

IOWA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 1, 2010

The Transportation Committee met in the Iowa County Court House, County Board Room in the City of Dodgeville on Monday, March 1, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. and was called to order by Sup. Larry Steffes.

Roll call was taken:

Committee members present: Sups. Larry Steffes, Ron Berg, Dave Bauer, Mark Masters, Brad Wells, Ron Benish, Gerald Dorscheid, and John Meyers.

Committee members excused/absent: Sup. Bob Bunker.

Also present: Highway Commissioner Craig E. Hardy, Highway Business Manager Jeri Grabbert, and new County Administrator Curt Kephart.

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

Sup. Gerald Dorscheid moved for approval of the March 1, 2010 agenda and the February 1, 2010 minutes. Motion was seconded by Sup. John Meyers. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the committee.

Sup. Brad Wells noted that he and Sup. Ron Benish discussed the possibility of renting 35 acres at the quarry now that the CRP status has ended. They will take this to the Property Committee.

Sup. Ron Berg raised concern about power poles on CTH HH. He questioned the guide wires may be on the right-of-way and was concerned that the wires may be getting hit. Craig Hardy will look into the matter.

Sup. Ron Benish stated that he was impressed with the WCHA Conference and reiterated that attendance by committee members should continue.

Mike Blotz appeared to discuss his driveway issue and also to discuss water and tires at the quarry that he feels may be contaminating his land. He stated the pond waters may be contaminating his well and discharges to his land.

Craig Hardy stated the pond is about 30 feet wide by 250 feet long, 6 feet deep on the edges and 10 feet deep in the middle. According to Highway Department Quarry staff, the pond has not been pumped in at least 7 years. Craig noted there are 4 discharge locations at the quarry, and one goes towards Mr. Blotz's property. Mr. Blotz asked questions about the reclamation of the quarry upon its completion of use. Craig Hardy will review the reclamation plan for the next meeting. The driveway issue and the quarry concerns will be placed on the next agenda. Sup. Larry Steffes questioned what became of the driveway issue from the last time it was in front of the Transportation Committee and it was sent to Land Records. Craig Hardy will look at the minutes of previous meetings to see what was discussed and have that available at the next meeting.

New Business

- A. Introduction of Curt Kephart – County Administrator. Sup. Mark Masters introduced the new County Administrator, Curt Kephart, to the Transportation Committee.

- B. Iowa County Humane Society – Paws Fur a Cause run/walk event – Laura Kulcinski & Shannon Baxter. Logan Brick appeared, reviewing last year’s event. He noted that they raised \$4,000. The Highway Department furnished cones and flags on the route. The Sheriff’s Office also helped in the event. This year the event will be on April 10. The registration fee will be \$25.00.

A motion was made by Sup. Brad Wells and seconded by Sup. Ron Berg to approve the event with no permit fee due to non-profit status. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- A. Quarry Storm Water Permit & SWPPP. A current storm water discharge permit has been received from the DNR. Craig Hardy is working on the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to be filed on-site. The SWPPP will require Quarterly inspections by the Iowa County Highway Department and submittals to the DNR. Craig Hardy will check into setback requirements related to wells and quarry operations.

- B. LRIP Trans 206 Update. Craig Hardy presented Clearinghouse Rule 09-41 showing the legislative progress of Trans 206 being referred back to WisDOT for re-evaluation.

- C. 18/151 Design Update. The concerns raised by the Transportation Committee at the last meeting have been submitted to the DOT and drawings are being prepared to show those changes.

New Business:

- A. January 2010 Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report. Jeri Grabbert reviewed the 2010 Report. A question was asked about the 50/50 Bridge match of revenues and expenditures. Craig Hardy explained that the revenue is received through a separate tax levy and the expenditures are incurred as the townships complete the project and submit their costs. A question was also asked regarding the salt sales from Iowa County Highway Department. Craig Hardy reminded the committee that effective the end of this season (April 15th), there will be no more salt sales to third party private businesses. A question was raised regarding 2009 year-end balances that differed between the Transportation Committee report and the report submitted by the Finance Director, which showed a loss of \$186,000. Craig Hardy explained that year-end adjustments and closings are still occurring and he estimates revenues to be above expenditures.

- B. CTH F Accident Reimbursement Collection. Jeri Grabbert presented an Accounts Receivable balance of \$52.14 that has been on the books for quite some time. Because of the low balance and the cost for collections, she recommended that this be written off.

A motion was made by Sup. Ron Berg and seconded by Sup. Brad Wells to write off this account. Future collection letters are to also be sent to the debtors' insurance company if they are insured.

Jeri Grabbert presented another Accounts Receivable account in the amount of \$1,518.34 that has been on the books since January 2009. The debtor has signed a payment plan agreement for \$80 per month.

