

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 14, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Grant County Highway Committee was held on Thursday, May 14, 2009 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 Mark Stead, Pat Schroeder, Eugene Bartels, and Highway Commissioner David Lambert. Vern Lewison asked to be excused. Also present was County Board Chairman John Patcle, Robert Keeney, Maynard Behncke, and Randy Franks.

Pat Schroeder, seconded by John Patcle, moved that we are in compliance with the open meeting law. Motion carried.

Eugene Bartels, seconded by Mark Stead, moved to approve the amended agenda as printed. Motion carried.

Pat Schroeder, seconded by John Patcle, moved to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2009 meeting as printed. Motion carried.

John Patcle, seconded by Eugene Bartels, moved to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2009 meeting as printed. Motion carried.

Pat Schroeder, seconded by Donald Splinter, moved to pay Vouchers #248 thru #364. Motion carried.

David began the Supervisors Reports with discussion on some unsigned letters that were sent to Maynard Behncke and Pat Schroeder, apparently from a Highway Department Employee. This incident has caused some hard feelings. Discussion followed on what caused this incident to take place.

The Chestnut Street Bridge and Road Projects are both listed as eligible and under consideration for ARRA (stimulus) funding. The list came out May 11, 2009. IIW will have increases for the design engineering due to Wetland delineation and roundabout design review and decreases due to less Subsurface Investigation, less Hazardous Investigation, and one less Public Meeting. Howard Crofoot has received approval to charge a portion of the design cost to the Platteville Water and Sewer Commission in the amount of about \$28,000.00 so the net for Grant County and the City of Platteville will remain nearly the same.

State Patrol Superintendent Jon Knautz joined the meeting at this time.

David recommended that the Highway Committee support a Resolution Opposing the Proposed Changes to the Wisconsin Prevailing Wage Law. Pat Schroeder, seconded by Mark Stead, moved to pass the Resolution Opposing the Proposed Changes to Wisconsin's Prevailing Wage Law and send to the full County Board for approval. Motion carried.

The employment bumping process involving Steve McPhail's open Operator II Position is now finished. This leaves an open Operator I position open. Only one employee applied for the open position. Although a current Highway employee, the individual is not full time or represented by the Union. Discussion followed.

Mark Stead, seconded by Donald Splinter, moved to leave the Operator I Position open at this time. Motion carried.

At this time, Todd Riebau and Eric Sturm from Contech Construction Products came before the Committee. They gave a brief presentation on precast bridge products that their Company provides.

Jon discussed proposed changes to the priorities for State Highway maintenance. Jon and David recently attended a meeting with the WisDOT and the 16 Highway Commissioners and Supervisors in the SW Region. Tom Lorfeld, Joe Olson, and Marv Schaitel were on hand from the State to listen to questions and complaints, but they did not offer any explanations or answers. As for now, the Counties will continue to follow the maintenance manual and the current signed maintenance contract with the DOT and will not implement the proposed policy changes until we receive a WisDOT signed set of the directives. We will also need to inform the public of these changes if the WisDot chooses not to.

Randy said that County Construction has started and that CTH "U" paving will start soon.

Under Machinery & Equipment, Randy reported that the new hydraulic hoists are in the Lancaster Shop and are being used. He also reported that the new CAT excavator is being used, the Shop Loader has been repainted, there is parts availability problems with the Shouldering Machine, no word yet on the Diesel Emissions Grant, and condition issues with the Mack Tri-axle and Freightliner Semi Truck.

Under the Engineering Report, Travis Kramer came and said that next month the Committee will have to look at the budget, last years final numbers, this years construction and next years proposed construction after the final audit is complete.

At 11:00 A.M. members of the Strategic Planning Committee of the Grant County Board of Supervisors joined the Highway Committee for a joint meeting. Members of the Strategic Planning Committee joining the Highway Committee were Robert Keeney, Lynn Moris, Larry Wolf, Stephen Adrian, and Tony Runde. David presented all in attendance with a copy of the Grant County Highway Department - Building Plans dated May 7, 2009. This document addresses three areas of need for the Highway Department. The most immediate need is to relocate the Platteville Shop. The second area of need is in the western part of the County. The third area of need is the existing main shop in Lancaster that was constructed in 1939. Members of both Committees asked each other questions and exchanged ideas on how to best achieve the needs as presented.

Mark Stead, seconded by Donald Splinter, moved to adjourn at 12:02 P.M.. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark A. Stead, Secretary