The old scale house is on the county website for sale.
6. Other current workloads include mowing grass, hauling lime to Dane County, and painting and centerlining. Painting is also done for Grant and Lafayette Counties. Painting on the state roads is planned per the Discretionary Maintenance Agreement with the State for a reimbursement amount of \$277,700. The other Discretionary Maintenance Agreement with the State is for a \$13,300 reimbursement for traffic signing.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- 1) Truck and Attachment Bid openings:

Representatives present for discussion were Stan Hauser of LaCrosse Trucking, Dan Schumacher of Peterbilt, and Jim Avenarius of Hawkeye. Mark James informed the committee that Hawkeye International withdrew their bid on the tandem axle truck. Mark also distributed a worksheet he prepared identifying any deviations from the specs for the tandem axle truck and the tri-axle truck. The representatives were given the opportunity to address these issues and make any other comments. Sup. Larry Steffes also informed the new committee members that the cost of the tandem axle truck would be partially covered by insurance recovery on a truck damaged in January. Mark James also noted that the two companies that submitted bids for the attachments met the specs. Other discussion followed. Mark James will continue his study of all bids submitted and this issue will be returned for further discussion at the next Transportation Committee meeting.
- 2) Language change in Bids and Quotations Terms Articles 53(c) and 53(d) – Jeri Grabbert explained that the current reference was to Chapter 19 of the Iowa County Code of Ordinances, but this chapter does not exist. Therefore it was requested that this language be removed and replaced with a reference to the Iowa County Personnel

Policies for Management and Non-Represented Employees, which does address affirmative action.

Motion by Sup. Ron Benish, seconded by Sup. Ron Berg to approve the language change and to have Jeri contact Corporate Counsel to review the entire document. Motion passed unanimously.

- 3) Highway Commissioner Recruitment Process – Bud Trader discussed the current job description and a draft copy of a revised job description, the wage range, and a projected timeline to complete the process. The next step is for this issue to be presented to the Administrative Services Committee.

Motion by Sup. Ron Benish, seconded by Sup. Gerald Dorscheid to support the proposed job description and timeline and have it move forward to the Administrative Services Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

- 4) 2008 Budget Review – Roxie Hamilton addressed the impact that the winter season has had on the Highway budget. She distributed a spreadsheet that shows the projected needs for the remainder of 2008 and final projected deficit. The spreadsheet then shows areas in other departments of projected cost savings in the 2008 budget and funds available from carryovers from 2007 to 2008, also in other departments. These funds do not meet the needs to cover the highway deficit. The spreadsheet identifies five options to be considered in determining how to fund the deficit. One of the options was to borrow funds. Roxie presented scenarios on how borrowing would impact current and future budgets. Other discussion included an explanation of debt levy vs. operating levy, the need for 20% reserves for a good bond rating, the state restrictions on increasing the tax levy, and revenue sources from the state. Further, all departments need to find ways to save and find lower prices. One option offered was to do a county-wide budget amendment to help with the highway deficit. Another comment was that although we find a way to get through this short term situation, we still need to address the long term needs and plan for the future. Roxie will continue discussion of the highway deficit and the list of funds available from carryover from 2007 to 2008 budgets at the Administrative Services meeting on May 13.

- 5) Housekeeping Services Agreement for Transportation Department – the renewed agreement would be for a term of April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009 for an annual cost of \$15,000.

Motion by Sup. Ron Berg and seconded by Sup. Dave Bauer to renew the Housekeeping Services Agreement with Ryan Hunt, d/b/a Commercial Care, LLC. Motion passed unanimously.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is set for Monday, June 2, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sup. John Meyers. Seconded by Sup. Ron Benish. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes by Jeri Grabbert