

Public Works Committee Minutes

Tuesday January 23, 2024- 7:00 AM

Town of Verona Hall, 7669 County Highway PD

Present: Mike Duerst - Chair, Brett Lindell, John Senseman Russ Swiggum

Absent: Manfred Enburg

Also Present: Christopher Barnes - Public Works Director, Mark Judd - Patrolman

Public Present: Archie Serwe, Serwe Implements

Call to Order/Additions to Agenda/Approve Agenda - Chair Duerst called the meeting to order at 7:03

1. AM. Duerst asked for additions and approval of the agenda. Sensemen moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Swiggum, motion carried.
2. **Action: Review Minutes of December 19,2023** - The minutes were reviewed by the committee. Sensemen moved to approve the minutes as amended, second by Swiggum, motion carried.
3. **Discussion and Possible Action: Boom Mower/ Tractor acquisition-** Duerst opened the discussion by referencing the agenda material and questioned the committee on the preference for new or a used equipment. Barnes described the payback information contained in the agenda. Barnes state the payback for a until varied for 7 years to 20 years based on the hours of use per year and the equipment purchased. Discussion followed on various tractor pros and cons. Lindell proposed the advantage of finding a low hour's tractor. Barnes stated that the biggest issue the town has experienced with rental units is the reliability of the mower unit. Swiggum asked about the different mower manufacturers. Barnes discussed the various mower head options and cost. Swiggum Judd stated the flail head would do a better job of cutting trees up to 6-inch diameter. Senseman asked what was the e was the cost of the best value unit. Barnes responded with a \$160,000 level. Sensemen questioned what does the town get for the \$160,000? Barnes replied that mower would provide a higher level and added mileage of roadside maintenance and vegetation management. Archie Serwe, Serwe Implements, entered the meeting. Duerst asked Serwe about specific tractors pros and cons. Serwe explained many of the various tractor/mower combinations and uses. Discussion followed. Serwe explained that he has sold units to Greene County, Iowa County, Ridgeway, and the town of Dadeville are all current customers.

Swiggum asked about financing options and Serwe discussed various options. Barnes stated that the town has been a "pay as you go" agency and would likely pay for any equipment in cash. Discussion followed. Serwe distributed literature and left the meeting. Duerst asked for a motion to recommend to the Board to purchase a used tractor/mower combination for an amount not to exceed \$160,000. Motion by Lindell, second by Swiggum. Motion carried.
4. **Discussion and Possible Action: Draft Road maintenance agreement with the Town of Middleton-** Barnes introduced the proposed road maintenance agreement and offer back ground on the agreements and the limits in the agreement. Barnes explained the maintenance division between the two towns. Barnes

expressed his concern over which township controls the speed limit and seasonal weight limit road Duerst asked that the details be worked out and come back to the board in February.

5. **Discussion 2024 Capital Improvement Program-** Barnes explained the 2024 road project is ready to bid and that the cost estimate is significantly under his original estimate. Barnes stated that he and Judd discussed various roads which could be added and that Flint Lane represented the logical choice to repave since the road condition is currently so poor. Barnes explained that he liked to repave at least one of the “orphan” roads that have long been neglected due to low traffic. Discussion followed. Duerst asked for a motion. Lindell made the motion to add Flint Lane to the bidding package, second by Swiggum, motion carried.
6. **Discussion and Possible Action: Town generated right of way brush disposal-** Duerst states that he had been contacted by Tom Mathies, town supervisor, for the committee to consider alternates to burning brush. Barnes referenced the memo in the agenda which describes different options and costs to dispose. Judd mentioned that less brush would be generated by the use of a boom mower. Discussion followed. Sensemen made a motion to table the discussion for more information and consideration, second by Swiggum, Motion carried.
7. **Information: Fitchrona Road Design Engineering Intergovernmental Agreement- Barnes** stated that he had worked on an inter-governmental agreement to shear the engineering cost for reconstruction project. Swiggum questioned if this agreement was for the work from Nesbitt roundabout to Tonto Trail. Barnes yes and the total contact amount was \$440,000 with town share at \$33,000. Barnes explained that \$33,000 was approximately 7% of the total cost and was derived at by as a function of the estimated construction cost split between the town and the city. Barnes stated that the agreement would go to the town board for approval at the February meeting. Discussion followed. No further questions.
8. **Information: Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Pump Station 17 and Force Relief Sewer-** Barnes stated that construction was underway and work was ongoing at the Military Trail crossing, force main installation on the Grandview property, and bores under Old PB and US 151. Swiggum questioned what the plastic PVC pipe was being used for? Barnes stated that it was the force main pipe.
9. **Information: Country View Road and County Highway PD widening/relocation-**Barnes stated that construction on County Highway PD was shut down for the winter and no new information on County view road realignment to the south. Barnes also state that Country view Road south of the EPIC gardens would be closed in mid-February for utility installation until likely September.
10. **Development Updates:**
 - a. **Riverside Heights Development -**Barnes states that the river Vista conceptual plan was approved by Town Board and he was awaiting preliminary plans from the engineer. Further Barnes stated that the Sugar River Estates development was discussed at the last plan commission meeting and many of the neighboring property owners were opposed primarily due to concerns about flooding of the single road entrance proximity to the west branch Sugar River. Barnes discussed that the capital improvement program includes a road project to improvement Sugar River Road by reconstructing the roadbed and some widening to accommodate a paved shoulder.

11.

12. **Equipment Condition Update**-Judd stated that there were no pending issues at this time. Sensemen asked if the town had any where the snow needed to load and haul snow? Judd replied no, we had never had to haul snow from a road are. Swiggum asked about snow drifting roads, Judd replied that Grandview Road, Whalen Road, and Fitchrona Road were the most likely to drift.
13. **Schedule February Committee Meeting and set agenda items**- Meeting was set for February 20, 2024
14. **Adjourn** - Motion by Lindell, second by Sensemen to adjourn at 8:37 AM.

Approved: February 20, 2024

Prepared By: W. Christopher Barnes