

Highway shop work outlined

By Amy Smith, Union staff writer | Posted: Friday, August 8, 2014 9:44 am

JEFFERSON — Jefferson County Infrastructure Committee members were updated on construction of the new highway shop Wednesday, after which they made decisions on two project upgrades.

Several county supervisors, along with County Administrator Ben Wehmeier, also toured the highway facility site following the meeting.

The owner representative for the project, Chris Raykowski of The Sigma Group engineering consulting firm in Milwaukee, informed the board of supervisors' committee that the lime stabilization required to remedy an expensive setback that plagued the project in early July had been completed and 60 percent of the grading was finished.

Located on the site of the former Countryside Home on the west side of Jefferson, the parcel previously sat upon a layer of moist clay and sandy topsoil, with silt and sand below, effectively stopping any drainage.

In order to make the site serviceable for the \$15 million highway shop project, the county elected to stabilize the soil with lime. Lime stabilization works by adding lime to an unstable soil, with the lime reacting with the compounds in the current soil to draw moisture out and bond with the clay materials.

A break in the weather allowed the county to come in under budget at \$410,000. The county initially approved spending \$504,000 to mitigate the wet soil on the site in order to make it workable for the structure.

The panel was also informed that building construction had begun in July, including setting the footings and construction of the structural steel that will frame the shop.

Raykowski said the precast cement would be going up sometime this week, and by the end of the week, committee members would be able to see actual walls. Piping for electrical and plumbing will be laid at the end of the month.

“You’re going to see things look like they’re going really fast in the next week,” Raykowski added.

The final grading of County Highway W in front of the facility has been completed and will be ready to pave by mid- to late August, the consultant said. The roadway has been closed since last April.



SITE TOUR

SITE TOUR — Several members of the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors, along with County Administrator Ben Wehmeier, toured the ongoing construction at the site of the new Jefferson County Highway Department facility Wednesday. Construction of the buildings began in July and project engineer Chris Raykowski of The Sigma Group said visible walls will go up by the end of the week. The \$15 million project, which was delayed due to weather challenges, is expected to be complete around March 2015. For more photos click here. — Daily Union photos by Amy Smith.

At this point in construction, Raykowski said, the county has spent about \$1.2 million of the \$15.37 million budget or about 14 percent.

In addition to receiving an update, the committee made several decisions about potential upgrades to the project, including the installation of radiant heat floor tubing in the garage and a voice notification system.

The committee voted against the radiant tubing, which would have come at a cost of \$103,000 to the already-tight budget. The idea of the tubing was to create potential energy-saving opportunities in the future with the option to heat the in-floor tubing through solar panels or biomass. With the tubing, the garage would not have to rely as heavily on heating the space solely with traditional radiant air heating, but it would not be able to heat the garage solely with the in-floor heat as the overhead air system helps to melt and dry snow and ice on the trucks quickly when they are parked for a short period of time.

Because the garage still would require the traditional heating method, County Supervisor Mike Kelly recommended holding off on the installation of the tubing, with all committee members in agreement.

A county worker in attendance pointed out that both Dodge County and Watertown's highway facilities use overhead radiant heat. Wehmeier added that he did not feel comfortable using taxpayer money for the in-floor heating with the tight budget.

The committee did, however, approve the installation of a voice system that would replace the originally planned public address (PA) system.

In other business, the committee approved the purchase of three mondopads — one for the University of Wisconsin-Extension building and two for the courthouse.

A mondopad is a 55-inch interactive touchscreen device. The pad essentially is a large tablet that can function as an interactive whiteboard and a display screen. It can be controlled from a smartphone or tablet and has videoconferencing capabilities.

The idea is that these mondopads would replace the outdated overhead projectors many of the county's buildings currently use.

Each mondopad would cost about \$6,000. The cost of the mondopads, as well as for projectors in all rooms in the courthouse, already is in the budget, Wehmeier said. UW-Extension has allocated \$55,000 for technological upgrades, and the Planning and Zoning Committee has set aside money for a projector.

Besides the cost, several committee members expressed concerns about the training needed to work the mondopads. The original proposal sought five mondopads — two for the circuit courts, one for the courthouse and two for UW-Extension. The committee approved the three pads as a trial period before purchasing the pads for the courts.