

**HANCOCK COUNTY HIGHWAY, ROAD AND BRIDGE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**August 28, 2020**

The Hancock County Highway, Road and Bridge Committee meeting was called to order by Mr. Bolton on Friday, August 28, 2020 at 8:30 A.M. Committee members present were Steve Bolton, Patsy Davis, Wayne Bollin, Mark Menn, Tom Scheetz, Harry Douglas, and Pat Cramer. Also present was County Engineer Elgin Berry.

Claims and expenditures for the month of August were presented to the committee for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Scheetz and seconded by Ms. Davis to pay all bills as presented. All committee members present voted 'Aye'.

County Engineer's Report:

The county engineer told the committee that one employee is still drawing workman's comp for a shoulder injury and has not yet been released to return to work.

All oil and chip work on the county and township roads has been completed.

Mr. Bollin complimented the Highway Department on the work that had been done but also noted that a lot of people are complaining about oil and chip projects due to the dust and inconvenience while it's being applied. Other options for road maintenance were discussed, but they all cost more money than oiling and chipping.

Mr. Scheetz noted that the gravel road past his mother's house is getting a very high volume of traffic due to the bridge closure on IL Route 96 south of Nauvoo. The dust is terrible and he asked for the contact information of someone at IDOT to see if the state could apply dust control treatment on that road.

Mr. Bollin asked if there is a better way to backfill culverts that cross the county roads, so they don't settle and cause bumps. Mr. Berry said that the current method is to backfill the portion that's beneath the roadway with sand and then replace the road surface on top of it. The shoulders and foreslopes are backfilled with clay, to prevent water from running through the soil around the culvert and washing out the sand. Mr. Berry said that other options are crushed gravel or flowable fill. The crushed gravel backfill is more difficult to compact and flowable fill is more expensive.

Old Business:

Ms. Davis reported that there have been a lot of negative comments and numerous pictures have been posted on Facebook about the bridge that was removed in Prairie Township. Mr. Berry noted that it's a township road and the county has no jurisdiction there. Mr. Scheetz suggested that the township could put in a creek forge. Mr. Menn suggested that the committee stop discussing the issue unless something new comes up about it.

New Business:

Mr. Scheetz said that he wants to set September 8, 2020 as the bid deadline for insurance. At the request of CIRMA, Mr. Scheetz has come up with a bidding template to get an apples-to-apples comparison of bids. Mr. Menn recommended a later date so the bidders would have time to prepare their quotes. Mr. Bollin noted that the board must approve the insurance contract in October.

Mr. Bollin stated that Bellwether has looked at the county budget. He said that the county has been doing things right in the past. Mr. Bolton said it's reassuring to have a professional consultant confirm that the county had been doing the budget properly in the past. Mr. Bollin noted that it will cost \$12,000 to have Bellwether do the budget work, but they also are

eliminating as many as 12 special meetings of the finance committee. All department heads have been interviewed and Bellwether will report to the finance committee in two weeks.

Mr. Berry reported that his current, six-year term as county engineer will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> and the county board would either have to replace him or re-appoint him. Mr. Bollin recused himself from the meeting and the discussion of the reappointment of the County Engineer due to family issues. Mr. Berry said that either option requires a two-step process. The first step is for the board to pass a resolution requesting the consent of IDOT to appoint or reappoint the county engineer, so they can confirm that the candidate meets the technical qualifications. After that's approved, the county has to negotiate a salary and pass another resolution for the actual appointment.

A motion was made by Mr. Menn and seconded by Mr. Douglas to recommend final action by the full county board to pass a resolution requesting the consent of IDOT to reappoint Elgin Berry as the County Engineer. All committee members present voted 'Aye'.

Adjournment:

As no further business was brought before the Committee at this time, a motion was made by Mr. Scheetz and seconded by Ms. Davis to recess until Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 8:30 A.M. All committee members present voted 'Aye'. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 A.M.