



Lawrence County
HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: January, 21, 2025 | **Time:** 4:30 – 5:17 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Wayne Yocom, Denny Gillespie, Dave Ray, Scott Franks, Chris Sutherland, Sandy Newton, and Barry Luffman. **Road Superintendent** Ryan Krick, Assistant Pasty Lee, and Jonathan Huntley.

ROLL CALL: Chairman Wayne Yocom, Vice-chair Denny Gillespie, Sandy Newton, and Barry Luffman.

ABSENT: Tim Clifton.

Commissioner Yocom called the meeting to order.

(All paperwork including the 2025 County Road List is provided in the meeting is available in the committee folder)

Krick discussed adopting Hidden Hills Lane to the county road list.

Move to Adopt Hidden Hills Lane to County Road List

Motion: Luffman, **Second:** Gillespie.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously 4/0.

Move to Adopt the 2025 County Road List

Motion: Gillespie, **Second:** Newton

Vote: Motion passed unanimously 4/0.

Commissioner Franks mentioned a conversation with a constituent regarding speed bumps. He acknowledged that the county cannot install them due to potential liability concerns and asked if there were alternative solutions.

Krick noted that he had likely spoken with the same constituent and explained that the county cannot install speed bumps or signs, as doing so could create liability issues if a vehicle were damaged. Additionally, one person may agree with having speed bumps while several others may not.

Yocom agreed, pointing out that implementing such measures might satisfy a few individuals but would likely face opposition from the majority.

The committee continued to discuss speed bumps.

Krick brought up another issue facing the county—right-of-way's. He mentioned a gentleman who wants to install a water line and is willing to handle all the work, including purchasing the pipe, but there is no right-of-way on the road in question, Posey Circle in Saint Joseph. He questioned the legality of the situation, noting that the county cannot grant someone permission to work on property that it does not own.

Commissioner Yocom spoke with County Attorney Charlie Holt about this previously and it was in his professional opinion that the county owns the ditch on both sides because you can't maintain a road without owning both sides. I think this committee should make a recommendation for Mr. Holt to write a ruling that in his opinion the county owns the right-away from ditch to ditch.

The committee continued to discuss the right-of-way issue.

Move to Request that County Attorney Charlie Holt Draft a Ruling Establishing that the County Owns "ditch to ditch" Countywide and Have the Ruling Prepared for the Regular Session Commission meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, if Possible.

Motion: Gillespie, **Second:** Luffman.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously 4/0.

Krick discussed the purchase of a new brush truck to serve the whole county. It is included as a budget amendment. The money is coming out of the Highway Department's budget and is simply a line-item adjustment.

Move to Accept Budget Amendment for Truck and let it Stand on its Own Merit.

Motion: Newton, **Second:** Luffman.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously 4/0.

Krick raised another issue regarding the process of bringing a road up to county specifications. Back in 2020 or 2021, a requirement was added to lay down six inches of rock as the base for a road, which has been a good thing. However, the county currently hauls and lays down the material at no cost, which means absorbing the additional expense each time. For example, he referenced a specific road project requiring 3,600 tons of rock, which means hauling 3,600 tons at no charge. He continued by saying he isn't looking to make any money but he wants to take care of the additional expense. He proposed a \$3 per ton charge to recoup the extra cost.

Commissioner Franks suggested figuring the additional cost into the calculations.

Commissioner Yocom recommended coming up with a cost formula.

Krick believes \$3 per ton is a fair charge.

Commissioner Luffman mentioned doing a \$3 per ton charge and then figure out a mileage limit.

The committee discussed a strategic approach for the Highway Department to cover its costs when hauling materials to ensure roads meet specifications. They considered allowing the Highway Superintendent to have discretion, on a case-by-case basis, to determine appropriate charges to cover these costs, as they may vary.

Move to recommend that Road Superintendent Ryan Krick and County Attorney Charlie Holt Collaborate to Draft a Resolution Addressing Extra Cost.

Motion: Gillespie, **Second:** Newton.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously 4/0.

Commissioner Gillespie asked for an update on the Highway Department's road repairs.

Krick stated it's a long list; we have already spent \$700,000.00 out of the \$6 million.

Move to Adjourn.

Motion: Gillespie, **Second:** Luffman.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously 4/0.

Minutes Submitted By: Christian Tyree