

Montgomery County Board Road & Bridge Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 5th, 2014

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

Members Present: Gene Miles, Bonnie Branum, Glenn Savage, Bob Sneed, and County Board Chairman Roy Hertel

Members Absent: Sharon Kuchar and Earlene Robinson,

Other Present: County Engineer Kevin Smith

The Committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Update/Approval Red Ball Trail:** Engineer Smith reported that Assistant States Attorney Betsy Wilson was contacted by the attorney from Moniger. They were to follow up with Betsy Wilson regarding the letter we sent over a month ago. Engineer Smith stated that he changed the location for the committee's monthly meeting to be held at the Historic Courthouse because he thought the Moniger Attorney would be attending. Upon further checking with Betsy Wilson, Engineer Smith stated that Moniger's attorney has not made any further communication and it was too late to change the meeting location. Engineer Smith also reported that there has been no response to the 10-day notification letter so the next step is to send a default letter to Moniger.
2. **Update/Approval MCHD 15-Year Plan:** Engineer Smith asked if committee members had any questions to the 15 year plan that he presented last month. The committee discussed making it a priority to straighten the curves on the County road that goes to Route 16 in Nokomis. Committee discussed some options to save some money on this project by purchasing our own right of way and doing some of the work ourselves. If this committee thinks that this project should be done first and there is coal money available then this could be communicated to the Economic Development that is project is to be considered a top priority as a recommendation by the Road and Bridge Committee. Engineer Smith then stated that the next priority that he would recommend would be to make sure our County roads have a good rock base under them. Large trucks are destroying our roads that have very little or no rock as the base. Engineer Smith would have to come up with a priority list of which roads need to be done and then an engineering company would have to come in and bore sections of the roads to identify how much rock base is there. Engineer Smith stated that it costs approximately \$800,000 per mile to apply hot mix on the roads. Chairman Hertel stated that we will probably need to help the Village of Irving fix the Irving road that leads to Route 16. The committee also talked about the repairs needed to the heavily traveled road that goes through Walshville. The Village of Walshville doesn't have the money to fix it. The road is in poor shape and has a drainage problem. All these projects will be considered and prioritized.
3. **Update/Approval 2014 Oil Letting Date:** The 2014 Oil Letting Date will be scheduled for Thursday, March 27th at 9:30 AM at the Highway Department.
4. **Update/Approval Union Safety Meetings:** Engineer Smith reported that he would like to reinstate the Safety meetings again at the highway department. These meetings are also mentioned in the Union contract and Smith wants to define and focus only on the safety issues in the meeting. Chairman Hertel stated that they are trying to address the problem with the radios in the outlying areas of the County. There is no radio contact north of Raymond. Cell phones are

then used if there is an emergency. Chairman Hertel stated that the Sheriff's department is pursuing the purchase of a cell tower to help the radio communications in the County, but the estate has to be finished first. A couple of employees don't like using their cell phones when the radio doesn't work. This could be a safety issue. The safety committee consists of the union steward, another employee, Engineer Smith and Committee Chairman Gene Miles. The Safety Meeting is scheduled for February 10th at 8:00 AM.

5. **Update/Approval New Rotary Mower Purchases:** Engineer Smith reported that our 15 foot mowers that are about eight years old are in need of repairs. Smith also stated that we are to the point where we need to put a lot of money into this machinery that is not worth much. Smith reported that the mowers range in costs from about \$14,500 to \$15,800 each. Just to replace the gear boxes in the current mowers would be about \$1,200 to \$1,300 each. Last year the mechanic spent about two weeks to get these two mowers running good enough for last season and it will take about three weeks of work to get them running for this year. The committee discussed the possibility of purchasing one mower this year and using the parts from one of the old ones to keep the other old one running for this year so it can be replaced next year. Engineer Smith will check with the mechanic. **Motion by Branum and second by Savage to advertise for bids on two mowers. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Update/Approval Pick-up Truck Letting:** The committee received one bid for the four wheel drive pickup truck from Wright Automotive. Wright Automotive submitted a bid for a 2015 Heavy Duty ¾ ton 4-door pickup truck in the amount of \$30,050. Other vehicle specs are for a V-8 engine, 6.0 liter, automatic transmission, crew cab with four doors. Rick Cruse stated that because this is a 2015 model, delivery will take place 8 weeks after March 20th so it will not make the 90 day delivery that was mentioned in the bid specs. The committee was OK with this issue. **Motion by Bonnie Branum and second by Bob Sneed to approve and recommend the purchase of the 2015 four wheel drive F250 pickup truck from Wright Automotive for \$30,050. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Update/Approval Other Business:** Committee discussed an issue from a concerned citizen with the County highway trucks using Mechanic Street. Engineer Smith stated that he was under the impression that highway trucks couldn't use Fairground Street because of Beckemeyer School and that it is a brick street. The City of Hillsboro also does not want heavy trucks on Kinkead Road. Chairman Hertel stated that he will talk with Mayor Downs regarding the issue of highway trucks not being able to use Kinkead Road and Fairground Street.
8. **Road and Bridge Report:** Montgomery County Forces have been checking and replacing signs, cutting brush, and clearing snow and ice.

Motion by Branum, second by Glenn Savage to Pay Bills. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Bonnie Branum, second by Bob Sneed to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Christine Daniels as Deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.