Rusk County
Highway Committee

November 15, 2010


Absent: None

Also Present: N. Mertes, E. Wundrow.

Call meeting to order.
Highway Chair Tom Costello called today’s meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of the agenda and move any agenda items as needed.
A Boss/Svoma motion to approve the agenda and move any agenda items as needed.
Motion Carried.

A Gierke/Boss motion to approve the minutes of October 18, 2010, September 7, 2010, August 25, 2010 and October 26, 2010 with the following correction: Omit Ron Freeman as attending this meeting, he was absent. Motion Carried.

Public Comment and/or input – 15 minutes.
No public comment.

Correspondence from Dale & Bonita Gerberding regarding horse manure on county roads.
The Committee reviewed correspondence from Dale & Bonita Gerberding regarding manure being left on county roads.
A Gierke/Costello motion to forward the correspondence and pictures from Dale & Bonita Gerberding to Corporation Council along with a copy of the City of Augusta Ordinance and ask Corporation Council direct the Committee on their possibly creating a County Ordinance regarding all horse drawn carriages to go to County Board. Motion Carried.

Correspondence from Philip Haas of Haas Sons Inc. regarding his offer to purchase an additional 10 acres of land owned by the Highway Department.
Haas Sons Inc. would like to purchase 10 acres of gravel pit land located at the Rusk County Highway Department Scott Pit. This parcel of land is adjacent to the 20 acres Haas Sons Inc. bought in 2009 from the Highway Department. Haas Sons Inc. is offering to pay $2000.00 per acre for the 10 acre parcel.
E. Wundrow explained he would like to sell this property to Haas Sons Inc. and reports that the 10 acres is depleted gravel pit land and is no longer needed for highway purposes.
P. Boss commented that Treasurer Guidelines may require the County to offer this land to the adjoining property owner first. T. Costello asked that Corporation Council address the first offer to purchase issue.
N. Mertes commented that the potential land sale would have to be put into a resolution that would go to County Board. Also, this land would have to be surveyed and then appraised.
A Svoma/Freeman motion to have the subject land, 10 acres located at the Rusk County Highway Department Scott Pit, be surveyed and appraised. Motion Carried.

Correspondence from Dan Gudis, Mayor of the City of Ladysmith regarding the roundabout scheduled to be built at the Highway 8 and 27 intersection and the increase of traffic on Highway 27 and its effect on Highway trucks entering and leaving the Highway Department.
Correspondence from City of Ladysmith was reviewed by the Committee. Due to changes in the shopping patterns as a result of the opening of Wal-Mart and closing of Pamida the
City has asked WlsDOT to reconsider the need for the roundabout proposed to be built at the 8 and 27 intersection. The City correspondence also addresses issues regarding the difficulty of Highway Department truck traffic entering Highway 27 from the department as a result of the increase of traffic on Highway 27 and suggests that the dead end road adjacent to Wal-Mart property and connecting to the Highway Department property be opened and used for Highway trucks to get to Port Arthur road for controlled access, via a stop light, onto Highway 27.

Committee discussion followed.

Consensus of the Highway Committee is that they are not interested in alternate routes onto Highway 27 at this time.

Correspondence from Morgan & Parmley regarding Rusk County Highway Department Cold Storage Building.

The Committee reviewed correspondence from Morgan & Parmley. Morgan & Parmley proposes to prepare plans for a Cold Storage Facility for the Highway Department; arrange an interior parking plan for approximately an 70' x 220' building, investigate different building types; i.e. steel, concrete, etc..., prepare a preliminary plan consisting of an elevation view and floor plan, prepare cost estimates and prepare a prospective financing plan. Morgan & Parmley cost to provide these services would range from $1750.00 to $2750.00; not to exceed $2750.00, unless the above scope of services is revised.

Committee discussion followed. E. Wundrow explained that he has equipment that needs to be stored inside a building in order to get a longer life out of the equipment and he does not have any room at the current Highway facility any longer. Equipment that sits outside right now: graders, trailers, dozers and a lot of other important equipment.

P. Boss would like to see the department prepare a clear financial structure for re-locating the Highway Department including costs for an equipment cold storage building before proceeding with the equipment cold storage plans. E. Wundrow discussed selling Highway Department land to Wal-Mart to free up some money for the equipment cold storage building. E. Wundrow will meet with Andy Albarado and Dave Kaiser and come back to the Committee with more information on this project.

Beaver Control Cooperative Service Agreement from the US Department of Agriculture.

E. Wundrow reported that the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspections Service Wildlife Services (APHIS-WS) will trap and clean up beaver dams for a total of $8000.00. Beaver services shall be provided May 2011 through October 31, 2011.

P. Boss requested that E. Wundrow have APHIS-WS come before the Committee to discuss their services.

State Routine Maintenance Agreement 2011.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the 2011 Routine Maintenance Agreement. After review the Committee signed the agreement.

A Boss/Costello motion to approve the 2011 Routine Maintenance Agreement. Motion Carried.

Request to amend the County Ordinance for ATV travel in order to include ATV travel on County Highways for: Town of True, CTH “B” South from the border of the Village of Glen Flora to Townline Road. CTH “B” North from Highway 8 to the Cedar Rapids township border.

A Svoma/Glerke motion to approve ATV travel on County Highways for the Town of True, CTH “B” South from the border of the Village of Glen Flora to Townline Road. CTH “B” North from Highway 8 to the Cedar Rapids township border and move item to the County Board in March 2011 for final approval. Motion Carried.
Review Time Off / Leave Request Forms for employee benefits requests.
N. Mertes passed out the new Time Off / Leave Request Forms for the Committee to review.
A Freeman/Boss motion to approve the new Time Off / Leave Request Form. Motion Carried.

Update and discussion on Doughty Road.
E. Wundrow reviewed correspondence from Al Christianson to the Rusk County Finance Committee regarding re-build of Doughty Road within the City limits. Committee discussion followed.
The Committee instructed E. Wundrow to send a memo to the Finance Committee regarding the Highway Committee's perspective of the Doughty Road project.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER REPORT.
E. Wundrow discussed the Highway Patrol Superintendent Personal Use Tax being charged for the county owned vehicle he uses. N. Mertes reported that Rosemary Schmitt is working with the IRS on this issue.
Discussion on Wisconsin Retirement being paid to seasonal employees. N. Mertes reported that Rosemary Schmitt has requested an opinion from Wisconsin Retirement. County projects are complete and the department is ready for winter.
A Freeman/Boss motion to approve the Highway Commissioner report. Motion Carried.

HIGHWAY FINANCIAL REPORT.
N. Mertes reported on the current cash and receivable position of the Highway Department.
A Svoma/Boss motion to approve the Highway Financial Report. Motion Carried.

HIGHWAY OFFICE REPORT.
N. Mertes reported on current Workers Compensation claims, current liability claims, retirements and status of lease copy machine costs,
A Glerke/Boss motion to approve the Highway Office report. Motion Carried.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE- COMMENTS
None

Action on monthly vouchers.
None submitted.

Sign and approve pre-approved vouchers.
Pre-approved vouchers totaling $347,093.07 were reviewed and signed by the Committee.
A Costello/Boss motion to approve the pre-approved vouchers for $347,093.07. Motion Carried.

Set date for next highway committee meeting.
The next Highway Committee meeting is set for December 20, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Rusk County Highway Department.

Motion to adjourn.
A Costello/Boss motion to adjourn. Motion Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 12:20 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Highway Office Manager – Nanci A. Mertes
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