

IOWA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

June 30, 2008

The Transportation Committee met in the Highway Department Conference Room in the City of Dodgeville on Monday, June 30, 2008 at 6:00 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, John Meyers, Larry Steffes, and Brad Wells.

Committee members excused/absent: None.

Also present: Sups. Eric Anderson, Diane McGuire and Tom Mueller County Administrator Randy Terronez, Highway Commissioner Leo Klosterman, Office Administrator Jeri Grabbert and Bill Kahl of W.K. Construction.

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

Sup. Ron Benish moved for approval of the amended June 30, 2008 agenda and June 2, 2008 minutes. Motion was seconded by Sup. Gerald Dorscheid. Motion passed unanimously.

General Public/Member Comment: Sup. Mark Masters informed the Committee that he came to the Highway Department shortly after the flood and thanked the employees for the hard work and dedication in the flood response.

Highway Commissioner Report: Leo Klosterman reviewed the following items with the Committee:

1. The installation of the guard rail on County "T" is in process.
2. The flood damage is starting to taper off. The grade crew has been devoted to the flood repairs. Projects are being wedged prior to seal coating which is expected to start on July 16.
3. The department has several staff off on sick leave, injury, etc. causing the summer projects to be further behind.
4. The mowing is behind in the Highland areas due to the flooding.
5. The summer usually sees a lot of vacations. Additionally, there is the potential for two-three retirements.

Sup. Diane McGuire commented on the condition of County "I". Sup. Ron Berg inquired on jurisdiction of Birch Lake Road near Barneveld. Sup. Ron Benish forwarded concern on Blackhawk Lake road conditions. Sup. Bob Bunker commented on the condition of County "G".

Old Business:

1) Discussion of Speed Limit on Hwy Q, in Town of Highland

Highland Town Chair Al Kosharek gave presentation to the Committee regarding the speed limit on Hwy Q. It is currently 55 mph and the residents are requesting the speed to be lowered to 45 mph. due to safety and noise concerns.

Leo Klosterman cautioned the Committee on needing adequate justification.

Discussion given on Lagoon Road.

The Transportation Committee can lower the speed limit by 10 mph without a traffic study. According to data collected from a traffic study done a couple years ago by Dodgeville they found the average speed on that portion of County "Q" is 62 mph. Putting the speed limit to 45 mph won't impact the actual speeds. Discussion on DOT rule of thumb that allows lowering the speed limit if 12 or more driveways accessing the road within ½ mile.

Leo Klosterman noted the cost to install signage etc. will amount to \$500. Discussion given on County's Traffic Safety Commission which consists of Highway, Sheriff's Department, and DOT representatives.

Mr. Kosharek also pointed out problem with bus stop and need for some type of warning sign.

Sup. Eric Anderson suggested need for a public hearing to allow others in the area to have input.

Sup. Dave Bauer moved to refer issue to the County Traffic Safety Commission and to request staff to develop and/or update the policy on setting speed limits. Motion was seconded by Sup. Ron Benish. Motion passed unanimously.

2) Revisit 2008 Budget Review, Memo from County Administrator

Randy Terronez reviewed agenda enclosure. Discussion followed. Sup. Ron Berg expressed perspective that the Committee members were only recently appointed and depended upon staff information to make the decisions.

Discussion given on need to reassess the dollar level of the equipment purchase policy from \$125,000 to something higher to acknowledge increased equipment costs.

Sup. Diane McGuire noted that one reason the policy was established was to increase the communication between the Transportation Committee and other County Board members.

Discussion given on budgeting process. If the full Board approves the Highway Department Capital budget and the specific equipment is listed, why does the item need to go back to the full Board for any other approvals?

Motion by Sup. Brad Wells and seconded by Sup. Ron Benish to increase the Highway Department equipment purchase policy from \$125,000 to \$200,000 and forward to the full Board.

Motion passed unanimously.

It was the consensus of those present that the Transportation Committee had adequately responded to the Administrative Services Committee concerns.

New Business:

1) Contract with DOT for Discretionary Unclassified Maintenance Agreement (Flood Damage Repairs):

Leo Klosterman and Jeri Grabbert reviewed agenda enclosure that the DOT needs in order to be reimbursed for flood damage activity. There are no dollar amounts in the agreement as it is needed to cover the emergency flood repairs to state roads.

