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Weekly Report to Commissioners

Community Concerns

Culvert Installation/Replacement Requests:

- Cedar Road .5 miles east of 130 Road; a new driveway is needed to replace one damaged by a mower of the west side of the same quarter section. Relocation of the replacement driveway will serve two property owners. **Completed**
- Agenda Road .25 miles south of Timber Road on the east side; a driveway needs to be improved with an 18" x 30ft culvert. **Completed**
- 231 240 Road (.3 miles north of Young Road); a driveway needs improved that either requires a culvert to be replaced or the ditch to be cleaned or both. **Completed**

Other Concerns:

- 300 Road .3 miles north of K-148; the top 90 of a step drain culvert failed under the road and must be replaced or repaired. The sink hole has been filled temporarily.
- Shady Road west of 30 Road, concerns have been expressed about a driveway from an irrigation canal right of way draining onto the road and what improvement the property owner and the County to make to improve the situation.
- 20 Road between Queen and Rock Road, improvements are needed. Water is ponding on the road.

High Banks Wind Energy Project activities

NextEra Energy Resources has offered Republic County an opportunity to recondition the High Banks Wind project haul routes for \$1.6 million.

High Banks Wind achieved its commercial operation date on schedule in December for 200 wind turbines in Republic County. The project has been considered substantially complete. Contractors for the Developer demobilized, while engineers inspected each mile of haul routes improved by the project and prepared a scope of work for completion when the Developer returned for finish grading, seeding, and fencing.

Republic County offered to complete the work within county right-of-ways at a rate competitive with costs the Developer would incur. The opportunity to do this work will allow the county to be compensated for labor and equipment expenses that are normally only funded with tax revenue.

Many of the roads improved for the project were unsurfaced farm access roads before the project and will now be maintained as service roads, benefiting county residents.

Road improvements could be made at a pace that will not compromise other County Road maintenance services, and the additional revenue will allow some much-needed upgrades to equipment.

The Commission has not acted on this offer yet.

Department Reports on Non-Routine Activities

Roads and Bridges

- 200 tons of Cold Mix Asphalt were received last week at the Rydal Mixing Strip. We are planning on using this + another 100 tons to repair surfaces on 50, 180 and 290 Roads south of K-148, then we will seal them before winter. We will attempt a cold recycled asphalt overlay south of Scandia for the first mile, then seal that. We hope to pave 1/10 of a mile of 70 Road south of US36 with two 3-inch lifts using cold recycled asphalt and a seal.
- A new engine for the John Deere 4455 has been purchased from Abilene Machine; the swap and functional testing will be performed by S&P Tractor in Belleville due to limited shop space and other priorities at the County Shop. This will return the tractor to service as efficiently as possible.
- David Ball has been selected as the Spayer Operator/Truck Driver. He is working with former Weed Director Mike Nandorf and studying to become certified as a Commercial Sprayer Operator with specialties in Noxious Weed Control and Right-of-Ways.
- Utility poles have been relocated for Bridge Construction on Xavier Road, south of Talmo and the Contractor is mobilizing for Construction.
- Nathan Craig and Matthew Murdock will be attending a Leadership Class in the Kansas Association of Counties Road Scholar Program on June 13 in Topeka.

PENDING ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Bridge and Culverts Division Project List (in order of priority)

1. Norway Lane: drainage improvements are needed.
2. 50 Road 1.4 miles south of KS148; a 24" Concrete tile culvert is separating under the shoulder of the road and needs to be replaced.

Roads and Driveways Division Project List (in order of priority)

1. 30 Road .5 mile north of Elm Road on the west side; skewed driveway for grain bins is the low spot in a very shallow watershed. The property owner is seeking improvements that may include ditch cleaning or a lift on the road or driveway, or a culvert.
2. Rock Road between 30 & 50 Roads; a regrade, ditch cleaning and improved gravel finish may be necessary.
3. Gravel is requested for a half mile of Diamond Road west of 310 Road. *This work will be performed with reclaimed material from the wind farm project when it becomes available soon.*
4. Residents north of Fir Road on Republic Lane are requesting improvement of the road base with larger gravel or rock. The fine sand common to the area becomes tracked up easily when it is wet.

5. 210 Road south of Nickel; .1 mile is graveled from Nickel to a residence and .6 mile is graveled from US 36 north. A resident is requesting that the remaining .3 mile be graveled for direct access to Nickel where a number of residents live.
6. 100 Road .28 mile south of Timber Road on the west side; a 30" squash crossroad pipe has been cleaned out transferring runoff from acreage on the east side to a shallow ditch on the west side that cannot get through a plugged culvert several hundred feet to the south. The farmer believes most of the runoff could stay on the west side with some ditch cleaning. *investigating*
7. Queen Road, west of 20 Road, tree removal, ditch cleaning and driveway upgrades needed for the first .5 mile. *40 ft driveway installed; some ditch cleaning still needed.*
8. Queen Road west of 230 road for .25 mile on the south side; the right-of-way needs to be cleared for a new fence.
9. 80 Road .5 miles south of Shady Road on the west side; trees/brush need to be removed from the right-of-way.
10. Penn Road, east of Scandia on the south side; trees/brush need to be removed from the right-of-way.
11. 30 Road improvements to restore the crown in the roadway between Highway 36 and Fir Road. *4 miles have been completed.*
12. *70 Road south of US 36 Highway has been prepared to receive recycled asphalt paving. A schedule and cost sharing plan for Paving will be prepared by the Highway Administrator for the Commission and Property Owners to consider.*
13. Cut and patch 4-6ft of Concrete at 170 Road near residence 1549 (*Primary Road; Currently 23x23 & 10x23 inch potholes where previous asphalt patch has failed*). *A hot asphalt patch is being tested at this location.*

Upcoming Events

1. U.S. Senator Roger Marshall, M.D. announced \$1,520,000 in grant funding to the North Central Regional Planning Commission from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program.
 - a. *The Highway Administrator is communicating with the North Central Region Planning Commission (NCRPC) about what this means for Republic County. Representatives for the NCRPC do not know yet but hope to bring all the member counties together within the next 60-90 days to consider next steps.*
2. Special Projects in the works or being considered by the Highway Administrator
 - a. Asphalt paving options.
3. Vacations of Right-of-Ways are proposed for 3 road spurs adjacent to Highway 81 that were abandoned after improvements to the Highway many years ago.