

# IOWA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

## May 3, 2010

The Transportation Committee met in the Iowa County Highway Department Conference Room in the City of Dodgeville on Monday, May 3, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. and was called to order by County Administrator Curt Kephart.

Roll call was taken:

Committee members present: Sups. Ron Benish, Bob Bunker, John Meyers, Dan Curran, Curt Peterson, Robert Pilling and Robert Zinck.

Committee members excused/absent: Sups. Dave Bauer and Ryan Walmer.

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

Election of Chair and Vice Chair of Transportation Committee per County Board Rules 1.11(4). Committee shall elect and notify the County Board Chair. Curt Kephart opened the floor for nominations of Chair. Sup. Ron Benish nominated Sup. John Meyers. Sup. John Meyers nominated Sup. Ron Benish. Sup. Ron Benish nominated Sup. Bob Bunker. Sup. Ron Benish declined his nomination.

A motion was made by Sup. Bob Zinck and seconded by Sup. Dan Curran to close the floor to nominations. Motion passed unanimously. A private ballot vote was taken. John Meyers – 5. Bob Bunker – 2. John Meyers is Chair of the Transportation Committee.

Sup. John Meyers took over chairing the meeting and opened the floor for nominations of Vice Chair. Sup. Ron Benish nominated Sup. Bob Bunker. Sup. Bob Bunker nominated Sup. Ron Benish.

A motion was made by Sup. Curt Peterson and seconded by Sup. Bob Bunker to close the floor to nominations. Motion passed unanimously. A private ballot vote was taken. Bob Bunker – 5. Ron Benish – 2. Bob Bunker is Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee.

Sup. Ron Benish moved that the meeting had been duly advertised. Sup. Dan Curran requested how the committee members can verify the advertisement and notice of the meetings. Jeri Grabbert responded the meeting agenda(s) are posted at the Highway office hallway billboard, the courthouse, and advertised in the Dodgeville Chronicle and Advisor. The agenda provided in committee packets include the date of the Highway office posting and the newspaper notifications. This qualifies as three (actually four) locations of notice to the public. Motioned was second by Sup. Curt Peterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Sup. Ron Benish moved for approval of the May 3, 2010 agenda and the April 5, 2010 minutes. Motion was seconded by Sup. Dan Curran. Motion passed unanimously.

Sup. Dan Curran moved to amend the approved minutes of the March 1, 2010 meeting for location of the meeting held at the Highway Conference Room and not at the Court House County Board Room. Motion was seconded by Sup. Curt Peterson. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mike Blotz was present and asked for an update on the quarry. Craig Hardy noted that he is getting quotes for the disposal of tires, and that the tires have been moved away from the retention pond. The barrels that Mr. Blotz had asked about during the previous meeting are empty. They are used and provided by City of Dodgeville Police Department and Hunter Safety at the shooting range. Water samples will be taken in the next few weeks, and the results should be ready for the next meeting. Mr. Blotz questioned the size of the retention pond in the north / northeast corner of the active quarry. Craig stated it as being approximately 40,000 square feet used for a retention basin and detention pond. Craig stated the pond has a maximum depth of around 10 feet, with the majority of it at 6 to 8 feet. Mike Blotz expressed concern that pond runoff is contaminating his land. Craig Hardy noted that the pond surface does not fluctuate much in height. Mike Blotz questioned the reference to "no surface waters exist on the site, when the pond is there?" Craig stated the reference to "no surface waters" within the quarry property refers to a DNR definition of surface waters as streams, creeks, rivers, or navigable streams of the state. Mike Blotz requested a copy of the water sample results for the quarry pond. Craig responded with the process for filing an "Open Records Request" to specify the information he is requesting.

Terry Reed was present to discuss his concerns about the fiber optic lines being installed by CenturyTel from Platteville to Mazomanie and running by his property. He feels CenturyTel would need an easement to install the lines on the right-of-way. Mr. Reed noted that CenturyTel is holding a Public Information Meeting but the ad in the newspaper is wrong. The ad says the meeting is being held on Tuesday May 6. However May 6 is Thursday. Craig noted that a sign will be posted at the meeting location noting the mistake so those coming on Tuesday will know to return on Thursday. Mr. Reed wants to know what are the landowners' rights. Craig Hardy noted that Section 86.16 of the Wisconsin State Statutes allows the Highway Department to issue permits to utilities to install utility lines. The statutes state the utility has the authority if provided in writing by the maintaining authority being the county for county trunk highways.

