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TO: Honorable County Commissioners  
Scott Arneson, County Administrator

FROM: Greg Isakson, Public Works Director

RE: 07 Feb 23 Committee of the Whole Meeting  
**Consultants and Staff**

Date: 01 Feb 23

As requested, staff has prepared this presentation to discuss why Public Works uses Consultants to augment staff.



# Consultants and Staff

07 Feb 23 COW

# Increased Program with a Lack of Staff

- There were 5 engineering technicians 20 years ago
- There are 3 engineering technicians today (40% reduction)
- Have been trying to hire an engineering technician **since June 2020**
  - ARPA tuition free program at Southeast Vo-Tec has zero applicants
- LOST funds have increase annually
- Construction program has increased significantly
  - \$5.4 M in 2018 and \$10.1 M in 2023
  - 87 % increase in funding 6 years
  - Using 35% construction cost inflation there is a 38% increase in projects
- The Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law increases federal \$ to the state by 33.7%
- Potential state funding expected with the large surplus from last year



# Bridge and Hydraulic Design

- Specialty expertise, need to do all the time or don't do it at all
- Few counties have this expertise in-house
- Unknown if Goodhue County every had this expertise in-house

# Highway Design

- There is one full time design technician on staff
  - Mainly works on grading plans for road and bridge grading projects, and
  - Other small designs for annual maintenance projects, overlay projects, box culvert replacements, etc.
- County did this work in-house when there were more staff and fewer projects.
- WSB design for the 2 miles of 100<sup>th</sup> Ave: \$117,800
  - Over 40 staff (Geotech, Survey, Roadway, Structures, Drainage, Traffic)
- WSB design for the 4.7 miles of CSAH 2: \$236,774
- Using only existing county staff today would result in delaying future projects by years.

# Right of Way Tasks

- Hire and manage appraisers
- Meet with owners of each parcel to explain the project and the R/W process
- Make offers to owners of each parcel
- Negotiate with those landowners
- Prepare easements and acquisition documents
- If needed: prepare for condemnation

# Purchase Right of Way

- Cost to hire WSB on 100<sup>th</sup> Ave. with 15 parcels = \$75,844
- Just received a proposal from WSB for CSAH 2 (CSAH 5 to TH 61) with 50 parcels at \$265,276
- We do not have the capacity & expertise 'in-house' to acquire right of way on CSAH 2
- Need their services for this work if we want to deliver the project in 2024
- The County did this work in-house until we lost staff with this expertise
- Right of way duties included in the new 'Design Manager' job description
- We work with our survey office to help write right of way descriptions and help with recording easements, depending on their staff availability

# Specialty Projects

- Transportation Plan
  - Gather public input by talking with various groups
  - Study changes in land use, traffic trends, volumes, highway classifications
  - Last plan was completed in 2004
- Bank Stabilization (CR 46)
- Concrete Base Stabilization for Gravel Roads (CR 23)
  - Could create a program for upgrading our gravel road system that would include this stabilization
- Problem Intersections
  - CSAH 1 (Bench St.) and 66 (Pioneer Road) in Red Wing - potential roundabout, etc.
  - CSAH 1 and CSAH 6
  - CSAH 18 and Sturgeon Lake Road - potential roundabout, traffic signal, 3<sup>rd</sup> lane, etc.
  - CSAH 11, CSAH 62 (Main St.) at the Kwik Trip in Pine Island – potential roundabout, etc.
- Other unusual issues that require specialists (who practice their specialty on a full time basis)



# Construction Inspection

- Typically we have County staff available to inspect our highway and bridge projects.
  - Lost an Engr Tech just prior to construction, no other staff was available to inspect the CR 57 **federally funded** bridge
- Asked other Counties to 'borrow' an inspector – none available
- Asked MnDot to 'borrow' an inspector – none available
- Contacted Widseth (the firm that designed the bridge) – none available
- Contacted SRF (the consultant we hired for the Historic 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Bridge in Cannon Falls). – Available
- Original Cost Estimate = \$ 89,731
- Total Cost to date = \$ 43,482

