

# IOWA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**April 6, 2009**

The Transportation Committee met in the Highway Department Conference Room in the City of Dodgeville on Monday, April 6, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. and was called to order by Sup. Larry Steffes.

Roll call was taken:

Committee members present: Sups, John Meyers, Bob Bunker, Mark Masters, Ron Benish, Larry Steffes, Ron Berg and Gerald Dorscheid. Sup. Dave Bauer arrived at approximately 6:55 p.m.

Committee members excused/absent: Sup. Brad Wells.

Also present: Sup. Eric Anderson, County Administrator Randy Terronez, Highway Commissioner Craig E. Hardy, Office Administrator Jeri Grabbert, AFSCME Highway Union President John Gardner and Vice-President Scott Reddell and AFSCME Union Staff Representative Michael Goetz.

Sup. Bob Bunker moved that the meeting had been duly advertised. Seconded by Sup. Gerald Dorscheid. Motion passed unanimously.

Sup. Ron Benish moved for approval of the April 6, 2009 agenda and March 2, 2009 minutes. Motion was seconded by Sup. John Meyers. Motion passed unanimously.

General Public/Member Comment:

1. Sup. Ron Benish inquired on status of fuel problem with Sheriff's Department high mileage patrol vehicles. Craig Hardy reported that no other vehicles have experienced problems. He noted that the problem may center on Crown Victoria and ethanol fuel blend.

**Highway Commissioner Report:** Craig Hardy reviewed the following items with the Committee:

- A) GIS Maps Update.

Craig Hardy distributed map prepared by the Shaun Wood, County GIS that shows bridges with weight limits. The map has been distributed to various transportation companies as an informational item. A map of the guardrail inventory is nearly complete.

- B) Right of Way Clearance Issues – Craig Hardy provided background on various right of way issues in order to obtain Committee's views, including fences on right of way, driveways without being permitted, etc.

Motion by Sup. Ron Berg and seconded by Sup. Bob Bunker to authorize the Highway Commissioner to offer property owners that the Highway Department would install the culvert if the property owner agrees to pay for the culvert purchase, pending review by Corporation Counsel. Motion passed unanimously.

The Committee consensus was to allow the Highway Commissioner discretion on obtaining compliance with other right of way issues.

#### Old Business

- A. Agreement with Fairgrounds for rental space for highway equipment.

Craig Hardy updated Committee that the department will be utilizing storage space at a storage barn at County Farm. Currently, the County has a lease with the Prairie Restoration organization for half of the building. The organization is using most of the area but will be directed to comply with the lease. The Department's use of the fairgrounds building for storing highway equipment cost approximately \$650/year.

- B. Federal Stimulus Update

Craig Hardy informed the Committee that the County G bridge replacement was dropped from the State's list of federal stimulus projects – Phase I. The project will be resubmitted for Phase II federal stimulus funding along with other projects such as County BH and roads in Blackhawk Park.

#### **New Business:**

- A) Transportation Stimulus Funding Resolutions

Agenda enclosure reviewed.

Motion by Sup. Ron Benish and seconded by Sup. John Meyers to approve the Transportation Stimulus resolution that maximizes county resources and forward to the full Board. Motion passed unanimously.

- B) 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter/2008 Financial Reports

Jeri Grabbert distributed tentative 2008 year end and 2009 through February reports and reviewed highlights. State accounts that were over expended in 2008 (primarily due to winter weather and increased fuel costs) are reimbursed by state revenue. The 2008 tentative year end report shows that the fund ended in a \$1.5 million deficit. The County's projection in spring of 2008 was \$1.25 million. The additional \$250,000 will come from the County's reserves.

- C) Highway Department Handling Rate Changes

Discussion was given on the frequency of making rate changes. The more frequent the changes, the better the department can recoup costs.

Motion by Sup. Ron Berg and seconded by Sup. Ron Benish to set the handling rate changes on a quarterly basis as determined by the Highway Commissioner and to inform the Committee after the fact. Motion passed unanimously.

- D) Mowing Policy Revision Request

Agenda enclosure reviewed that suggested a change in the current policy to reflect greater bird habitat protection. Craig Hardy noted that state law gives priority to prevention/reduction of invasive species. Craig also noted that the state rules are undergoing revision and any change in the mowing policy should be pending the results of the change in state rules.

Motion by Sup. Bob Bunker and seconded by Sup. Ron Berg to maintain the current County mowing policy. Motion passed unanimously.

E) Housekeeping Contract Extension

The department's time period is requested to coincide with the balance of the County.

Motion by Sup. John Meyers and seconded by Sup. Gerald Dorscheid to extend the housekeeping contract from April 1 to November 1, 2009 in order to bid out the service with the balance of the County's janitorial contract. Motion passed unanimously.

F) Summer Construction/Schedule 09/LFA Contracts 191/39

Craig Hardy distributed handouts of Local Force Account agreements with the state for asphalt overlay road work on State Highway 39 in the amount of \$230,200 and State Highway 191 in the amount of \$132,000. The state pays 100% of the project costs plus an administrative fee of 4.25%.

Motion by Sup. Ron Benish and seconded by Sup. Ron Berg to approve the Local Force Account agreements with the state for asphalt overlay road work on State Highway 39 in the amount of \$230,200 and State Highway 191 in the amount of \$132,000. Motion passed unanimously.

Project schedules for state, local and county activities were distributed and reviewed. Discussion given on data in PASER software system and pending refinements.

In regard to the asphalt plant, an argument for maintaining the operation has been that it keeps the private firms competitive. Craig noted that Iowa County's blacktop costs approximately \$55/ton while private firms charge \$110/ton. Brief discussion given on paint program.

In regard to the 2009 project schedules for the County projects, \$715,735 is budgeted. Craig explained priority and rationale such that the department would stay within budget.

Motion by Sup. Ron Benish and seconded by Sup. John Meyers to approve the revised 2009 County Highway Projects Construction Budget with the total amount remaining \$715,735 as recommended by Highway Commissioner Craig Hardy. Motion passed unanimously.

G) Proposed 4 10 hour Day agreement

AFSCME Highway Union President John Gardner and Vice President Scott Reddell and AFSCME Highway Staff Representative Michael Goetz provided information to Committee of benefits of 4 10 hour work week.

The Transportation Committee entertained a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Sec. 19.85(1) (c) WI Statutes for considering employment, promotion, compensation and performance evaluation data of any public employment over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. (AFSCME Highway Ten Hour Work Day Agreement).

Motion by Sup. Ron Berg, seconded by Sup. Bob Bunker to proceed into closed session at 7:37 p.m. Motion passed unanimously 8 Yes (Sup. Ron Benish, Bob Bunker, Gerald Dorscheid, Mark Masters, Dave Bauer John Meyers, Larry Steffes and Ron Berg.) 0 No. Excused/Absent: Brad Wells. Sup. Eric Anderson, Randy Terronez, Craig Hardy and Jeri Grabbert were also present in the closed session.

H)Return to Open Session. Motion by Sup. Ron Berg, seconded by Sup. John Meyers to return to open session at 8:09 p.m. Motion passed unanimously 8 Yes (Sup. Ron Benish, Bob Bunker, Gerald Dorscheid, Mark Masters, Dave Bauer, John Meyers, Larry Steffes and Ron Berg.) 0 No. Excused/Absent: Brad Wells.

Motion by Sup. Ron Benish and seconded by Sup. John Meyers to recommend the revised four 10-hour day agreement to the Administrative Services Committee with the following change.

Item #9 ... not to exceed **ten (10)** hours in one workday.

Motion passed unanimously.

The next regular Transportation Committee meeting is set for Monday, May 4, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sup. Ron Benish, seconded by Sup. Ron Berg. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes by Randy Terronez