

Regular Meeting of the Vernon County Highway Committee

September 9, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by Chairperson Nickelatti. Members present were Nickelatti, Cade, Brose, Sullivan and Davig. Also present was Commissioner Hewitt.

Motion by Davig, seconded by Brose, to accept the minutes of the August 12, 2014 regular meeting as printed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hewitt presented the 2015 budget for approval. After discussion, it was decided to submit the budget with a zero percent increase as directed by the Finance Committee. Motion by Brose, seconded by Davig, to approve the budget. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hewitt presented a Local Force Account contract with the DOT for approval. The \$75,000 LFA is for work on USH 14 near Readstown. Motion by Davig, seconded by Sullivan, to approve the contract. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hewitt informed the committee about a recommendation from the WCHA for counties to adopt an ordinance regarding implements of husbandry (IOH) and weight limits on county roads. Hewitt presented four options to the committee. After some discussion, the committee decided on Option B which opts out of the IOH length and weight limits, but still requires compliance with seasonal and special postings on roads, bridges and culverts. An ordinance will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Commissioner Hewitt informed the committee that La Crosse would like to work with Vernon County sealcoating next year. Hewitt estimates the cost per mile to work with La Crosse to sealcoat our roads would be about the same as contracting the work out. Hewitt would like to purchase their used spray truck. They will likely ask between \$40,000 and \$50,000 for the truck. Motion by Sullivan, seconded by Cade, to go ahead with the deal with La Crosse County and to purchase the spray truck. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hewitt informed the committee that we have a mowing tractor and boom mower that are in need of major repairs. A new transmission would cost at least \$21,000. He feels we should not put that much money into the tractor. He would like to trade the tractor and mower on a new unit. Motion by Cade, seconded by Sullivan, to look into trade deals and to rent a boom mower in the meantime, if needed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hewitt presented the bills. Motion by Cade, seconded by Davig, to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hewitt updated the committee on the following: We are waiting for Mathy to pave the construction project on CTH D; the grant for back room insulation has been approved and the project will begin; the county is setting up a plan with Kwik Trip for a discounted price on fuel for all departments; he is still in negotiations with a property owner for land off STH 82 for a shop.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

Motion by Brose, seconded by Davig, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Sue Conaway – Vernon County Highway Department