

MARQUETTE COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

Highway Department Office Building

Webex Remote Access Meeting

October 18th, 2022 – Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 10:30 a.m. by Highway Committee Chair Dave Benson. Members of the committee present. Present: Dave Benson, Ken Borzick, Al Rosenthal, John Bennett and David Krentz. Other county officials present Brian Trebiatowski, Ron Barger and Brenda Petersen.

Moved by Ken Borzick and seconded by Al Rosenthal to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Dave Benson declared the minutes from the September 14th, 2022 meeting be put on record.

Citizens Input- None

Township Questions/Comments/Concerns-

CTH E East of STH 73 Speed Zone request by the Town of Neshkoro- Larry Henke from the Town of Neshkoro attended the meeting and presented his case for speed limit to 45 mph. Brian explained the speed survey conducted with the speed trailer. Discussion from the committee and past accidents discussed. Brian stated he believes based on the 85th percentile within the survey this stretch of road is one that probably should be 45mph, he also recommends talking with the Village of Neshkoro regarding the ½ mile stretch off STH 73 that lies in the village so that the speed is consistent. Brian also mentioned reviewing other speed zones within the county where forecasted traffic may have changed and no longer warrants the 45mps limit. Moved by Ken Borzick and seconded by Al Rosenthal to allow the speed zone of 45mph pending the Village of Neshkoro approval. Motion carried with Dave Krentz opposed.

John Bennett reported many residents are very pleased with the work on CTH J. He also stated the mowing in the town of Westfield was completed very well.

Dave Benson received a complaint regarding CTH A coming out of Oxford. He is monitoring the situation.

State Financial Report Review- RMA costs for September were \$13,358 which is 4.53% under budget for the month and 10.72% under for the year. The bulk of the costs were to miscellaneous maintenance and patrol supervision. Remaining budget is \$277,188 for 2022.

County Report Review- September costs were \$202,597.66 with \$97,875.08 costs going to County Maintenance which includes the majority to paving/wedging, center lining and mowing. There were \$5,433 costs in the Bridge account for the CTH CX Bridge and bridge inspections. The costs for the Road Construction were \$82,712 going towards CTH J shouldering and \$16,578 in County Overlay for CTH J paving. Remaining budget for 2022 is \$646,698. Reminder from Brian to the Committee that we still must pave on CTH J and knowing that to make that project happen the department would have to draw out of Fund 29 due to the excessive damage on CTH J.

Town Report Review – Townships did a total of \$348,104 in work for September with \$71,658 being labor costs. Villages and City had \$1,890 in work with \$81 in labor costs. Total work for the year for Townships and Villages/City is \$1,729,871. The current year labor comparison vs the 5-year average is up 30.52%. Comparing current year to last year labor is up 48.36%. When looking at seasonal work, the construction is up 74.24% compared to the previous 5-year average. The total GTA labor percentage has been met by 12 townships at the end of September. Brian said all Townships will likely meet the 20% this year, Springfield has a large brushing project scheduled to meet their allocation. Through September the Townships have spent \$483,676 in labor for the department.

Interdepartmental Report Review- Brian reported we sold 4091 gallons of fuel to other departments in September. Average cost for the year is \$3.83 for unleaded and \$4.11 for diesel which includes the state tax of .309 per gallon. Total gallons for the year are 41,389. Average cost for the year is \$3.66 for unleaded and \$3.67 for diesel.

Labor Percentage by Job Type Report- Brian reported year to date Labor Percentage for worked performed- County work is 52.84%, State is 17.88%, Townships are 26.78% and Interdepartmental is .88%. Brian explained when using only the numbers in the County portion of the spreadsheet that directly affect the County budget it is only 30% cost to the levy from the employees, the remaining percentage is PTO and other benefits that will be paid regardless.

