

**July 10, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Highway Committee was called to order by Chair Paul Schwandt at 4:30 PM on Tuesday, July 10, 2012. The requirements of the Open Meeting Law were certified as being met.

Present: Paul Schwandt  
Donald Peters  
Eugene Henke  
Margaret Whirry

Absent:

Others Present: Chuck Buss, Interim Highway Commissioner  
Becky Pence, Administrative Assistant  
Duane Prachel, County Superintendent  
Dan Sondalle, Interim Corporation Counsel  
Tony Daley, Berlin Newspapers  
Lauree & Rennaud, Green Lake Greenways  
Adam Trotz, Dalton Fire Dept.  
Jack Meyers, County Board Chair  
James Fox, Town of Green Lake Chair  
Bob Jahn, Highway Dept.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Agenda**

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

**Minutes**

*Motion/second (Whirry/Henke)* to approve the meeting Minutes of June 12, 2012 and June 14, 2012.  
Motion Carried.

**Correspondence** None

**Public Comments**

James Fox, Town of Green Lake Chair is not in favor of the Green Lake and Marquette County Highway Departments cooperative effort. Everything is running great and the county should pursue keeping things as they are. Fox also requested that CTHs O and B be looked into for repair.

**Appearances**

Lauree Renaud, Green Lake Greenways explained how biking brings in tourism and extra money for Green Lake County, and would like to have bike route signs put up on various county roads.

Adam Trotz, resident Town of Manchester, explained the Dalton Fire Department would like to have a parade and requests permission for CTH FF road closure during the parade.

**Monthly Vouchers**

*Motion/second (Whirry/Peters)* to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$83,660.22. Motion Carried.

**Commissioner's Report**

Buss reported crews were working on CTH A reconstruction project; rubber crack sealing for the Town of Mackford; repairing the deck and abutment of the bridge on STH 44 in Kingston; mowing and patching potholes. Also, 6 trucks hauled for Columbia County for a week and currently 6 trucks hauling for Marquette County.

Anticipated activities consists of CTH A reconstruction, mowing, surface/shoulder maintenance as needed, and paving.

Crash data consisted of 25 deer, 5 other/weather, and 4 county damage claims.

### **DOT Request for Services** None

### **Dalton Fire Department Parade 9/3/12 – CTH FF**

Adam Trotz, Dalton Fire Department is requesting permission for road closure off of CTH FF from North Street to STH 44 for a parade which would start at 10:00 am on 9/3/12 (Labor Day), and end by 11:00 am. *Motion/second (Peters/Whirry)* to approve the Dalton Fire Department Parade on 9/3/12 for closure of CTH FF from 10:00 am – 11:00 am with the requirement that Dalton Fire Department notifies the Sheriff's Department the day of the parade. Motion Carried.

### **Right of Way, Ditch Farming Issue**

Whirry stated that we need to look into and find out how big the issues are regarding county roads and erosion problems.

### **Bike Route Signs**

Renaud would like permission to have bike route signs put up and requested the Highway Department to partner with Green Lake Greenways by installing the signs that Green Lake Greenways purchases. Two different signs were presented. To loop the lake properly would require 25 signs.

Buss said it wouldn't be a problem to install the signs while in the course of the Sign Makers duties and explained the State would need to approve the signs if installed on state highways.

Peters questioned if Green Lake Greenways could install the signs themselves. Buss indicated a liability could occur because of working in the right of way.

Sondalle will need to draft a waiver regarding holding Green Lake County harmless if Green Lake Greenways installs the signs themselves.

*Motion/second (Whirry/Henke)* to allow the small bike route signs to be put up on county roads and to allow Green Lake Greenways to install the signs after working with Buss to get the proper position and working with Sondalle to get a waiver together to hold Green Lake County harmless of any liability. Motion Carried.

### **Sign Policy**

Whirry would like a policy regarding organizations putting up different signs so the committee doesn't have to address this every time a request is made. Buss will check to see how other counties handle.

### **Engineering Selection for Belle Fountain Creek Bridge Structure P-24-0901, Gillet Drive**

*Motion/second (Whirry/Henke)* to approve MSA Professional Services for the Engineering Firm for the design portion of Belle Fountain Creek Bridge, Structure P-24-0901 Gillet Drive in the Town of Kingston. Motion Carried.

