

The Menominee County Board of Road Commissioners held a special meeting in their offices north of Stephenson on Wednesday, November 3, 2010. Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the following persons present or absent:

PRESENT: William Anderson, Roger Betzinger, Mary Maas, Darrell Moilanen and Lisa Savord. Also present were Carl Johnson, Paul Anderson, Tom Cheski, Tony Kakuk and Penny Mullins.

ABSENT: None

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additions to agenda – None.

Public comments – Penny Mullins stated that the County Financial Committee would be meeting on Friday, November 5, 2010 regarding an increase to the county's health insurance premiums of \$135,000.

Tom Cheski stated that union negotiations with the county were also still pending.

Tony Kakuk introduced himself as the newly elected road commissioner. His term begins January 1, 2011.

Public Appearances – None.

Charlie Meintz joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m., Brian Bousley joined at 9:04 a.m.

Discuss the proposed County Three-Way Road Funding program – Moilanen presented a handout showing the current SEV's for each township in the county, with the SEV for the cities and villages removed. Also included were current average costs for a Crush, Shape & Pave project; Double Chip Seal; and Single Chip Seal.

Carl Johnson stated he had concerns whether the money would be available in future years and who would decide which townships would get work done with the funds.

Paul Anderson asked if the cities would want a share of the funds also since they pay county tax.

Charlie Meintz stated that the county board had calls from citizens that were concerned about the condition of the roads. He asked if there were any grants available if there was a joint effort between the county, road commission and townships. He also asked if there was something that the money could be used for that would benefit all the townships, such as the engineering for grant applications.

Carl Johnson asked how many grants are available for road projects. Brian Bousley stated that the county would need a person that was knowledgeable in the grant writing process to search for and write the grant applications.

Betzinger asked if the cities and villages could be included in the funding and road miles used instead of SEV to determine how the funds were divided. Moilanen stated that the road commission's share of the funding could not go toward the roads in the cities and villages, as they were not under road commission jurisdiction. Maas stated that she did not believe that the road funding program was designed to go beyond one year.

Betzinger also asked if the money could be used for equipment for the road commission that would provide a benefit to all townships. Moilanen commented that some counties pass a millage to fund equipment purchases.

Carl Johnson asked if it would be more advantageous for the townships to apply for grant funds than the county. A letter of support from the county board and road commission could be included with the grant application. The point process for grant approval was also discussed.

Maas suggested that UP Engineering could be approached as a possible grant writer. Moilanen stated they may be willing to do it in the hope of being awarded the project design if a grant was awarded.

Paul Anderson asked if the road commission had the breakdown of road miles per township, city and village. Moilanen stated he has it for the townships but not the cities and villages.

Carl Johnson will check into what companies are available to help the townships find and apply for grants. Brian Bousley will check with other counties to see what they do.

Charlie Meintz asked if there was a cheaper way to pave roads, such as cold mix asphalt instead of hot mix asphalt. Moilanen stated that pulverizing and chip sealing was the cheapest way to go.

Moilanen requested that the county board provide a letter to the road commission stating that the funds were definitely available and whether the cities/villages were to be included in the program. Brian Bousley stated that when the new board convenes in January they would likely have more questions on the program. He will try to provide a letter to the road commission by mid January, 2011 once the new board has had a chance to discuss the program.

Charlie Meintz asked what training is provided to road commission grader operators. Moilanen stated they usually start as fill in operators first and they train with experienced operators, the foreman and also by using simulators. Mr. Meintz also asked who decides when roads are graveled. Moilanen stated that the road commission will put up to 50 yards of maintenance gravel on a road if needed. If a larger quantity is needed, then the township decides which roads get graveled.

Other Business – None.

Public Comments – Charlie Meintz asked what the status was with the highway project through Stephenson. Moilanen stated that MDOT has the project scheduled for 2011. Meintz said he had received complaints from residents whose property fronts the highway that MDOT plans to cut trees in their yards. Moilanen stated that if the trees are within the MDOT right of way, then MDOT could cut them if they needed to. If the trees are not in the right of way then MDOT may request an easement from the property owners. Moilanen suggested that the property owners call Mark Kleikamp, the MDOT project designer.

Moved by Maas, seconded by Betzinger to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 a.m. Carried unanimously.

Road Commission Finance Director-Clerk

Road Commission Chair