Sup. Ron Benish asked about the status of the asphalt zipper. Craig Hardy said there are no updates for tonight.

Sup. Ron Benish asked about the NR40, Invasive Species progress. Craig noted that he would be addressing that later in the meeting.

Sup. Ron Benish asked about the financial status and the differences in what is presented at the Transportation Committee meeting and what the Finance Director presents at Administrative Services Committee. Jeri Grabbert explained that she had met with Roxie Hamilton and they determined the difference related to depreciation. Currently Jeri is researching the expenditure accounts for charges that have been capitalized and determine if those charges should have been

capitalized or expensed. Ron Benish also asked about the cash balance in the Highway Department. Jeri explained that she talked to Roxie Hamilton on this also and that too is a project for research, so as to streamline the records reported by the various departments to coincide.

### **Old Business**

- A. 18/151 Design Study Update. Craig Hardy reviewed the project for the new members. He also reviewed preferences and concerns raised by the previous Transportation Committee that were submitted to the Dept. of Transportation (DOT). At this time, we are waiting for feedback from the DOT on CTH ID and Hwy. 191. Craig also explained that this item is on every agenda because it is an ongoing project and he provides updates regularly.
- B. Federal Program Roll-out Update. Craig Hardy distributed the Capital Outlay Form 5 from the 2010 budget, which shows a 5-year plan for road and bridge projects. He specifically identified 4 county road projects – CTH F, K, T, and CH, which are eligible for STP funding at an 80/20 split and 2 bridge projects – CTH K bridge and approaches in the Town of Brigham and CTH E bridge in the Town of Mifflin, which are eligible for the Local Bridge Program funding. Design applications for 2013 – 2014 are due by the end of July. More design funding will be unveiled on January 1, 2011 for 2015 – 2016. Craig noted that we need to be more aggressive in applying for these projects and providing the local cost share match.

### **New Business:**

- A. Response from Corporate Counsel on Blotz Driveway Issue. Craig Hardy distributed a letter from Corporation Counsel regarding the status of county liability in this matter. Corporation Counsel indicates that “unless you (Mr. Blotz) can demonstrate that the County has caused property damage or in some fashion denied you (Mr. Blotz) access to your property, I do not believe the County has incurred any liability in this matter. As such, I do not believe the County needs to be involved any further in this matter as this is a dispute between adjoining land owners.” Mike Blotz described the history of the driveway situation. Craig Hardy passed around aerial photos. He also noted that he spoke with former Highway Commissioner Leo Klosterman earlier in the day and that a 6-foot culvert extension was added to Mr. Zinkle’s culvert making it a 36-foot culvert by the County Highway Department. This was decided by former Transportation Committee Chair Larry Steffes and former Highway Commissioner Leo Klosterman in an attempt to resolve the matter for Mr. Blotz. However this does not resolve the matter for Mr. Blotz and he would like to see the County replace the original driveway at no cost to him. Sup. Dan Curran suggested that he and Craig Hardy go to the site, review the situation with both adjoining landowners, and compile cost estimates of the work to be performed. This information should be brought back to the next meeting for further discussion.

A motion was made by Sup. Bob Bunker and seconded by Sup. Ron Benish to table this item to the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Highway Easements and Utility Permits. Terry Reed, who spoke earlier in this meeting under “Comments from the Public”, has also stopped in the Highway Office several times with his concerns. Craig Hardy noted that he has received 2 opinions from Corporation Counsel, an opinion from William Morgan of Murphy-Desmond, and an opinion from Jim Thiel of the Office of Attorney General for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation regarding this issue. Based on those reviews, the County Highway Department and Commissioner have the right to issue permits to utilities to install utility lines in the right-of-way under Section 86.16 of the Wisconsin State Statutes.
- C. March 2010 Revenue and Expenditure Report. Jeri Grabbert reviewed the March Revenue and Expenditure Report. Some areas specifically noted include the Flood Damage Reimbursement of \$18,957. This is excess revenue because it was not budgeted for 2010. This reimbursement from FEMA is for costs relating to the 2008 flood damage. Miscellaneous Revenue includes \$1,850 of unbudgeted revenue for an Alliant Gas credit for the years 2005 through 2008 on various accounts. Revenues are at 31% at the end of the first quarter, compared to an average of 25% for one-fourth of the year. Expenditures are at 19% of budget for the first quarter, again compared to an average 25% for one-fourth of the year.
- D. 2009 Financial Report. Craig Hardy reviewed the draft copy of the 2009 Financial Report. He noted that we are still reviewing capitalized expenditures and the cash account. The next meeting will have the final copy distributed.
- E. WCHA 2010 Capitol Days. Capitol Days is scheduled for May 17 and 18 this year. Craig Hardy reviewed the agenda and specifically noted that the Keynote Speaker on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day is from the DOT. He will be speaking about WisDOT Priorities on STH Maintenance. There will also be a session for registrants to visit with Legislators. There is no charge and any county board member can attend.
- F. WCHA 2010 Summer Highway Conference. John Meyers described the event – exhibits, training sessions, and meetings. Ron Benish also mentioned the quality of these conferences and recommended that anyone on this committee interested in going would benefit. Craig Hardy reviewed the agenda and activities. Jeri Grabbert noted that she needs to know by Thursday May 6 if anyone is planning on attending in order to get registrations in on time. Craig Hardy mentioned that in the past, the Highway Department has sent at least one employee to participate in the Highway Safety Roadeo sponsored by our insurance company, Aegis Corporation.

