

The Pipestone County Commissioners met with Chairman Les Nath, Commissioners Chris Hollingsworth, Luke Johnson, Bruce Kooiman, and Dan Wildermuth. County Administrator Sharon Hanson, County Auditor Tyler Reisch, County Engineer David Halbersma, Staff Engineer Nick Bergman and Highway Maintenance Supervisor Doug Nagel were also present. Chairman Nath called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**AGENDA**

Motion by Hollingsworth, seconded by Wildermuth to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Kooiman to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of March 28, 2017 Commissioner Meeting

Motion carried unanimously.

**911 RESTRICTED ACCOUNT, SET HOME TAX ABATEMENT PUBLIC HEARING**

Due to a review of MN Statute allowable expenses in that one expense should have not been taken out of E911 Restricted Account, Auditor Reisch requested approval to adjust the E911 Restricted Account 12/31/16 ending balance from \$13,640.75, that was approved at the March 14, 2017 meeting, to \$16,040.75. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Kooiman to approve a 12/31/16 E911 Restricted Account ending balance of \$16,040.75, correcting the previous amount set at the March 14, 2017 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kooiman, seconded by Hollingsworth to set a home tax abatement public hearing for April 25, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. pursuant to Minnesota Statute 469.1813 and 116J.993 through 116J.995, for a home tax abatement application from Dean Honken. Motion carried unanimously.

**PROJECT UPDATES, PROJECTS UNDER CONTRACT, PROJECTS IN THE PLANNING STAGE**

Engineer Halbersma provided updates on projects, projects under contract and projects in the planning stage.

Engineer Halbersma provided an update on the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 16 Widening/Surfacing Project. Engineer Halbersma stated that presently there is no bridge bond funds available, however if bridge bonding dollars are approved, the funds could be limited for this project. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Kooiman to set the bid letting date for CSAH 16 SP 059-616-032 Project for May 9, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Wildermuth, seconded by Hollingsworth to set the bid letting date for CSAH 2 SP 059-602-025 Grading/Surfacing for May 9, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer Halbersma is recommending for CSAH 34 (11<sup>th</sup> Street ) Project that the County utilize maintenance funds for the County's share of surfacing costs in order to allow the City of Pipestone to let the Project.

Engineer Halbersma requested a recommendation from the Board regarding whether or not the Historic Stone Arch Bridge should have guardrails as stipulated by State of MN standards. If the County deviates from the State of MN standards, the County could be liable for accidents/injuries as a result of no guardrails on the Bridge. Consensus of the Board directing Engineer Halbersma to investigate further options in design and grant funding for the guardrails and bring back to the Board for consideration.

#### **CITY OF PIPESTONE TAP TRAIL GRANT**

Engineer Halbersma announced that the City of Pipestone's Transportation Alternative Grant (TAP) Application has been tentatively approved in the approximate amount of \$600,000.00 The Project would extend the trail from Minnesota West Technical and Community College and the Good Samaritan rehabilitation facility to the 0.72 mile of existing North Hiawatha Avenue trail which would also consist of full reconstruction of that portion of the trail. However, the \$20,000.00 budgeted for the flashing beacon for Hiawatha Ave pedestrian crossing near MN West and Good Samaritan was not included in the grant award as it was deemed unnecessary.

#### **LOCAL ROAD WETLAND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

Engineer Halbermsa announced that the Legislature provided one year funding for Local Road Wetland Replacement Program. Under this program, local road authorities are required to report wetlands lost due to rehabilitation or reconstruction of existing local roads to meet state or federal safety or design standards after taking steps to minimize the wetland impacts. The state through Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is required to mitigate the loss or replace

the affected wetlands with BWSR providing the wetlands credits needed to mitigate or replace their wetland impacts.

**ROAD AND BRIDGE PUBLIC HEARING**

Engineer Halbersma reviewed topics and discussion of roads and bridges covered at the Road and Bridge Public Hearing that was held February 27, 2017. Engineer Halbersma reviewed CSAH 17 north of Edgerton where traffic and dust concerns were shared. Engineer Halbersma estimated that it would cost approximately \$1,375,000.00 to surface the road. Consensus of the Board to bring back additional information on dust control measures and cost.

The wheelage tax was discussed and Engineer Halbersma stated that the Board would need to decide to enact a wheelage tax by August 1<sup>st</sup> in order for it to become effective in the following calendar year. Consensus of the Board to consider at a future meeting after Commissioners have a chance to get constituent feedback on the tax.

Engineer Halbersma reported on the non-CSAH system size and city cost-share policy on state aid projects with little comment being received on those topics.

**MAINTENANCE UPDATES**

Engineer Halbersma provided background information and economic analysis of trading in a 2008 140M Cat Motor Grader with approximate hours at trade of 8,750 hours. \$200,000.00 is budgeted for a motor grader in 2017. Refurbishing the 2008 motor grader was also considered. Consensus of the Board to consider the purchase of a new motor grader at the April 11, 2017 Commissioner meeting.

Engineer Halbersma requested support from the Board on adopting a practice of supplementing a beaver bounty for townships that have enacted a beaver bounty program. Engineer Halbersma stated that currently three townships have a beaver bounty program and that supplementing with County funds at \$25.00 per beaver would help the townships promote the program. Motion by Wildermuth, seconded by Johnson to allow County funds to be dispersed as a supplement for any township that has a beaver bounty program at a rate of \$25.00 per beaver. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer Halbersma provided an update on maintenance work completed by the Highway Department the last couple of months.

Commissioner Wildermuth excused himself from the meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Johnson: Pipestone Annual Chamber meeting, Hatfield City Council, Soil and Water Conservation District, AMC Research Committee, Holland City Council, Primewest Health Insurance meeting, Solid Waste Commission, One Watershed, One Plan, Planning and Zoning Commission.

Commissioner Hollingsworth: SW Regional Extension, SW Mental Health, City of Pipestone Community meeting, Primewest Health Insurance meeting.

Commissioner Kooiman: Hospital Plant Operations, Edgerton Chamber, Southwest Regional Development Commission, Fair Board, Personnel, Primewest Health Insurance meeting, Fair Board.

Commissioner Nath: Primewest Board meeting, Hospital Executive Committee, Hospital Plant Operations, Pipestone Alcohol Coalition, Personnel, SW Health and Human Services, Hospital Executive Committee, Private Industry Council, Regional Radio Board, Central School Committee, Fair Board.

Motion by Kooiman, seconded by Hollingsworth to adjourn. Yeas: Hollingsworth, Johnson, Kooiman, Nath. Nays: None. Absent: Wildermuth. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

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Les Nath  
Pipestone County Board Chair

ATTEST:

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Sharon Hanson  
County Administrator