

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING
July 9, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Grant County Highway Committee was held on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at the Highway Office in Lancaster, Wisconsin. Chairman Donald Splinter called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M..

Members present besides the Chairman were John Patcle, Mark Stead, Grant Loy, Vern Lewison, and Highway Commissioner David Lambert. Also present was County Board Chairman Robert Keeney. Joining the Committee later in the meeting were Travis Kramer and Rick Satterlee.

Notice of the meeting was sent to the newspaper and radio station and the agenda was posted at the Administration Building and Highway Office.

John Patcle, seconded by Grant Loy, moved to approve the revised agenda as printed. Motion carried.

Vern Lewison, seconded by John Patcle, moved to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2015 meeting as printed. Motion carried.

Mark Stead, seconded by Donald Splinter, moved to pay Vouchers #389 thru #444 and #416A thru 465A. Motion carried.

John Patcle, seconded by Mark Stead, moved to transfer \$500,000.00 from FAS Account to Buildings Account, to cover the cost of the Platteville Maintenance Building. Motion carried.

For the first five months of 2015, Grant County is under budget \$73,177.00 for the maintenance work that we provide on the State Highway System.

David reported that mowing along State Highways is almost complete. Materials for the PBM Bridge Project have been received and concrete repairs to Hwy 151 have been completed.

David updated the Committee on County Highway System Projects. Pipes are in on CTH "P" between River Ridge High School and Bagley, with the largest 84" pipe installed last week. The second lift of asphalt will be completed today on CTH "C" (Hwy 18 south to the Dew Drop Inn). Pulverizing CTH "P" will begin at the end of August with the binder asphalt to be placed at the beginning of September.

David is looking at a 36 month lease agreement w/buyout option for a new Caterpillar D6T Track-Type Tractor with VPAT Dozer from FABCO Equipment in Madison. Brad DeVault, Compact Construction Equipment Sales Specialist with Fabco, plans on attending the August Committee meeting.

The Highway Department is accepting applications for an Operator Position that was vacated when Doug Shaw left and went to Crawford County.

Travis joined the Committee for an update on the Platteville Outshop. We have satisfied the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services and have received our "Conditional Approval" for our maintenance building plan. This process is usually referred to as our State Plan Review. At issue was the number of vehicles that would be in the building that would weigh more than 26,000 pounds. Five or more vehicles would require a sprinkler system.

John Patcle, seconded by Grant Loy, moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Grant County Highway Department and the Town of Platteville whereby Grant County agrees to sell a one acre parcel to the Town of Platteville for \$75,000.00 to relocate the Town of Platteville Shop and Town Hall. Motion carried.

David was asked by the Department Heads to look at three methods of increasing revenue for Wisconsin Counties. These three methods were the "tools" provided by the State to help Counties that are experiencing increasing costs and decreasing State Aid on highways. The three methods of increasing revenue were the room tax, sales tax, and wheel tax. The room tax would not produce much additional revenue in Grant County. The sales tax would be an additional $\frac{1}{2}\%$ applied to everything. The money collected would be divided with the Towns/Villages and Cities with Grant County getting about 30% of what is collected. The wheel tax is an additional fee added to vehicle registration for vehicles under 8000 pounds. It would be added to the yearly registration fee of \$75.00. The amount could be anywhere from ten to twenty dollars. The State collects the fee along with their regular registration fee. The State keeps \$.10 and sends the balance back to the County. Iowa County currently adds \$20.00 to vehicles registered in the County. The County gets back over \$400,000.00 per year. Based on the number of cars and trucks registered in Grant County, David estimates an additional \$350,000. to \$700,000. could be generated per year. This additional revenue must be justified by dedicating the funds to highway work. One disadvantage to this additional revenue source is that blame for the fee increase would be directed to the Highway Department. The Committee decided to take a "wait and see" approach similar to Crawford County before proposing a recommendation for either the sales tax or wheel tax.

David addressed the Committee on his opinion as to how Health Insurance Changes on the agenda for next weeks Executive Committee, would impact certain employees at the Highway Department. There was no discussion or action by the Committee on this subject as it was not an agenda item.

County Board Chairman Robert Keeney thanked the Highway Department for the work they did at O'Leary's Landing.

Rick Satterlee from Ayres Associates thanked the Committee for their consideration of his firm in the last go round of selecting Consulting Engineering Firms for Bridge Project Designs. He appreciates the opportunity to come to Grant County.

Mark Stead, seconded by Vern Lewison, moved to adjourn at 10:55 A.M. to Thursday, August 13, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark A. Stead, Secretary