

MADISON COUNTY ROAD CREWS April 7, 2016, Meeting Minutes

On Thursday, April 7, 2016, a meeting of the Madison County Road Crews came to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners David Schulz, Chairman, Ron Nye, and Jim Hart present. Carolyn Henry, Safety Coordinator, was present to take minutes.

Those people on the attached list were present for the meeting.

Attendees: Forest Armstrong, Road District 2; Shane Escott, Road District 2; Commissioner Ron Nye, Road District 2; Ray Rowberry, Road District 1; Roy Hill, Road District 3; Dustin Tetrault, DES; Lynda Holt, Communications; Commissioner Dave Schulz, Road District 1; Roger Thompson, Sheriff; Carolyn Henry, Safety Coordinator, and Commissioner Jim Hart, Road District 3.

Commissioner Schulz introduced the topics to be discussed regarding a variety of issues faced by the Road Department including but not limited to road work zone signage; jurisdiction; input from Dept. of Labor & Industries (DLI), PayneWest Insurance, LTAP, MACo; Sheriff's Dispatch communications; enforcement of traffic violations in work zones; reduced speed limits in work zones, and dash cam usage, and an update on MACRS.

MACRS – The Road employees reported that the MACRS informative sessions were well presented and educational, networking opportunities were productive, there were additional vendors, and the amenities provided were excellent.

Communications – Lynda Holt, Communications Supervisor handed out business cards for “Industrial Communications”, who would be updating Road communication radios. Some districts have already had work done and reported that the improvements were dramatic including better reception, and increased volume and clarity. Any district that had not been visited was asked to make arrangements with the company. Ray noted that his base station needed a new antennae, but that the cost was substantial. That issue would be addressed for solutions.

Work Zone Traffic Complaint Enforcement – Sheriff Roger Thompson addressed the issue of enforcing complaints of traffic violations including speeding, and other careless/reckless driving issues. Roger stressed the importance of identifying the driver and/or license plate, and providing a description of the vehicle whenever possible. He explained that without that information it is difficult, but not impossible track down the violating individual. He clarified that a statement from experienced Road Driver/Operators was valuable, and the dash cams for recording incidents should provide important information. He stressed the importance of reporting an incident as soon as possible, because the longer the delay the harder it is to make a case.

There was discussion regarding the lowering of speed limits in work zones, and whether or not an ordinance providing for that was necessary. Also, discussed was signage for work zone speed reduction, how much the speed limit should be lowered, and the potential effectiveness of the practice.

Dash Cams – A trial dash cam was installed on a grader and it was reported that it is working well. The wide angle range of the recorded video is impressive, and it is easy to operate. It was decided that the additional six dash cams would be purchased by the Safety Dept. Dustin would research notification decals for the outside of the graders. There was a request for additional dash cams for snow plows and those would be provided out of the next Safety budget cycle.

Emergency Notification System (ENS) – Sheriff Roger Thompson reported that there is a new ENS for the Communications Dept. which would provide for group notification, e.g. an accident/incident in a certain Road District could be relayed to all the districts as a group. In addition the Commissioners could have their own group and be included in the Road group. Cell phones included in a group would have to be provided to the Communications Dept.

Lynda Holt said that they are moving the W. Bench repeater station and would appreciate assistance in digging a hole for placement of a cement well house where the repeater would be located. Shane Escott said the Twin Bridges, Dist. 2 Road crew would be available to help and asked for as much advance notice as possible.

Resource List – Dustin Tetrault, DES Manager, asked the foreman for a list of their heavy equipment for use in organizing emergency response, e.g. wild fires, flooding, etc.

DLI Inspection Response/Grader Incident – There was a discussion regarding signage, grading practices, differences in snow/ice removal and grading practices, work zone distance, time effectiveness vs. productivity, signage jurisdiction and regulation. Currently all districts are placing signage at the beginning and end of a work zone, and working with the traffic at all times. It was decided that an additional meeting would be arranged to include input from Steve Jenkins, LTAP, Pat McCarthy and Ryan Elliot, PayneWest Insurance, and Jim Muskovich, MACo before decisions regarding final details of procedures were implemented.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

David Schulz, Chairman
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: April 18, 2016

Minutes prepared by:

Carolyn Henry, Safety Coordinator

Attest: _____
Kathleen Mumme, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County