

February 10, 2014

Chairman Rasmussen called the regular meeting of the Wright County Board of Supervisors to order at 9:00 a.m. Members present were Watne, Helgevold, and Rasmussen.

Minutes of the previous regular meeting of February 3, 2014 were read and approved.

Approved claims for payment.

Andy Yackle, Maintenance Director, requested that the Board of Supervisors allow him to purchase the two-year safety award for the employees that have met the safety criteria. Motion by Watne and seconded by Helgevold to approve the purchase of safety awards for the employees. Motion carries.

Adam Clemons, Wright County Engineer, presented the bids for projects R65 patching. The low bid was Midwest Contractors \$156,442.00. Motion by Watne and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the low bid and have the chairman sign. Motion carries.

Clemons then presented the bids for Bridge #26 near the French Church on C54. Motion by Watne and seconded by Helgevold to approve the low bid of Merryman Bridge Construction Co. for an amount of \$484,511.90. Motion carries.

Next item was Bridge #113, by Rowan on Uptagraph Ave., which will be a culvert. The plans are to keep the original bridge open during construction. Motion by Watne and seconded by Helgevold to approve the plans for Bridge #113. Motion carries.

The Board of Supervisors reviewed Resolution 2014-08 on the support of the fuel tax increase of 10 cents. It is estimated that over a course of a year the average person would pay an additional \$25.00 to \$50.00 per year. It is estimated that Wright County would see an increase in secondary roads fund and farm to market revenue of \$555,429.00 from the state per year.

Motion by Watne and seconded by Helgevold to approve Resolution 2014-08 on support of the fuel tax increase with a phased-in process. By roll call vote: Ayes – Watne, Helgevold, and Rasmussen; Nays – none. Resolution 2014-08 duly passes and reads as follows.

Resolution #2014-08

Resolution to Support Fuel Tax Increase

WHEREAS, Wright County knows the importance of a high quality and properly maintained transportation system and its impact on economic growth, public safety, recreational travel, and the agricultural sector;

WHEREAS, Wright County relies on the Road Use Tax Fund which is funded in part by the per gallon fuel tax and which helps with the cost of building, maintaining, and repairing secondary roads and bridges;

WHEREAS, according to the Governor's Transportation 2020 Advisory Council the estimated annual shortfall for the most critical infrastructure needs is \$215 million on a statewide basis;

WHEREAS, counties unable to address critical road and bridge repair needs due to the shortfall have turned to bonding, tax increment financing, local option sales tax, and other alternate funding sources to provide their citizens with safe roads and bridges;

WHEREAS, counties unable to address critical road and bridge repair needs due to the shortfall have resorted to downgrading or closing of secondary roads and bridges and the delaying of needed maintenance and reconstruction;

WHEREAS, the per gallon fuel tax is the most equitable way to charge for the use of public roads and bridges and 20-30% of the revenue is generated from our-of-state travelers and businesses;

WHEREAS, the per gallon fuel tax has not been significantly increased since 1989 while the cost of construction has increased more than two and one-half times according to the Iowa Department of Transportation Price Index for Iowa Highway Construction;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Wright County supports a phased-in 10-cent increase in the per gallon fuel tax and the ongoing evaluation of long term, sustainable transportation funding solutions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Iowa State Association of Counties encourages the Boards of Supervisors in Iowa's counties to pass resolutions demonstrating their support of a phased-in 10-cent increase in the per gallon fuel tax and the ongoing evaluation of long term, sustainable transportation funding solutions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Wright County encourages the Iowa Legislature to pass legislation to phase in a 10-cent per gallon increase in the fuel tax and other long term, sustainable transportation funding solutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Wright County urges the Governor to encourage the passage of legislation that phases in a 10-cent per gallon increase in the fuel tax and other long term, sustainable transportation funding solutions and sign such legislation when presented after passage by the Iowa General Assembly.

Approved and signed this 10th day of February, 2014.

Brad Hicks and Colleen Bartlett with the transit department came to discuss the transit rates for operating the transit buses. They have not been able to come to a final rate for operating the transit buses. There is a concern on how the new per mile rate will affect the private pays and Mosaic

Motion by Watne and seconded by Helgevold to receive the Wright County Treasurer semi-annual report. Motion carries.

Motion by Helgevold and seconded by Watne to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries.

Rick Rasmussen, Chairman
Wright County Board of Supervisor

Betty Ellis, Wright County Auditor