

PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Monday, January 9, 2012
Administrative Center – Room 3220
4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Spiker, Arlene Benrud, Jim Berns, Ralph Geary, Jai Johnson (4:03 p.m.), Leon Pfaff

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jeff Schroeder

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Hank Koch, Ron Chamberlain, Jim Speropulos, Steve O'Malley, Margaret Norden, Keith Back, Randy Nedrelo, Mary Kaufmann, Bryan Jostad, Jarrod Holter, Sharon Hampson, Dave Holtze, Dale Hexom

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Chair Spiker called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2011

MOTION by Benrud/Berns to approve the Minutes of December 5, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson, Schroeder excused.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Pfaff/Berns to accept and file the following Consent Agenda items. **Motion carried unanimously.** Schroeder excused.

- Check Requisitions over \$20,000
- La Crosse County Economic Development Fund Meeting Minutes of November 3, 2011
- Downsizing Committee minutes of December 13, 2011
- Solid Waste Director's Report - Hank Koch also provided a handout regarding Xcel's permit modifications. He stated that Xcel has offered to come to the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee or County Board for further explanations. He also supplemented a previous report on the Gas to Energy project and stated that it will be on budget.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT

None reported.

APPROVE LIGHTING RETROFIT BIDS FOR WEST SALEM HIGHWAY SHOP

Jim Speropulos stated that HSR designed a lighting retrofit for energy savings. He presented the following bids for a lighting retrofit at the County Highway Office:

Jay Thompson Electric, LLC	\$25,464.00
Klich Electric, Inc.	\$31,950.99
Nass Electric, LLC	\$33,500.00
Wehrs Electric, Inc.	\$38,600.00
Clough Electric, LLC	\$40,318.00
Kish & Sons Electric, Inc.	\$40,600.00
Wettstein Brothers Electric, Inc.	\$43,164.00

The project is in partnership with Focus on Energy to replace lighting with more efficient lighting. It will be partially funded with a Focus on Energy rebate. He recommended the low bid from Jay Thompson Electric, Inc., from Blair, WI. **MOTION** by Johnson/Geary to

approve the bid from Jay Thompson Electric, Inc., for \$25,464.00. **Motion carried unanimously.** Schroeder excused.

UPDATE ON MINDORO PARK WOODS

Mary Kauffman reported that the timber harvest started last week, and could be done by January 13, 2012. They will probably repair where they are dragging out logs in the spring.

NOTE: The Chair took the following item out of order:

CONSIDER CITY OF ONALASKA REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CTH S PROJECT

Ron Chamberlain reported that the City of Onalaska requested an additional \$18,240 for completion of the CTH S project that came in \$217,143 higher than was estimated and budgeted. Chair Spiker asked about whether a maintenance agreement was in place, and Jarrod Holter, Onalaska City Engineer and Director of Public Works, responded that it would be formalized before funding would be issued. **MOTION** by Berns/Benrud to approve the City of Onalaska request for \$18,240 for completion of County Trunk Highway S. **Motion carried unanimously.**

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON POLICY FOR JURISDICTIONAL TRANSFERS

Ron Chamberlain reported on transferring jurisdiction of county roads to other governmental agencies, and asked for direction on policy. He stated he has had conversations with the City of Onalaska, and although they are not interested in transferring jurisdiction at this time, they are open to future discussions depending on development, and would like to see a comprehensive plan. The Ho Chunk Nation has expressed interest in Indian Reservation Roads, particularly those on Brice Prairie. Supervisor Berns stated he would like to see an inventory of County roads and jurisdictional options for each. Discussion was held about adding to revenue with municipal agreements to hire La Crosse County to do maintenance. Steve O'Malley stated that a policy should consider development density, number of driveway entrances, amount of curb and gutter, etc., but it would still be up to municipalities to be willing to accept jurisdiction.

DISCUSS FEASIBILITY OF COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS INSTALLATION

Ron Chamberlain reported on discussions with Nick Nichols, La Crosse County Sustainability Coordinator, and Dan Hicks, ANGI Energy Systems, about installing a compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station at the West Salem Highway Shop. The preliminary estimate for installation of a single fueling station is \$1,426,000, which is neither economically nor logistically feasible for the County. Another option would be to work with Kwik Trip, which would mean a lower upfront cost. Chamberlain reported that Kwik Trip has one fueling station, which is insufficient for Highway Department needs, but may consider multiple stations if there is demand for them.

