

(Neb.)-Dawes County Commissioners Discuss County Bridge Issues

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 02/20/2013 02:10 PM

Photo: Roads superintendent Larry Hankin presents the county's one- and six-year road plan to the Dawes County commissioners at their meeting on Wednesday morning. (Photo by KCSR-Roxie Graham-Marski)

(DAWES COUNTY)-Dawes County road superintendent Larry Hankin presented the county's one-year and six-year road plan for approval at the Dawes County commissioners meeting Wednesday morning. No one from the general public took the opportunity to speak during the public hearing, so after some discussion, the commissioners agreed to the plan. The one-year portion of the plan includes the replacement of the Soester bridge, which spans Bethel Road east of Alan Soester's place, the Bethel Loop Road bridge over East Ash Creek, and the Sand Creek bridge, which spans Toadstool Road. It also calls for the removal of the Lemmon Bridge over West Ash Creek and the possible realignment of the road to eliminate the need for that bridge. Lemmon Road is still closed indefinitely to thru traffic. Hankin told the commissioners that the Lemmon Bridge is beginning to rot and that a threat of the abutment giving way exists, hence the closure. He said the bridge was in need of major repairs.

The six-year plan includes the replacement of 8 additional bridges on Deadhorse Road, Squaw Creek Road, Redfern Road, Egan Road, Brown Road, and Bethel Road.

The commissioners expressed in their meeting that some of the bridges will have to have as minimal of repairs as possible in order to help stretch the budget and cover all the needed repairs. Hankin shared with the commissioners that he had received word that federal and state funding will cover 100 percent of the Sand Creek bridge overhaul, leaving more money for the county to designate elsewhere. The county is also applying for additional state aid bridge funds as well.

The commissioners opened and accepted several bids for a newer semi truck needed by the roads department. They gave the bids to Hankin for his inspection, and he will make a recommendation at a later meeting.

Also at the meeting, Larry McCaslin with McCaslin Consulting spoke to the commissioners regarding their request to change his initial proposal regarding the Bethel Loop Bridge project to include surveying, material testing, and compaction supervision. McCaslin informed the commissioners that he would be able to oversee those items, but would contract the work out to others. He said he would be available on a per-hour basis as needed if the commissioners were interested. The commissioners approved McCaslin's design proposal, and requested an additional proposal from him regarding the per-hour observation he will provide.

(Questions? Comments? E-mail roxie@chadrad.com.)

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