

January 31, 2012

The special meeting of the Highway Committee was called to order by Chair Eugene Henke at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, January 31, 2012. The requirements of the Open Meeting Law were certified as being met.

Present: Eugene Henke
Alma Hedberg
Donald Peters
Paul Schwandt

Absent:

Others Present: Chuck Buss, Interim Commissioner
Becky Pence, Administrative Assistant
Duane Prachel, County Superintendent
Margaret Whirry, Alternate
Marge Bostelmann, County Clerk
Brenden Rhinehart, Marquette County Commissioner
Jerry Hebert II, Marquette County Highway Committee Chair
Aaron Wagner, Resident Town of Princeton
Tony Daley, Berlin Newspapers

Agenda

Motion/second (Hedberg/Peters) to approve the Agenda with addition of Correspondence of Clark/Jackson County Agreement regarding Highway Commissioner Services. Motion Carried.

Correspondence

Clark/Jackson County Agreement regarding Highway Commissioner Services.

Public Comments None

Appearances

Brendon Rhinehart, Marquette County Highway Commissioner explained Green Lake County has approached him in the past regarding a cooperative effort for Highway Commissioner. Rhinehart stated that there are issues with the road builders with keeping counties from doing some work and that he looks for loop holes to get by some of those types of constraints. The opportunity for a cooperative effort is quite interesting and would be a benefit for both Marquette County and Green Lake County Highway Departments. His background which would be a great benefit with Governor Scott Walker's changes as he had 22-24 years in the private sector. He has been involved with Marquette County policy rewrite, and has sales, marketing and management type skills. Everything would be logged regarding hours, vehicle, meetings/conferences, and general expenses.

Discussion relating to cooperative effort between Green Lake County & Marquette County Highway Departments & Discussion relating to alternative Highway Commissioner Position

Peters talked to Randy Anderson of Clark/Jackson County and Brendon Rhinehart at the WCHA Conference; Robert Podgorski retired Green Lake County Highway Commissioner; and Marge Bostelman, County Clerk, Green Lake County. Clark/Jackson County already has an agreement in place regarding Highway Commissioner Services. Robert Podgorski also thought combining services would be possible.

Peters stated that we cannot utilize equipment/labor for reconstruction, but we can for regular general maintenance. Also scheduling both crews to work together, buying larger quantities versus purchasing individually, saving on salaries, vehicle mileage would be a benefit. Time management would be on Rhinehart's shoulders but would not be a big issue.

Henke questioned if both counties will still have their own Highway Committee, and that Green Lake County has 2 Superintendents, and Marquette County has a Commissioner and 1 Superintendent.

Rhinehart said that Marquette County would have to get more self sufficient, and they would need to get a working foreman.

Hebert discussed the cooperative effort with Marquette's Highway Committee and the majority is in favor. There will be cost savings with purchasing power, projects would get done in a more efficient way, and the overtime costs would be lower.

Peters feels that this is the perfect opportunity right now because the two communities are relatively small, Green Lake County has 229 county miles, 70 state miles; Marquette County has 238 county miles and 114 miles state.

Hebert stated that Rhinehart's commission is up in March/April and recommends a 1 year trial period with an opt out clause for both counties.

Henke inquired as to equipment quantity. Marquette has 7 quad/tri-axles, 30 single axles, and Green Lake has 11 tri-axles, 3 single axles and 1 tandem axle.

Both Marquette and Green Lake do not have enough guys for rubber sealing so we end up brushing/treeing according to Prachel, so sharing of equipment and labor would be a positive.

Buss feels that the personal touch would be lost without a full time Commissioner, and the availability when situations arise would not be there, and obtaining funding may be a problem. Also, there's a fine line regarding sharing of equipment regarding maintenance versus reconstruction.

Hedberg is not in favor of the cooperative agreement.

Peters would like 1 Superintendent and 1 working foreman, Rhinehart's salary will increase. We need to look at getting more done with less. One county would have to be the fiscal agent. Whirry suggested if retirements are coming up that this be incorporated as we go along.

Prachel feels that Rhinehart will need more help and that a working foreman will not be advantageous. Rhinehart felt that minor adjustments will be needed as it progresses.

Bostemann said that the Governing Committee has to look at all costs, job descriptions, and both counties Corporate Counsel would need to look at. Suggested discussion with Clark and Jackson Counties take place, and preliminary figures from Marquette County are needed. Notification to Personnel Committee and a resolution is needed.

Peters suggested that Rhinehart and Hebert attend the February Green Lake County Highway Committee meeting, and that Green Lake County Committee attend a Marquette County Highway Committee Meeting.

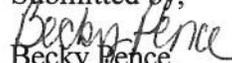
Motion/second (Peters/Hedberg) to move forward with investigating further details. Motion Carried.

Committee Discussion

- **Future agenda items for action and discussion:**
Cooperative Effort between Green Lake County & Marquette County Highway Departments
- **Regular meeting date: February 13, 2012 at 9:00 AM**

Adjournment

Motion/second (Peters/Hedberg) to adjourn at 11:30 PM. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Becky Fence,
Secretary