C. WCHA Board of Directors Meeting Update – Legislative Issues.

1. The WCHA Executive Committee has agreed to the re-organization of the committee structure related to PR, CHAPPS, and LOS Committees. PR (Public Relations) has been dissolved due to the hiring of an Executive Administrator for the organization, Daniel Fedderly. The LOS (Level of Service) has been created and works with the DOT on the RMA budgets and funding. The CHAPPS (County Highway Association Past Presidents) committee has been formally added to the by-laws.
2. Committee member terms and voting rights. The Board of Directors consists of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Past Chair, held by highway committee members. Currently the Vice-Chair serves for 2 years. Then he/she moves to Chair for 2 years and then to Past Chair for 2 years. This creates a six year commitment to serve on the Board of Directors. The BOD is looking at 1-year terms for each position, creating a 3-year commitment. Iowa County Highway Department agrees with the change and will respond accordingly.
3. Executive Committee terms 1 year versus 2 years. Currently the Secretary serves for 2 years. Then he/she moves to President for 2 years and then to Past President for 2 years. This creates a six year commitment to serve on the Executive Committee / Board of Directors. The BOD is looking at 1-year terms for each position, creating a 3-year commitment. Iowa County Highway Department agrees with the change and will respond accordingly.
4. Discussion of the proposed Federal Jobs Bill versus STP program rollout. NACE News indications of some paved roads in Michigan are being converted back to gravel roads due to lack of funding.
5. Fall 2010 Advisory Referendum will be placed on the November ballots related to a request to Firewall the Transportation Fund. Senator Decker opposed firewalling the Transportation Fund. Without the firewall, the funds become open for other uses or the General Fund.
6. AB552 Snow Plow following distances. This bill recommends that when a snow plow is traveling 35 mph or less the distance a vehicle can be behind the snow plow is reduced from 200 feet to 75 feet. Craig Hardy feels it is not a good idea to go backwards on the law and has submitted his comments to the legislature.
7. SB450 Climate Change Bill. This bill is regarding vehicle idling that creates air pollution, wastes fuel, and increases our reliance on foreign oil. Craig Hardy will keep an eye on this law for any impact it may have on the Iowa County Highway Department.

8. SB277 LRIP Funding for Engineers Fees. As stated in the bill, "Under this bill, a qualified, registered professional engineer employed by a political subdivision may perform engineering work for an improvement of the political subdivision and this engineering work is eligible for reimbursement under the program." Craig Hardy noted that he is in favor of this bill.
 9. SB545 Merrimac Opinion for Sauk City. This bill relates to the utility relocation in the Village of Sauk City that Craig Hardy discussed at the last Transportation Meeting and had provided a written opinion of his opposition to it.
- D. FHWA MUTCD Revisions and Timeline. A spreadsheet was presented showing the timeline requirements and compliance dates. An inventory database program is to be in place by January 17, 2011, which the County already performs. There will then be 4 years to work through the signs and bring them up to compliance. Currently all sign replacements are in compliance so Iowa County has already started to work towards the 2015 compliance requirements. There are approximately 3,800 signs in Iowa County. It is unknown at this time how many are already in compliance and how many still need to be replaced. At about \$60 per sign, the amount to budget for this program will be about \$12,000 per year over the next four years.
- E. WDNR re-write of NR 151 Public Information Hearing. Public hearings were held last week at the UW in Platteville. The County should have concerns related to the Highway Department and the rules verbiage for TMDL watersheds or Impaired Waterways. Those concerns are related to the rule not including specific guidelines or standards for implementation of management practices for compliance. As a result, Craig is not in support of the current rule in its current format. In addition, there are some stipulations related to required blanket width buffers along navigable streams without an evaluation of the costs onto the landowners. For these reasons Craig recommended providing a written response to DNR prior to the 3/12/10 deadline.
- A motion was made by Sup. Ron Benish and seconded by Sup. John Meyers for Craig Hardy to submit a letter to the DNR identifying his concerns. Passed unanimously.
- F. CTH ID Speed Limit Reductions Request. Craig Hardy presented a letter he received from Town of Brigham residents requesting an evaluation of the speed limit on County Road ID in the Town of Brigham between East Brigham Road and the Dane County line. Craig noted state statutes govern allowable speed limits in a semi-urban district, and the recommended speed limit is to be at 35 mph, +/- 10 MPH. The statutes regulate the miles per hour on county, town, and local roads. Also the distance between driveways and resident/business density is a factor. As a result of other statutes, the allowable speed limit could vary from 25 MPH to 55 MPH at this location. In addition, some horizontal curves in the vicinity may also affect the required posting. Craig will have Department staff check into the Ball Bank Indicator to test a safe speed and also obtain a one-day traffic count. After he has completed this study he will bring a recommendation back to the Transportation Committee. He will also address the concerns raised about bus stop signs on this road.

