

June 14, 2012

The joint meeting of the Green Lake County Highway Committee and the Marquette County Highway Committee was called to order by Chair Paul Schwandt on Thursday, June 14, 2012, at 1:00 PM. The requirements of the Open Meeting Law were certified as being met.

Present: Paul Schwandt Absent:
Donald Peters
Eugene Henke
Margaret Whirry

Others Present: Chuck Buss, Interim Highway Commissioner
Becky Pence, Administrative Assistant
Duane Prachel, County Superintendent
Dan Sondalle, Interim Corporation Counsel
Marge Bostelmann, County Clerk
Mark Podoll, Sheriff
Al Shute, Planning & Zoning
Scott Weir, Maintenance
Ron Severson, Maintenance
David Abendroth, Resident City of Markesan
Tony Daley, Berlin Newspapers

Agenda

Motion/second (Whirry/Henke) to approve the Agenda. Motion Carried.

Appearances

Brenden Rhinehart, Marquette County Highway Commissioner
Gerald Hebert, Marquette County Highway Committee Chairman
Frank Breitenbach, Marquette County Highway Committee Member
Robert Goldsmith, Marquette County Highway Committee Member
Dan Klawitter, Marquette County Highway Committee Member
Sherwin Lloyd, Marquette County Highway Committee Member
Brenda Jahns-Grams, Marquette County Administrative Coordinator
Randy Anderson, Clark/Jackson Counties Highway Commissioner

Discussion relating to cooperative effort between Green Lake County and Marquette County Highway Departments

Randy Anderson, Clark/Jackson County Shared Highway Commissioner handed out and explained key elements in making a joint agreement work between two counties; and explained the agreement (contract) regarding Clark/Jackson Counties. Items included handling of sick leave; vacations; personnel; equipment purchases and usages; and sale of equipment. Hours per week worked averages 50-60 hrs. Most of the work will be put on the superintendent and office manager. Services are not a problem. The Commissioner's job is to make sure the roads are safe. The Superintendent is running the day to day operation in the summer and winter. Training and commissioner meetings are important and Randy finds a way to attend all meetings. The superintendent goes to the technical trainings.

Don Peters asked how long it would take to realistically see any cost savings. Randy Anderson indicated a minimum of 2 to 5 years to see any realistic cost savings. This would be a work in progress as you go. It takes a while to get to know the other county, and it took 2 years before looking into equipment savings.

Brenden Rhinehart explained his qualifications, and is going on 3 years with Marquette County, and has cut cost and stretched dollars; has been involved with the policy rewrite and has management type skills. Prior

to Marquette County, his father started his own business, and he has worked on roads, and wrenched on trucks growing up.

Marge Bostelmann commented that the topic of a cooperative effort has been brought up back in 2002. It is being brought up again, so now we need to look into further and make a decision if it will work or not work.

Don Peters stated that this is the perfect opportunity to move with this, but will never know if we don't at least try.

Eugene Henke stated that we are moving ahead, we have good relations with other counties and have good people here and are also eliminating a position, and saving money.

Paul Schwandt read a portion of the minutes from June 12, 2012 regarding Brenden Rhinehart being too busy to go to the meetings. Brenden stated the only meetings he doesn't attend are the monthly regional commissioner meetings. Also, that Robert Podgorski has approached him at a past WCHA Conference regarding this cooperative effort which would benefit both counties.

Dave Klawitter, Marquette County spoke about the smoothness of the operation being better and think it is worth working forward to the cooperative effort.

Sherwin Lloyd, Marquette County stated that after reading the agreement handed out by Randy Anderson, it really makes it look worthwhile.

Jerry Hebert invited Green Lake County to attend a Marquette Highway meeting and said that we need a commitment to commit on sharing a Commissioner between two counties.

Robert Goldsmith, Marquette County also agrees with going forward with the cooperative effort.

Public Comments

David Abendroth, resident City Markesan, stated Green Lake County needs to become more efficient. You cannot be afraid of new ideas in order to become more efficient. You need to get a return on equipment by using the equipment/sharing concept, etc. You are not seeing the big picture. You need to look at what can be saved in maybe 5 years. \$500,000.00 - \$750,000.00 would be a substantial savings.

Mark Podoll, Sheriff asked Randy if he has encountered any major incidents in both counties at the same time. Randy replied it's hectic, but you're key people are still there to handle – in Jackson County the union foreman, and in Clark County the non union foreman.

Committee Discussion

Margaret Whirry stated the committees need to discuss individually, put a packet together in July for presentation to the County Boards. We need to do something soon.

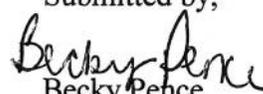
Paul Schwandt suggested another joint meeting in September.

Future agenda items for action and discussion:

- *September Joint Meeting Green Lake County/Marquette County Highway Departments*

Adjournment

Motion/second (Peters/Henke) to adjourn at 2:30PM. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Becky Pence
Secretary