

**Date: September 9, 2014**  
**Highway Committee Meeting**  
**Location: Highway Office**  
**Time: 9:00 AM**

**Meeting called to order by Chairman Aasen at 9:00 am.**

**Open meeting law requirements have been met.**

**Members present: Chairman John Aasen, Mike Nelson, Doug Winters, Curt Skoyen, and Commissioner Lyga.**

**Members absent: Ernest Vold**

**Other persons attending: One Citizen**

**Minutes of August 12, 2014 meeting were presented as drafted. Motion to accept by Mike Nelson. Seconded by Doug Winters. Motion Carried.**

**Motion to accept agenda by Doug Winters, seconded by Mike Nelson. Motion Carried.**

#### **AUDIT**

**Approval of vouchers approved by audit committee – Vouchers #692 to #696 for \$718.01. August Vouchers #697 to #713 for \$288,257.75. August Voucher #714 for \$140.00 August Vouchers #715 to #717 for \$7,935.08. Motion to pay by Doug Winters, second by Curt Skoyen. Motion carried.**

**Voucher #718 thru #789 were audited in the amount of \$447,990.32. Motion to pay by Mike Nelson, seconded Curt Skoyen. Motion Carried.**

#### **BUILDINGS and GROUNDS DISCUSSION**

**The repairs to the Whitehall Shop roof have been completed. A final inspection from company supplying materials needs to be done.**

**The salt sheds need to have some exterior work done to them.**

#### **HIGHWAY VIEWING and MAINTENANCE DISCUSSION**

**The Highway Department sealcoated 57 Miles of Roads in a twelve day time frame.**

**The majority of paving planned for Townships and/or Co-Aid Roads have been completed. Some county paving needs to be done yet this season.**

**The bridge in Ettrick on County D has been re-rated. The approaches are in bad shape and need of repair. The rating now has the bridge to be posted for a 15 Ton weight limit. If an engineering firm is hired to do an analysis of bridge and recommended work is completed, the county can avoid placing the lower weight limit on the bridge.**

**The Highway Department has been asked to remove a Stop Sign on Whistle Pass Road where it intersects with County F. The committee reviewed the placement of the signs (see attached) on the intersection and discussed in great detail. Curt Skoyen made the motion to place an additional Stop Sign on County F. Placing three Stop Signs at this intersection for safety reasons. Mike Nelson seconded the motion. Motion Carried.**

## **EQUIPMENT DISCUSSION/VIEWING/PURCHASE**

Commissioner Lyga informed the committee that the 2001 Sterling Distributor truck was recently rolled over. The truck had a 18' spray bar and tank. The insurance company is currently getting estimates and deciding what to do with the claim. This piece of equipment has replacement coverage on it. Commissioner Lyga believes this truck will be totaled by insurance company. The department will need to replace this truck before next season. More information will be brought to the October meeting.

The three truck chassis are at Universal Highway Products waiting for equipment installation. The two quad axles are scheduled to have work begin the third week in September. Hope to have the single axle chassis equipment installed to be used early this winter, plowing season.

## **PERSONNEL**

Commissioner Lyga explained that the Highway Policy for use of Vacation Hours is different than the Courthouse Policy. John Aasen made the motion to change the Highway Department Policy to allow employees to use Vacation Time in half hour increments. The motion was seconded by Mike Nelson. Motion Carried.

One employee is currently off of work. This is a Non-Work related leave. It is possible that the employee may be off an additional two to three months.

There is another employee facing a surgery that could take him off work for two to three months. This employee is contemplating retiring after his surgery.

An employee recently turned in their retirement notice to take effect in October.

Commissioner Lyga asked to post for this position in house and advertise outside if needed.

The replacement person could work with the retiree to learn the position.

Mike Nelson made a motion to post for this position In House and if no one applies, advertise outside. Motion was seconded by Doug Winters. Motion Carried.

## **APPEARANCES**

B & B Sands Representatives and Concerned Citizens from the proposed Hoesley Mine were present.

Tim Barth read a letter addressed to himself written by Dave Brevik, Buffalo County Highway Commissioner.

Bruce Hoesley handed out a pamphlet showing that they, along with Mr. Barth, are part of the community and concerned with the needs of the area. A list of benefactors was included in the pamphlet to show who gave freely of time and money to complete this the Football Field Turf Project in Arcadia. The pamphlet also included a copy of the letter Mr. Barth received from the Buffalo County Highway Commissioner.

Cyril "Sonny" Pehler spoke briefly about the good work history his company has with Tim Barth. The Barth mine(s) use local companies to supply as much as possible versus the other mine in the area.

Fran Pehler explained the amount of fuel tax Tim Barth is already paying to use the roads through his fuel purchases. Mr. Pehler explained that Mr. Barth is paying \$9,500 per truck fuel tax, \$6,000 of this is returned to the County. Mr. Pehler's opinion is that is it unfair to require the sand mines to pay any additional road usage fee.

Dave Hoesley spoke of the growth to the Town of Dodge with the sand mine. He felt the "Bond" should not be required. No other trucks, such as Milk Trucks, Trucks hauling rock and sand from current quarries, are required to pay additional road usage fees.

To clarify some misunderstandings, a Phone Conference was made to Dave Brevik, Buffalo County Highway Commissioner. The Highway committee and other person(s)

present asked Mr. Brevik questions in regards to his current road agreement with Tim Barth and any future road agreements.

Mr. Brevik has a positive view of the current road agreement with Mr. Barth. Mr. Brevik is happy with the current agreement but felt any future agreements will need to have some upfront money before agreement will be signed.

Mike Hoesley felt this large upfront bond money was not necessary. The per ton agreement was more than fair. He also pointed out that a portion of the proposed route for the sand trucks is County G from County J to Hwy 35. This portion of road never has a road ban placed on it during the spring season. That allows heavy trucks to use this road and do damage to the road during the spring thaw. It is not fair to put the total repair burden on B & B Sands.

The Hoesley sand mine has an expected life of approximately five years. Plan is to run eight to ten trucks, making six to eight rounds daily. The trucks would average 25 tons per load. The trucks would not travel during the seasonal road ban time frame. B & B Sands is offering the Highway Department a \$500,000 Bond and \$1.00 per ton paid quarterly. They also agreed not to haul any sand during the Spring Road Ban Season. The committee asked Mr. Barth and the Hoesley family to put this proposal in writing and submit to the Highway Department for further review.

Commissioner Lyga and the Highway Committee discussed the Implements of Husbandry (See Attached). After reviewing the information, Doug Winters made the motion to adopt Option E for Trempealeau County. Curt Skoyen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

The next committee meeting will be held on October 14, 2014 at 9:00 am at the Highway Office in Whitehall.

The November meeting date was set for Friday, November 14, 2014 at 9:00 am to be held at the Highway Office in Whitehall.

Chairman Aasen adjourned the meeting at 11:06 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Haines  
Recording Secretary  
Trempealeau County Hwy Dept