

**MINUTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE JOHNSON COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:
AUGUST 17, 2011**

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Chairperson Harney called the Johnson County Board of Supervisors to order in the Johnson County Administration Building lobby at 11:33 a.m. Members present were: Pat Harney, Terrence Neuzil, Janelle Rettig, Sally Stutsman, and Rod Sullivan.

Recessed at 11:33 a.m.; reconvened on the bus at 11:41 a.m.

**COUNTY ENGINEER GREG PARKER: TOUR OF ROAD PROJECTS
(VARIOUS LOCATIONS)**

County Engineer Greg Parker told Board members the itinerary for the day is as follows: Oak Crest Hill Road, Highway 22, Sand Road, Napoleon Street, Sioux Avenue, Highway 6, 420th Street, Taft Avenue, Herbert Hoover Highway past the Local Road Shed, Wapsi Avenue Level B Road, Morse Road, Turner Avenue, 210th Street, Highway 1, 140th Street toward the new shed site, Ely Road, 120th Street, Greencastle Avenue, Amana Road, Dubuque Street to see the Dubuque Street Trail then back to the Administration Building.

Stutsman asked if a news release was issued regarding 500th Street. Parker said no. Stutsman asked why not. Parker said he just got the final permit today. Stutsman asked if the traffic count maps are out. Parker said they submitted the maps but they are all off.

Recessed at 11:45 a.m.; reconvened at 11:47 a.m.

Oak Crest Hill Road

Parker said he wanted Board members to view the ditch along the mobile home park on Oak Crest Hill Road to show that the ditch is bone dry. He said residents complain that this ditch is always wet. Well they have been mowing it and right now it is dry and maintained.

Neuzil asked if the farmer who farms on the other side has been complaining. Parker said no, he has not received any complaints recently. Neuzil said he thinks the resident was concerned about water getting into his field when the change was made.

Neuzil said the section of Oak Crest Hill Road south of 520th Street has been repaired by the County and now annexed by the City of Hills.

Rettig asked if the transitions on Oak Crest Hill Road are supposed to be so rough. Parker said no, and that they are working with the contractor to smooth that out. Rettig said just imagine what this will be like in five or six years.

Neuzil asked if the bridge work on Oak Crest Hill Road south of Hills will be done next year. Assistant County Engineer Edward Bartels said it will be let next fall and constructed next spring. It should be done before the harvest season. Rettig asked if that construction will take 90 days and Bartels said 45 days tops.

Parker pointed out the box culvert replacement project that was just completed on the bridge further south on Oak Crest Hill Road. Sullivan asked about the new rip rap and Parker said that was part of the project.

Rettig asked if Roadside Vegetation Manager Chris Henze planted the ground covering. Parker said typically the contractor will put cover crop for erosion control and then Henze will apply a permanent seeding later.

Sand Road, Napoleon Street, Sioux Avenue, Herbert Hoover Highway

Bartlett indicated the portion of Sand Road that will soon be seal coated. Rettig asked if Herbert Hoover Highway will be crack sealed and Bartels said yes.

Stutsman asked if Sioux Avenue is included in the Safety Program. Hackathorn said yes. He said there were a lot of frost boils on Sioux Avenue last year.

Neuzil said there have been a lot of complaints on North Liberty Road and he asked Hackathorn what are his thoughts on that. Hackathorn said they have thought about chip sealing the road. Neuzil said they should discuss that with the City of Coralville.

Parker said Derby Avenue is still in fantastic shape. Hackathorn said they are done prepping Sioux Avenue to 140th Street and are ready to seal coat. Sullivan confirmed that this section has to be sealed for three times. Parker said yes, on a regraded road, the first year it should be double sealed and then once again the following year.

Hackathorn said the oil budget is stretched to the maximum and they are still not keeping up. They usually chip seal about 35 to 40 miles per year, but with the limited budget this year, they only completed 13 miles of road.

After a brief stop at the Local Road Shed, the road tour continued to Wapsi Avenue.