# County Road 57 Federal Bridge Costs and Funding

Goodhue County Public Works					
598-022 CR 57 Bridge Rplmt Project					
<b>Design</b>	<b>Cost</b>		<b>Fed</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>County</b>
Consultant	54,483				54,483
County	23,049				23,049
<b>Construction Inspection</b>					
Consultant	43,482				43,482
County	12,530				12,530
<b>Contractor</b>	<b>672,625</b>		<b>538,100</b>	<b>134,525</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>806,169</b>		<b>538,100</b>	<b>134,525</b>	<b>133,544</b>
<b>% of Funding</b>			<b>67%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>17%</b>
County Paid \$133,544 of an \$808,169 project to build a \$672,625 bridge					


# Bridge Safety Inspection/Evaluation

- Hired MnDot to inspect bridges for 2022 and 2023 (~\$21,000 / year)
  - A current lack of staff has created a void in the work the department typically completes
  - **A new set of eyes inspecting our bridges**
- Their staff are full time bridge inspectors
- Fine tuned their expertise
- Have advanced inspection equipment
- Hire consultants to evaluate bridges where the inspections find an issue
  - Such as 25501

# Consulting services for 2023

CONSULTANT CONTRACTS						
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	CONSULTANT	CONTRACT SCOPE	CONTRACT AMOUNT	AMOUNT EXPENDED		
				PRIOR TO 2023	2023	BEYOND 2023
SLOPE REPAIR ON CR 46 FROM COLLISCHAN RD TO MT CARMEL RD	GALE-TEC	DESIGN	\$18,200.00	\$16,342.75	\$1,857.25	
GRADING ON 100TH AVE FROM CSAH 9 TO CSAH 1	WSB	DESIGN AND RIGHT OF WAY	\$193,644.00	\$193,644.00		
GRADING ON CSAH 2 FROM CSAH 5 TO TH 61	WSB	DESIGN	\$236,774.00	\$22,606.00	\$95,000.00	\$119,168.00
GRADING ON CSAH 2 FROM CSAH 5 TO TH 62	WSB	RIGHT OF WAY	\$265,276.00		\$107,460.66	\$157,815.34
REPLACE BR 25501 ON CSAH 2	STONEBROOKE	DESIGN	\$57,885.00	\$25,948.91	\$31,936.09	
REPLACE BR 25502 ON CR 45	ERICKSON	DESIGN	\$49,300.00		\$49,300.00	
REPLACE BR 25516 ON CSAH 8	ERICKSON	DESIGN	\$66,600.00	\$17,214.00	\$49,386.00	
REPLACE BR L0546 ON CR 57	SRF	CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION	\$89,731.50	\$40,586.84	\$2,560.00	
INTERSECTION CONTROL EVALUATIONS	TBD	TRAFFIC COUNTS AND STUDIES	\$100,000.00		\$30,000.00	\$70,000.00
MATERIALS INSPECTION AND TESTING FOR 2023	VARIOUS	CONSTRUCTION TESTING	\$50,000.00		\$40,000.00	\$10,000.00
TRANSPORTATION PLAN	TBD	STUDIES	\$120,000.00		\$20,000.00	\$100,000.00
GRADING AND PAVING ON JEFFERSON ST IN ZUMBROTA (CITY)	WHKS	DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION INSP.	\$750,000.00	\$475,000.00	\$275,000.00	
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,997,410.50</b>	<b>\$791,342.50</b>	<b>\$702,500.00</b>	<b>\$456,983.34</b>

\$XXXXX DENOTES ESTIMATED AMOUNT



# Options Other than Consultants

## Plan B – Work with Other Public Entities

- Contact MnDot or other counties to see if they have staff we could borrow
  - Highway design expertise
  - Right of way acquisition
  - Construction inspection (as we tried on the CR 57 bridge)
  - Bridge Inspections

# Options Other than Consultants

## Plan C – Hire Staff

- First: Fill existing engineering technician opening (been looking since June 2020).
- Engineering technician with highway design experience
- Right of way acquisition expertise
  - Included in Design Manager Job Description
- ~~Specialists~~
  - ~~Bridge Design~~
  - ~~Transportation and Intersection Studies~~
  - ~~Cement Stabilization, Inslope Stabilization, etc.~~

Even with additional staff, there are special areas where will need to hire consultants