- G. Quadrupedal May 2nd Bike Event. This event is a fundraiser for the Humane Society. It will have 35, 55, 85, and 100 mile courses within Iowa County. The County contact person for the event sponsors is Sheriff Steve Michek. Amy Kaup, IS Director, and Keith Hurlbert of Emergency Management will work together to post this and other upcoming events on our website for public awareness. It is expected to have 150 to 185 bike riders participate. A committee member requested that the event sponsors provide a list of the participants and their assigned numbers for any emergency situations that may arise. Craig Hardy, Steve Michek, and Keith Hurlbert should document their time and costs of preparing for these events to re-evaluate our fee structure.
- H. Tire Bid Awards and Selection. The committee reviewed the tally sheet of bids submitted for Spring 2010 tire bids.

A motion was made by sup. Ron Benish and seconded by Sup. Brad Wells to award the bid for Items (A) through (G) to Don's Tires, Inc. of Highland, WI and to award Addendum #1 (A) to GCR Tire Center of Darlington, WI for the Bridgestone equivalent. Passed unanimously.

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

- A. ARRA Project schedule – CTH C, X, and STH 39 Letting Dates. Craig Hardy noted that CTH's C & X will be let on April 25 and Hwy. 39 will be let next week Tuesday.
- B. Asphalt Recycling Technology – Educational Handouts. The packets items are articles from the Roads and Bridges magazine. These articles show three different techniques for re-paving asphalt roads. (1) Cold-in-place Recycling, (2) Hot-in-place Recycling, and (3) Full Depth Reclamation. The third technique is the one that Craig has in mind to use this summer on CTH B and G.
- C. Retained Fees Grant Summary. Economic Development, Extension, and Property (EDEP) meet on Thursday night (March 4). The Highway Department requested a retained fees grant for the purchase of GPS and CAD equipment. The amount budgeted was \$45,700. The cost estimates came in at about \$43,400 – under budget. Two quotes were received for the GPS system allowing up to five alternatives, and 2 quotes were received for the CAD system.
- D. NR40 County inventory project with Prairie Enthusiasts, WDNR, Nature Conservancy, Driftless Area Update. Craig unveiled a pilot program with Iowa County Highway Department and the above listed entities. These organizations will inventory the data related to NR40 species within Iowa County – where is it and how do we manage it? They will be working with Kelly Kearns of the WDNR, who will coordinate the volunteers, determine the working outline, and the coordination of workers. Robert Wernerehl will be the lead volunteer. The Highway Department will disseminate the information, work with GIS to map the information, and discuss with DNR so as to result in a mowing policy that meets the needs of NR40.

Additional Highway Commissioner Items.

- A. **Underground Fuel Tanks.** As a result of a rain event in December and January, 250 gallons of diesel fuel and water were removed from the underground tank due to a sensor alarm within the system. The sensor alarm turned out to be a faulty sensor probe gasket, in lieu of a tank system failure. However, underground fuel tanks are regulated by DComm 10. During 2008-2009, DCOMM 10 changes were instituted requiring a Class A, B and C licensed operator on-site at all underground storage facility sites. As a result, the County will need to certify staff for Class A, B, and C training, which hasn't been developed yet. Craig Hardy as the Commissioner needs to be a Class A operator (management staff), and the Department proposes to certify staff as a Class B and C operator. The Department will need to perform annual functionality testing, weekly walk-by inspections, monthly system inspections, and more detailed inventory collection. The new DComm 10 requirements are effective January 1, 2011.

- B. **Traffic Safety Committee issues.** Craig Hardy informed the committee of 2 issues that came up in Traffic Safety.
 1. There are concerns regarding a bus stop in the area of STH 18 and CTH XX. Dave Hottenstein of Hottenstein Bus Service has a concern about traffic which does not stop during the pickup and drop off of one child at this location. Discussion revolved around the definitions of median and divided highway, which definition does this location fall under, and the legal ramifications of whether traffic is required to stop or not at this bus stop location. Craig Hardy will discuss further with Dan Pruess and Chris Ohm of DOT. Dan Pruess will look into divided highway vs. non-divided highway status and will also look at the signing issue.
 2. Town of Ridgeway Town Chairman Bob Thomas was present to discuss traffic safety during bike events. In July 2009 a fatal accident occurred between a car and a bicycle. There is concern that the bicyclists must follow traffic safety rules as well. Chairman Thomas noted that the Town of Ridgeway is currently working on an ordinance regarding biking events as is the Town of Vermont in Dane County. There is an event coming up this spring with the expectation of about 600 participants. Chairman Thomas suggested that all residents along the route be notified by the event sponsors.

The next regular Transportation Committee meeting is set for Monday, April 5, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes by Jeri Grabbert