

Highway Committee
September 13, 2022

Chair Max Weiss called the meeting to order.

Board Members Present: Mr. Max Weiss, Mr. John Sendelbach, Mr. Steve Nelson, Mr. Dwight Ruff, and Mr. Brian Michaels.

Others Present for All or Portions of the Meeting: Mr. Bob Platteter, Mr. John DeWitt, Mr. Lucas Teska, Ms. Roxann Halverson (Teams), Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle, and Ms. Ana Rolbiecki.

Review/Discussion regarding Public Comments: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Mr. Michaels made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Nelson. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Vouchers: Vouchers were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Ruff made a motion to approve payment, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Open Patrol Position: Due to resignation of an employee that was recently hired there is a Patrol position vacancy. An individual that had applied previously was contacted but declined the offer as they were making more money at their current job. A discussion was had on the CDL requirement and finding a way to offer that training to individuals that would otherwise qualify for the vacant Patrol position. The options are to have an individual do the training or send the person to school for the training. Mr. Platteter will look into costs associated with the training.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Performance Review Process: Mr. Ruff explained the discussion held at the Committee of the Board for performance reviews. The favorable performance review would result in a wage increase if the employee had gone above and beyond their regular duties. Mr. Ruff wondered if employees that were not meeting goals were still getting wage increases. Mr. DeWitt and Mr. Platteter explained there have been cases when an employee did not get the wage increase and appealed that decision to the HR Committee and the increase was then granted. A discussion was held regarding having the home committee hear the appeals instead of the HR Committee. This will be sent to the HR Committee for further review and action.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Fluid Secure Program: Mr. Platteter reported the program is ready to be tested. It will be run at the Alma Shop beginning Monday. Once tested for a few weeks it will then be turned on at the Mondovi and Fountain City Shops.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Mondovi Highway Shop Building: Mr. Platteter set up an appointment with the Walters Building representative and the person failed to show to the appointment. He will continue to try and contact him as something needs to be done with the building issues and the door not being able to open. He will also try and contact another builder to have them look at the situation and see what is causing it and what can be done to fix it.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Cold Storage Building: The cold storage building in Alma is having some issues with birds building nests in there and making a mess. First Choice Pest Control submitted an estimate of \$5,500.00 to clean up the nests, spike the doors and install netting to prevent

the birds from getting back in there. Mr. Sendelbach made a motion to approve the expense of pest control measures for the cold storage building in Alma, seconded by Mr. Ruff. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Status of Road Construction: Road construction is on schedule. County Road O is being paved and should be done Thursday. The intersection of County Road H and County Road HH was discussed to see what could be done for safety.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Bridge Construction Status: The remaining bridge installations are set to begin soon.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Chip Sealing Status: All chip sealing is completed. An issue with a large bump on one of the roads was discussed.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Buffalo County Safety Program: Mr. DeWitt and Mr. Teska will be working together to create quarterly safety programs for the Highway employees. A policy on tracking damage to equipment will be implemented to ensure that employees are held accountable for the care of their work equipment. Chainsaw safety is October 11th and 12th.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference: The conference is held once per year and moves around different states. This year it is in Wisconsin. Mr. Platteter would like to send two employees as they are trying to implement a spraying program here in Buffalo County. The cost is \$350 per person. Mr. Ruff made a motion to approve sending two employees and have them report back what they learned at the conference, seconded by Mr. Michaels. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Road-Stream Crossing Workshop: The workshop is being held in Ashland and would be beneficial as the DNR has been stricter with the installation of bridges and culverts when there is a trout stream involved. Mr. Platteter would like to send one employee. Mr. Ruff made a motion to approve sending the employee to the workshop, seconded by Mr. Michaels. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Fall Commissioner/Committee Members Meeting: The meeting will be held in Durand on October 4th and is open to committee members and the Commissioner. If anyone is interested, please let Mr. Platteter know.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Financial Status and Review: The books are now closed for March and staff is working on April and May. June will need to be completed by October for Mr. Platteter to put the final draft of the budget together. Concerns were raised as this was supposed to be caught up by this meeting. Committee members asked if more help was needed or what steps need to be taken to get things caught up.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Bridge Inspection Services Agreement: The bridge inspection agreement has increased, and the pricing structure is changing. The inspections will now be billed out as time and material and not per inspection. The estimated cost is \$57,430.00. The towns will be billed for their inspections from this agreement. Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the agreement with the towns receiving a letter informing them of the change to the pricing structure, seconded by Mr. Sendelbach. A roll call vote was taken. All in favor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the 2023 Joint Project Petitions: There are currently two petitions received with one more to come in within the next few days. This information will be put into a resolution and will be presented at the next meeting.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the 2023 Draft Budget: This budget was presented to the Finance Committee during budget presentations. It is not the final budget yet but shows a 10% increase over 2022.

Commissioner Report: Mr. Platteter reviewed upcoming trainings. He is working with the State on the revision of the ATV ordinance. As soon as it passes their review, he will bring it forward. The grader that was purchased in February has been built and should be delivered in October. The patch heater will arrive this week. The sign shop door has not been enlarged yet but will be before winter.

Committee Chair Report: None.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be October 11th at 8:00 a.m.

Public Comments: Mr. Nelson attended the meeting for the Town of Naples. They would like to have the area around County Road B and County Road HH mowed as it is dangerous with the buses there. Mr. Platteter explained the mowers are out for their second round. The Town of Naples would also like an explanation as to why their grant request for Segerstrom Road was denied. Mr. Platteter explained the grant was a federal grant and he would not have any information on that. There was only so much money and a lot of applications, so not all were granted.

Mr. Ruff indicated he mowed the curve on County Road I as it was dangerous for vehicles pulling out of there with the weeds being over three feet tall.

Adjourn: Mr. Sendelbach made a motion to adjourn at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk