

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING**

Committee Chair Bunting called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm at the Livingston County Highway Department

Present: Bunting, Runyon, Carley, Lovell, Weber
Absent: Yoder, Weller
Other Board Members Present: Young, Slagel, Steichen
Others Present: Metcalf, Ruestman, Hartley

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Runyon, second by Lovell. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

REVIEW OF SPRING POSTING PERMIT PROCESS AND FEE SCHEDULE: Bunting opened with a statement of purpose behind the meeting to discuss the spring posting weight restrictions. Metcalf reviewed with the committee the Resolution No. 2016-11-65 which allowed the Highway Department to begin charging fees for Oversize and/or Overweight vehicles on County Highways. During previous meetings it was made known that Highway was going to use an online company called Oxcart to apply, approve and collect fees for each permit. This functionality was enabled on January 12, 2017 with emails being sent to all prior year permit applicants explaining the process. After receiving several phone calls from many livestock producers and feed suppliers, it was decided to call a special highway meeting to discuss the weight restrictions being put on a five axle semi as shown in Exhibit A of the Resolution. Metcalf explained that these restrictions were in place in 2016, but some of the attendees did not get permits and were unaware of the lower amount now being allowed. Roads were posted for spring posting weight limits as of Tuesday, January 17, 2017 so this special meeting was scheduled to discuss specifically the five axle load limit and permit process.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Several livestock producers and feed suppliers gave presentations regarding the need to haul heavier loads than 52,000 lbs. on a five axle semi during spring posting. They explained how the meat packing companies are three hours away and that the current limit would not even allow half of a load to be hauled. The producers also mentioned bio-hazard concerns with transferring pigs from one trailer to another at a site located along State roads or Class III truck routes within the county. It was requested that the 5 axle load limit be raised to a minimum of 73,280 lbs. during the time of spring posting. The producers were willing to work with Highway by taking loads out in the morning when temperatures should be lower, driving at reduced speeds and staying away from the edge of the road whenever possible. Those present also requested that the 5 axle loads of feed to supply the producers be increased to 56,000 lbs. or more in order to get just over half of a load. Commissioner of Highways, Pleasant Ridge, Paul Harms asked if townships would have to agree with whatever decision is made by the County. Metcalf explained that it is clear in the Illinois Compiled Statutes that local authorities with respect to highways under their jurisdiction may prohibit or impose restrictions as to the weight of vehicles to be operated on their highways for 90 days in any one calendar year.

Metcalf and Ruestman then shared a revised Exhibit A for the Permit Fee Schedule with the committee and all those present. After careful review and consideration, it seemed that the major concerns had been addressed with those that attended the meeting. The committee decided the revised schedule should only be approved as a temporary measure to get through the 2017 spring posting period and that an evaluation should be made of the routes used by the producers to determine if the increased weight limits cause any discernable deterioration. Metcalf also asked that in the essence of time that he be given the latitude to amend the weight limits of previous and future permits since the main purpose of Exhibit A was to establish the fees.

Motion to approve the amended Exhibit A, Permit Fee Schedule to the County Board and authorize the County Engineer to approve permits accordingly by Weber, second by Carley. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

OTHER ITEMS: None

There being no further business to come before the committee, motion to adjourn the meeting by Lovell, second by Runyon. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.



Clay A. Metcalf,
County Engineer