RESOLUTION RE: SUPPORTING ASSEMBLY BILL 454, PERFORMANCE OF HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS BY COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FOR ANOTHER COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY

The Resolution addresses Assembly Bill 454, which seeks to repeal the legislative bill that was part of the governor's budget, which restricts cooperation between counties on improvement projects where personnel and equipment can be shared. AB 454 would allow accepting low bid regardless of whether the bid is from another county. Steve O'Malley reported that there is now a Senate companion bill with some Republican sponsorship. Ron Chamberlain reported that WCA supports the bill; the WCHA motion to support failed on a tie vote. Discussion was held regarding priorities and timing of equipment purchases. **MOTION** by Johnson/Berns to approve the Resolution Re: Supporting Assembly Bill 454,

Performance of Highway Improvement Projects by County Highway Department for Another County or Municipality. **Motion carried unanimously.** Schroeder excused.

APPROVE RECOMMENDATION TO CHANGE BILLING POLICY ON SOLID WASTE CONTAINER RENTALS

Hank Koch reported that the current roll-off container rental agreement omits charges for Saturdays and Sundays, even though the containers are in use all days. He proposed a \$3.00 per day rental charge for all days, including Saturdays, Sundays, and County holidays. **MOTION** by Berns/Benrud to amend the billing policy on Solid Waste container rentals effective on April 1, 2012, to \$3 per day for all days including Saturdays, Sundays and County holidays removed from the Rental Agreement; Corporation Counsel will amend the Rental Agreement as well as formulate the 10-day advance written notice. **Motion carried unanimously.** Schroeder excused.

APPROVE RECOMMENDATION TO REBID LANDFILL OPERATIONS CONTRACT

Hank Koch provided a follow-up report to concerns presented to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee at its December 5, 2011, meeting, at which time he presented the following contract options: Do nothing, rebid the contract, or internalize operations with the Solid Waste and Highway Departments. The Solid Waste and Finance Departments met with Corporation Counsel and the County Administrator to discuss the pros and cons of each option, and recommended rebidding the contract. The purchasing director has recommended a winnowing process that would start with a Request for Interest, followed by a Request for Qualifications. The most qualified respondents would be invited to complete a Request for Proposal. Discussion was held regarding internalizing some operations, and Koch stated that the Highway Department could be used for such things as snowplowing and weed cutting, but it was not advantageous for them to invest in the kind of equipment necessary for all operations; however, that could be reconsidered if the bids are too high. **MOTION** by Berns/Johnson to rebid the landfill operations contract. **Motion carried unanimously.** Schroeder excused.

DISCUSS COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, MEMBERSHIP, AND MEETING TIMES FOR INPUT TO DOWNSIZING COMMITTEE

The Downsizing Committee has met to study committee size and structure in anticipation of the County Board downsizing from 35 to 29 members after the April, 2012, elections. They requested input from the six standing committees. Steve O'Malley summarized their recommendations to this point: Retain six standing committees; reduce five of the six committees to six members, and reduce Judiciary & Law to five members; hold meetings at 4:00 p.m. or later. He stated the County Board will be debating whether committee chairs are appointed or elected. The following comments were made:

- Chair Spiker stated he preferred an odd number of members, and supported appointment of committee chairs by the County Board Chair;
- Supervisor Geary said he preferred having seven members, and suggested that some supervisors could be on more than one committee; he also stated he would like to keep the 4:00 p.m. start time for Public Works and Infrastructure;
- Supervisor Pfaff suggested the Aging and Long-term Care and Judiciary and Law Committees could both be reduced to five members, and the County Board vice-chair could serve on two standing committees to be able to have seven members on the remaining standing committees; he also stated he preferred having chairs appointed.
- Supervisor Hampson said she would like to keep the County Board Chair's authority to appoint members to complete a quorum, and would like to expand that to allow the committee chair to appoint supervisors to substitute for absent/excused members when necessary.
- Supervisor Berns stated he agreed with Geary regarding committee size.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: FEBRUARY 6, 2012

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None suggested.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Johnson/Benrud to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Approved, February 6, 2012, Margaret Norden, Recorder