

Public Works Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, June 15, 2010 – 6:00 p.m.  
Courthouse Conference Center  
51 S. Main Street - Janesville, WI

Call to Order. Chair Yankee called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 6:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Arnold, Bussie, Fox and Yankee

Committee Members Absent: Diestler

Staff Members Present: Ben Coopman, Public Works Director

Others Present:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Robert Broege	Bradford	Dave Grenawalt	Newark
Sharon Hargarten	Bradford	Don Davis	Newark
Pete Tiffany	Clinton	Larry Harding	Plymouth
Bill Johns	Clinton	William Orchard	Plymouth
Dave Brown	Fulton	Phil Hamilton	Porter
Mike Guisleman	Fulton	David Viney	Porter
Bob Mielke	Janesville	Jerry Fox	Porter
Gary Fox	Janesville	Dean Connell	Rock
Bruce Schneider	Janesville	Mark Gunn	Rock
David Rebout	Janesville	Steve Hazeltine	Spring Valley
Mary Mawhinney	Johnstown	Alan Sweeney	Supvr, County Board
Leonard Stalker	Milton	Sandra Kraft	Vice-Chair, County Board
Beth Drew	Milton		

Approval of Agenda. Supervisors Arnold and Fox moved today's agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements. None.

Mr. Yankee welcomed the attendees and made a brief statement about the purpose of the meeting.

Mr. Coopman presented some cost data on winter maintenance costs for Rock County Towns between 2004 and 2009. He explained the concerns of the Public Works Department as it relates to budget shortfalls over many of those years. He also presented some examples of other funding scenarios that could be included in the Annual Town Road Maintenance Contracts, for discussion.

Discussion by various town and county officials followed. Several spoke favorably about the winter maintenance service they were receiving from DPW. Concerns were

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mentioned about affordability of county routine maintenance and construction services.

Porter Town Chair, Dave Viney, expressed his dismay with the shifting of county costs for road maintenance to towns. He distributed a handout of his town's experience. He felt there is a disproportionate amount of use of other county services like the Courts/Jail and Human Services areas compared to the cities in the county. He felt that town residents were using these services less proportionally and still paying their county tax.

Several questions were asked about the county's purchasing of equipment, fuel and maintenance materials. Concerns were mentioned on the timeliness of billings by DPW. Some commented on the pressure on towns from other contracted agencies such as fire and rescue services. Levy caps are forcing all government units to hold spending down.

Plymouth Town Chair, Larry Harding, informed the group of a sample referendum being circulated by the Transportation Development Association calling for a Wisconsin Constitutional Amendment barring the legislature from transferring funds from the Transportation Fund into other general purpose revenues within the State budget. He stated that if the money stated in the segregated fund, there would less financing costs for debt and that money would flow down to local government.

The group reached a consensus on two items. The town representatives will carry on this discussion at their next Rock County Towns' Association meeting and put forward a resolution to the County Board outlining their concerns and requests. Second, the DPW staff will meet with a subcommittee of the Towns' group to discuss the winter maintenance cost recovery issue and possible rewording of the Annual Road Maintenance Contract.

Adjournment. Supervisors Bussie and Fox moved to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin J. Coopman, Jr.  
Director of Public Works