

**Dawes County Board of Commissioner's  
Special Roads Meeting  
January 22, 2018**

The Public convened and advertized special roads meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jake Stewart at 6:14 P.M. on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2018. Roll was called and present was Jake Stewart and Vic Rivera. Webb Johnson was scheduled to come in later, however; was unable to attend. One Hundred two (102) individuals attended the meeting held at the Dawes County 4-H grounds. A sign-in sheet will be attached to these minutes. Also present from the County was Cheryl Feist, Dawes County Clerk; Larry Hankin, Highway Superintendent; Ellen Cross and Lindy Coleman, Assessor. The Chairman announced the location of the posted Open Meetings Act and informed those present, copies are available upon request. Commissioner Rivera, seconded by Stewart, moved to approve the Agenda. Roll call vote, Ayes: Rivera and Stewart. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Stewart reviewed protocol for the special meeting. The Commissioner's then voiced their objectives for said meeting. Commissioner Rivera reported he wants input on projects but to remember taxes play a role. Commissioner Stewart reported he would like to see this group come together two (2) times per year. Larry Hankin, Highway Superintendent, expressed a desire to have more open communication and reminded those present of the Dawes County website-[www.dawes-county.com](http://www.dawes-county.com) and encouraged individuals to use it for information and correspondence.

Public Objectives ensued with Don Mandelko indicating for the record, public awareness of the website is vital and people are here to help develop the One & Six Year Road Plan. Another individual reported they were here to convey problems to the Board re: road conditions. Bat Pourier asked about the County budget as to who decides what departments get for budgets.

Larry Hankin, Highway Superintendent, reviewed roads personnel and what each person is responsible for. He continued with information relevant to the One & Six Year Road Plan. What goes into the planning process? Several factors come into play when developing a One & Six Year Road Plan to wit:

- Classification of Roads
- Needs-Is there a bus or mail route involved? Farm to Market and average daily traffic
- Conditions-How much gravel is on existing road? Does the road flood? etc.
- Types of Work needed-
  - Is new construction required?
  - Reconstruction-rebuild existing roads, etc.
  - Maintenance-reshaping of drainage channels, clean, replace or repair bridges

Mr. Hankin informed those present road widths in Dawes County run 26'-28'. He went over the FFPP (Federal Funds Purchase Program) which made funding local and the CBMP (County Bridge Match Program) which assists the County with getting structurally deficient bridges off the system.

At 6:45 P.M. those present were asked to put together ideas for improvement or concerns. Two maps were also posted so individuals could label areas of concern.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7:10 P.M. to review public input and solicit idea's information relevant to improving road conditions to wit:

Are Audits conducted annually?

Why are culverts replacing bridges on some projects?

Bottom dollar comes down to money and gravel

An individual reported they spend 600-700 hours a year hauling on County Roads so maintenance is a real concern.

Another individual expressed concern with lack of work ethic in the roads department. The Board was asked what the plan is when native rock supplies are depleted. It was suggested the County purchase equipment that can

handle hauling more tonnage. Dust on Beaver Valley Road needs controlled and using oxide was discussed. Same individual reported replacing eight (8) tires in two (2) months. The Board was asked what the screen was set at on the crusher. Mr. Hankin reported its set at 1.5 inches, it was suggested the screen be set at 1 inch. It was suggested the County look at purchasing land in South Dakota and crush red rock. Red rock would last longer than our native rock. An individual asked if millings from the State can be used on roads. It was suggested the Board take a look at return on investment regarding existing equipment in use. It was questioned whether or not radial tires on the maintainers could be causing the blades to fluctuate. Another individual reported he never sees a Commissioner checking roads. West River Road maintenance is shared with Box Butte County and the East end needs rocked. A Beaver Valley Road resident indicated when the crews use the blades with jagged edges the road work lasts longer. Highland Road needs to be widened and finer gravel used. An individual expressed concern with road projects not being completed. Toadstool Road ditch hasn't been pulled, rain creates a huge hole and there is no gravel left on crown. Residents of Cottonwood Road reported when it rains, you can't get a 4-wheeler down the road. South Belmont Road needs addressed and North Snook Road needs to be finished. You get a ¼" of rain and you're not getting down the road. It was reported Ormesher/Slim Buttes Road to South Dakota State Line is bad, you have to strap items down, however; once you get to the South Dakota line the road becomes better. Other areas of concern were the status of Dunlap pavement; protocol for driveways; protocol for farming to the county road and there is no ditch; liability for individuals doing own work on roads; how many years has it been since a 1 & 6 Year Road Plan has been completed; Where are the numbers for road counts and how often are they done. Training of Motor Grader operators was also a concern. The Board and Mr. Hankin were able to address the majority of the concerns/questions of those present.

Closing comments ensued with Commissioner Rivera thanking everyone who attended the meeting and encouraged continued input, positive or negative. He feels we're heading in the right direction and told those present to call if they have questions. Commissioner Stewart thanked everyone for attending and was pleased with the turnout. He encouraged everyone to keep working towards a common goal.

There being no further business before the Board a motion was made by Commissioner Rivera, seconded by Stewart, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 P.M.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CHERYL FEIST**  
**DAWES COUNTY CLERK**

**DAWES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
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