John Bennett questioned the impact on the department with the 2023 proposed budget cuts. Brian reported the budget cuts would be catastrophic to the department. We need to retain the excellent employees we have and keep performing at the rate we have been progressing towards self-sufficiency for the department. Highway would lose some employees which would directly impact the department's ability to perform efficiently, and we are currently fully staffed, with an excellent crew. All of the surrounding counties have openings with some having as many as 7-8 vacancies. Brian states we have proven we are more efficient than the private sector citing 2022 projects compared to bids from private contractors, the department has been 14-30%+ below the private bids. The department has grown to handle the town work and perform our own capital projects the last 3-4 years and with proposed cuts putting employee retention at risk; we would not be able to complete large projects or fill the plow trucks in the winter. Brian stated losing employees would directly impact the township work first, we've got to plow the roads based on the traffic amounts and importance to the motorists. Impacts would snowball losing a few employees and not being able to recruit applicants would cause us have to eliminate a few towns based on the work they give us. Having a smaller crew would limit the amount of work we can self-perform on the CTH and town system. We'd be forced to hire out larger projects and pay the higher costs of private contractors, inefficiently spending the budget we have by completing less miles at the higher costs.

2023 Proposed Budget- Ron discussed the ARPA funds given to Highway for the BIL projects. Brian and Ron are planning to meet after the Highway Committee meeting regarding letting the Highway Department cover the budget cuts for the employees on the departments back. Brian mentioned the last few years we've had excess revenues after covering our expenses. Ron questioned the Highway Committee if were willing to rescind the \$500,000 given from ARPA funds, Ron mentioned then the County could restore the cuts proposed on employees, citing the COLA and step increases being the first reinstated. Discussion from the committee. Ken Borzick questioned if Brian was comfortable having the money removed from the county budget. Brian stated that he'd hate to see it pulled from the budget for road work but we need to have the employees to do the work. He stated "We'd be nothing without the employees we've got."

BIL- Brian reported that the Town of Crystal Lake will receive funds for the Dover Ave Bridge project. The county did not receive any funds for the 2 projects submitted. 28 counties out of the 72 total counties received funding. Ron also proposed taking maybe half \$250,000 and put it back in the County budget to bring some of the benefits back to employees. Brian states without the ARPA funding for the Causeway the project cannot move forward for 2023 construction. The department is not in the position to hire out work from private contractors and leave the highway department employees without the work to do. Brian also stated if the budget goes through the Causeway project would be put on hold until it is figured out what the future holds for the County. There is a sunset date for the Causeway project. Brian reported to date the department has spent \$133,000 towards the Causeway. Discussion amongst the committee. Brian stated that there are private contractors to do the summer work, it's the winter work with us needing 18 employees in plow trucks that would be hard to sustain without the ability to do summer work. More discussion. Brian quickly developed a draft of the new budget proposal from Highway without the Causeway. Al Rosenthal made the motion to delay the Causeway project and return the ARPA funds of \$500,000 to the general fund. Seconded by Ken Borzick. Discussion. Motion carried.

State Project Review- MPM Approvals: RMA monthly invoice was approved in the MPM system by Brian and forwarded to the region for approval and payment.

County Project Review

CTH C @ Fern Permit issue- Locates are called in work hopefully the department will get the repair done in the next few weeks. Brian has been in contact with Adams Columbia and they have been very apologetic.

Town Project Review- Majority of the work is done. Department will start to saddle up plow trucks.

Local Bridge Project Update- CTH CX bridge specifications and budget have been sent to DOT for approval. Project is on the budget for next year. 14th Road project in Montello, 30% plans are expected this month, that project is slated for 2024.

Inter-Departmental Operations- Dredge bank mowing. Water lines blown out at Fairgrounds.

Equipment/ Property Purchase and Disposal-

Positions and staffing update-

WCHA Updates-

Upcoming Events/Issues/Correspondence- Stratford meeting on October 28th. Some discussion regarding date of committee meeting in November.

Review Vouchers-

Dave Benson declared the meeting adjourned at 11:46a.m.

Brenda Petersen, Highway Accountant

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