Motion by Sup. John Myers, seconded by Sup. Gerald Dorscheid to approve the contract with DOT for Discretionary Unclassified Maintenance Agreement (Flood Damage Repairs). Motion passed unanimously.

- 2) Cold-In-Place Recycling Bids: Leo Klosterman reviewed agenda enclosure noting only one bid was received (the same firm as last year). Leo explained why the County only receives one bid is due to the limited number of contractors. Last year's bid was distributed. Bill Kahl of W.K. Construction was present and explained the process used, why costs vary and the significant increase in fuel, material costs.

Sup. Ron Benish and John Meyers expressed concern on why only one bid was received and the need for additional justification in recommending a sole bid. The department should compare to last year's bid, obtain copies of other counties' bids amounts, etc.

W.K. Construction representative Bill Kahl explained there are two major reasons for only receiving one bid: the process/technology is relatively new (also less costly than traditional hot mix applications) and there are only two firms that really concentrate on this type of business and both are very busy.

Discussion given on the timing of the bids and whether an earlier start would generate more than one bid. It was noted that Sauk County has yet to bid out their projects for this year.

Leo Klosterman noted that several areas on the original project list had to be dropped due to the increased costs of fuel, materials.

Mr. Kahl explained the differences in the cost/mile for the County "G" sections versus the County "E" section. County "E" requires the contractor to go deeper and unable to use/keep the base.

Leo Klosterman noted that grant monies will fund approximately \$700,000 of the total \$917, 444.25 total project. The funds have to be used by June 30, 2009 which means that the projects have to be done this year.

Discussion given on bid bond that adds approximately 1% of the total costs (or \$9,000). It was decided to leave the bid bond in the project.

Motion by Sup. Bob Bunker, seconded by Sup. John Meyers to approve the Cold-In-Place Recycling bid to W.K. Construction Company of Middleton as follows:

CTH "G"	\$243,537.00
(from CTH "A" to Lafayette County line)	
CTH "G"	\$243,537.00
(from CTH "E" to CTH "A")	

CTH "E" \$430,370.25
(from 160 ft. east of Harker Station Rd. to East)

Total \$917,444.25

Motion passed unanimously.

3) Discussion of Workforce Levels/Employee absences:

Leo Klosterman updated Committee on specific leaves of absence that are beginning to cause labor shortages in the areas. He has heard of pending retirements but nothing in writing. He expressed concern on having enough labor to undertake this winter's snowplowing.

The Committee suggested for the short-term to look into private contractors. For the long term, Leo will work on the possibility of developing a qualified applicant roster similar to the Sheriff's Dept. The roster would be utilized to speed up the recruitment process.

Motion by Sup. Ron Berg, seconded by Sup. Ron Benish to approve the Highway Department to establish an applicant roster similar to the Sheriff's department roster in order to have available labor resources for pending Department vacancies. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sup. Ron Benish, second by Sup. John Myers to approve the department hiring contract resources to allow needed work to be completed due to staff shortages and winter storm-flood damage events.

4) 2007 Financial Report of Iowa County Highway Operations:

Leo Klosterman and Jeri Grabbert asked if any members had any questions. Discussion given on the infrastructure – investment in the transportation system and accounting standards reporting requirements.

5) Wisconsin County Highway Superintendents' and Foreman's Convention:

In previous years, the Committee would be requested to approve the attendance of the Highway Superintendents and lead/foreman at this conference. The approval process has been transferred to the County Administrator and no Committee action is necessary. Leo Klosterman noted that the conference last year was near Duluth and Iowa County didn't

register/attend (with the exception of an employee who was already on vacation in the area).

Sup. Ron Benish expressed concern on county resources for conferences and that the participation should be the employee's financial responsibility.

- 6) Truck bidding Process: Sup. John Meyers requested this item on the agenda. Recap of department's truck bid specification was given. As noted at a previous Transportation Committee meeting, other manufacturers such as Sterling designed the drive shaft through the radiator, causing on-going maintenance problems and the issue of the wing/blade attachment to the main chassis is problematic.

Committee members express need for broader specifications in order to allow more than one qualified bidder.

Committee discussed the creation of a subcommittee to review the truck specifications but no formal action taken.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is set for Monday, August 4, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sup. Bob Bunker, seconded by Sup. Dave Bauer. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes by Randy Terronez