Wapsi Avenue, Level B Road

Rettig said the Board office has received complaints from a resident about this road. Hackathorn pointed out some big holes in the road. Stutsman asked if the road will be repaired. Rettig said she talked to Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Kevin Braddock who told her Wapsi Avenue is graded twice per year and the next grading will take place this fall. Neuzil asked if residents along Wapsi Avenue can simply dump dirt in to fill the holes. Hackathorn said yes. Neuzil asked if Wapsi Avenue is the only access route to these homes and Hackathorn said no.

Morse Road, Turner Avenue, 210th Street, Highway 1, 140th Street, Ely Road

Parker said they just completed crack sealing a stretch of Morse Road to Turner Avenue.

In reference to the proposed wind farm in Johnson County, Rettig pointed out the location of the test site for the meteorological tower along 210th Street.

120th Street

The Board arrived at the proposed site for the Solon/Swisher Shed along 120th Street west of Naples Avenue and East of Fisher Pond Road. Parker said this will be built on about six acres and will measure 300 x 600 feet. Parker said they hope to have the zoning request by the end of the month and the goal is to let the project this fall. Bartels said they hope to let the project by mid-September with construction to begin in the spring.

Recessed at the convenience store at the intersection of 120th Street and I-380 at 1:30 p.m.; reconvened at 1:40 p.m.

Highway 965 to Marak Road

Rettig asked if the County funded the black top on Marak Road. Hackathorn said no, as part of the conditional use permit for the Cedar Ridge Winery and Distillery it was funded by City of Swisher.

120th Street and Greencastle Avenue Intersection

Parker asked Hackathorn to stop on Greencastle Avenue at the intersection of 120th Street so he could explain a situation to the Board. Parker said a resident has contacted him with concerns about the sight distance at this intersection. He said the resident said when their car is stopped northbound on Greencastle Avenue at 120th Street, the trees on either side of the road block the view onto 120th Street. Parker said he wanted to give the Board the opportunity to see the intersection firsthand.

Hackathorn said they have started work at the south end of Greencastle Avenue and are working to the north to clean out the culverts. He pointed out the Macadam stone base. Harney asked if they planned to chip seal the road and Hackathorn said no. Sullivan said Greencastle Avenue has the highest traffic count of all gravel roads and pointed out the thick rock which allows for drainage. Parker said the choke stone is about 3/4-inch thick and allows for stability and drainage.

Amana Road

Stutsman asked if there are any thoughts on upgrading Amana Road. Parker said it would require a lot of work and would be a matter of identifying it as a priority. Rettig asked how many feet the road would need to be elevated in order to upgrade it. Parker said an elevation study would be necessary to determine that, but he suggested it might be a couple of feet. Neuzil said there are so many other roads that need attention ahead of Amana Road.

The bus stopped along the road at 1391 Amana Road. Parker said the area district blade operator damaged the seal coat surface at this location and the resident complained to Parker that residual rock was bladed off an area to the left. Board members were invited to view the area through the bus window. Hackathorn said it is hard to maintain the seam in the road and the patchy areas would have to be redone.

Hanging Rock Road

Parker said he would like to vacate Hanging Rock Road, a Level A road which leads to a private residence. Rettig asked if it could be downgraded to a Level B road. Stutsman said this is basically a private drive maintained by the County. Sullivan said he thought it was a Level B in the past. Neuzil asked for the history of why it is still a Level A road. Hackathorn said it has always been. Neuzil asked if the County could make it a Level B without incurring any damages. Parker said he would have to discuss that with the County Attorney's Office. Neuzil said it has never been worth it to him to try to make this a Level B road because of the risk for a lawsuit.

Dubuque Street Road

Parker said two concrete panels need replacing and all seeding is complete. The Iowa Department of Transportation will conduct the final audit next month.

Rettig said she is aware of a resident who is riding his golf cart on the trail, a non-motorized trail. She commented that the County needs to install trail signs to inform the public this is a non-motorized trail.

Rettig asked where Oakdale Boulevard will intersect with Dubuque Street when it is finished. Parker identified the area between two yellow signs on Dubuque Street.

Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Attest: Tom Slockett, Auditor
By Nancy Tomkovicz, Recording Secretary