

Material bids are approved by county

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By Charlie Warner

Argus News Editor

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• The bituminous seal coating and permanent pavement marking was awarded to Fahrner Asphalt Sealers of Plover, Wis. The county will improve 26 miles of county roads this summer, including portions of CSAH 3, 7, 18, and 29. The bid was \$399,280.26. The county had budgeted \$325,000 for the projects. Molling said this bid was higher than expected because a polymer oil, which sets up faster and allows the excess rock to be removed sooner, will be used. The county will be reimbursed \$21,486 from the city of Caledonia, for the portion of CSAH 5 that is within the city limits.

• The low pavement marking bid submitted by AAA Striping Service, of St. Michael, MN., for \$89,614.69 was approved. The county received four bids, ranging from AAA's bid to the high bid of \$129,518. The county budgeted \$100,000 for pavement striping.

• Bonanza Grain of Caledonia submitted the low bid of \$133,577 for crushed road. The county received two bids for crushed rock, the other was from Knife River for \$178,979. The county had budgeted \$125,000 for crushed rock, but found more rock was needed and the price went up 60 cents per ton.

• Four Seasons Maintenance of Spring Grove submitted the low bid for crack filling. The bid was \$1.60 per pound with routing and \$1.42 per pound without routing.

In other board action:

County to apply for permit

Highway Engineer Marcus Evans reminded the county's option to purchase 23 acres of land on the west edge of Caledonia for a new county highway facility, runs out on June 8. He felt the county better submit the building permit to the city within the week to make sure the proper public notices for public hearings could be placed and held before the June 8 deadline. The board granted Evans to prepare and deliver the proper documents to the city.

Drug investigator hired

The board approved the hiring of Houston County Deputy John Tveiten as the county's new drug investigator. After conducting interviews with several employees of the Sheriff's Office, the committee recommended Tveiten.

He will continue serving his regular duties until a new patrol deputy is hire.

Rates going up

Public Health Nursing Director Deb Rock recommended the fees for skilled nursing visits needed to be increased. The county is currently charging \$120 per visit, while the actual cost is now \$146.80. The county is reimbursed \$84 per visit from the state. Rock recommended the county increase the rate by \$20 per visit to \$140. The board approved the recommendation.

County residents are charged \$49 per visit for home health aids. That charge will remain the same.

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