### **Use of County Property** None

### **2013 Budget**

Preliminary 2013 budget figures showed a \$48,113 increase primarily due to last years 3% cut, and the capital equipment account for a new tri-axle truck. Peters would like other ideas for the equipment such as possible single axle trucks, etc. Meyers suggested Buss review all equipment and budgeted items to determine what is actually needed and what can be done without. The Equipment Operation was explained regarding revenue generated and other finances were also explained.

*Motion/second (Peters/Whirry)* to deduct \$48,113 from the equipment account in order to come in at a zero

levy increase and to forward to Finance for approval. Motion Carried.

### **Repair of CTHs BB, FFF, FF/H, and GG**

Whirry suggested a road review and to prepare another 6 year plan. Peters questioned what the criteria for roads are. Discussion held on traffic counts. Buss will get traffic counts prior to the road review on August 27, 2012 at 4:00.

### **Green Lake and Marquette County Highway Departments Cooperative Effort and Discussion relating to alternative Highway Commissioner Position and Highway Department Restructuring**

An Agreement for the purchase and usage of highway equipment received from Randy Anderson of Clark/Jackson County was included in the committee packet.

Henke doesn't care for Marquette County invoicing Green Lake County for services, and Marquette County determines the benefits; and doesn't understand why things can't stay as they currently are. Also, out of 72 counties only 2 counties have combined one commissioner.

Peters explained that Buss didn't sign for the position when originally posted, and has now changed his mind to not retire, which is understandable, but he would like to see a commitment of 5-10 years for a Commissioner and a 5-10 year plan for the county.

Peters left the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Whirry stated that Marquette and Green Lake are different kinds of counties with the soil, etc., and believes that there are cost savings that would be beneficial, but does not feel that the Marquette County Commissioner would be the best fit after hearing different conversations. We need to either get something to the county board meeting in August, but do not have enough information, or the job description needs to be rewritten for the September county board meeting so the position can be reposted.

Schwandt explained that what people are hearing is hearsay, and may not necessarily be factual. Schwandt asked Pence for her thoughts.

Pence agreed about needing more information in order to make a decision. Suggested comparing equipment to see if a fit could be made, or maybe asking DOT for their input.

Whirry asked Pence to get with Bostelmann to see if more information can be obtained for the August meeting.

### **Financial Reports-Accounts Receivable, Expenditures, and Revenues**

The Committee reviewed the Financial Reports for Highway. Past due accounts receivable were reviewed. Pence will get information to Sondalle for further action.

### **Railroad Consortium**

Henke and Peters will be attending the meeting 7/11/12.

### **Closed Session**

*Motion/Second (Whirry/Henke)* to convene in closed session per ss19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; ss19.85(1)(g) conferring with legal counsel for the governing body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. The closed session relates to employee evaluation(s); Interim Commissioner Position. Roll-Call Vote, 3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Peters). Motion Carried.

### **Resume Open Session**

*Motion/Second (Whirry/Henke)* to resume open session. Roll-Call Vote, 3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Peters)

Motion Carried.

**Discussion and Possible Action on Matters Discussed In Closed Session Relating to employee evaluations, and Interim Commissioner**

*Motion/second (Whirry/Henke)* to approve the 6 month evaluations for Brett Hermanson, Laborer and Robert Dolgner, Labor with recommendation for approval to Personnel Committee; and to approve Wayne Lang, Grader Operator and to forward to his personnel file. Motion Carried.

*Motion/second (Whirry/Henke)* to recommend to personnel a stipend for Chuck Buss, Interim Commissioner of \$2.00 per hour retroactive back to the date personnel appointment of February 2, 2012, and a stipend for Duane Prachel, County Supervisor of \$1.00 per hour retroactive back to February 2, 2012. Motion Carried.

**Committee Discussion**

Buss received a phone call from Joe Benbenek, DOT regarding CTH D road project being changed from major collector to minor. Funding probably will not be available.

**Future agenda items for action and discussion:**

- **Regular meeting date: August 14, 2012 at 4:30 PM**
- **Road Review: August 27, 2012 at 4:00 PM**

**Field Road Review** None

**Adjournment**

*Motion/second (Whirry/Henke)* to adjourn at 7:00 PM. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Becky Pence  
Secretary