A motion was made by Sup. Curt Peterson and seconded by Sup. Ron Benish to send one employee to participate in the Roadeo. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- A. ARRA and Federal Program Construction Project Schedule Updates –

Bridges - CTH C, G, and K; Highways – CTH X and STH 39. Craig Hardy reviewed the projects on the list. He also noted that it appears on the Iowa County website under the Highway Department.

- B. Summer Construction Projects Tentative Schedule – County. Craig Hardy reviewed the projects on the lists. First is the list of roads within Townships that have construction plans. The next four lists are county projects for the asphalt crew, ditch grading/drainage/culvert work, miscellaneous section work, and projects under review pending other factors. The next list was the DOT bid results for the letting of April 27, 2010. This list includes the CTH C and CTH X ARRA projects in Iowa County with the apparent low bidders as Ruzic Construction and Meise Construction, respectively. Craig then presented his 5 – 7 years Capital Improvement Plan that he established in April 2009.
- C. Right-of-Way Archive Project Background. Craig Hardy described the project which is being done in cooperation with a shared technician position between the Highway Department (20%) and Land Conservation Department (80%). His work to-date in the Highway Department includes reviewing all right-of-way maps and determining which areas we have maps for and which areas we do not have maps for. The information gathered will become a highway right-of-way layer on the County GPS system. This is about a 5 – 6 year project.
- D. NR40 County Inventory Project Background. Craig Hardy reviewed the NR40, Invasive Species regulations and the proactive pilot program that he is starting in Iowa County. He explained the organizations involved in helping and the volunteers that are helping establish types of species and locations throughout Iowa County. In the future, the county mowing policy will be updated to reflect the NR40 requirements and BMP's as a result of this inventory project.
- E. Departmental Functions – Activities. Craig Hardy distributed an analysis he prepared showing the ranking of labor hours used in various categories for the years 2005 through 2008. The report shows that the third highest use of labor hours is for employee taxes and benefits, and shop operations. He would like to see Highway Road Construction rank higher.
- F. Paint Program Background. Craig Hardy distributed a 3-page hand-out regarding the paint program. The first page is Resolution 5-0405, dated April 19, 2005 which, among other things, provides for 50% net revenue to be placed in a separate fund balance account for future paint equipment purchases; the second page is a summary of paint program costs for the years 2004 – 2009 as well as equipment revenues and costs. The spreadsheet shows that the net revenue taken in during those 2005 – 2009 was \$86,727.09. The third page is a report from the county accounting system showing the reserved fund balance as of 12/31/09 is \$43,338.52, about 50% of the net revenue. Jeri Grabbert explained that the reserved fund balance did not receive any net revenues from 2004. Had the resolution stated the 50% should go into the reserved fund balance back to include the first year of the program, the reserved fund balance would be \$23,983 more,

or have a total of \$67,346 for funds to go toward the purchase new paint equipment. Craig Hardy gave a history of the paint program in Iowa County and explained the additional revenues generated by helping other counties with paint programs that may fall behind and call our crew in. Craig also referenced the resolution that provides for 50% of net revenues for equipment replacement are place in a reserved fund balance account. Craig proposed to increase the 50% for equipment replacement funding.

The next regular Transportation Committee meeting is set for Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sup. Ron Benish and seconded by Sup. Robert Pilling. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes by Jeri Grabbert

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