

Town weighing where to spend road funding

Written by MARK JAEGER

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Officials hope to maximize improvement dollars available from state program

Town of Saukville officials are trying to find where they would get the most “bang for the buck” when it comes to road projects.

Last year, officials were set to spend their deferred 2010-11 allocation of more than \$12,800 from the state’s Town Road Improvement Program to make repairs on low-lying Blueberry Road on the township’s far north side.

To receive the state money, the town needs to commit to matching the funds.

Although the pavement on Blueberry Road has been a recurring nightmare, the brakes were put on planning for that project when preliminary engineering work showed rebuilding the roadway would cost much more than the town was willing to pay.

In August, town officials agreed TRIP money should be redirected to work on Bluegoose Road. That project is expected to cost \$38,000.

Under the restrictions of TRIP, the Ozaukee County Highway Department is not eligible for the road work, but the local program is administered through the county.

While reviewing the town’s request to substitute Blue Goose Road for the funding, Assistant Public Works Director Jon Edgren asked officials if they would prefer to combine the money with the 2014-14 allocation — meaning an additional \$13,000 would be available.

By combining the allocations, nearly \$26,000 in state money would be available for roadwork, but only if the town spends a similar amount.

“If both TRIP funds were put towards a single project, then the town could fund a \$52,000 project and still be responsible for only roughly \$25,000,” Edgren said in a memo to the town.

That got town officials reconsidering their road priorities. Repaving 2,600 feet of Hickory Road between Wellspring and Highview Road, which is expected to cost \$60,000, immediately came to mind.

Officials will also consider whether work on Northwoods Road might be a better use of the funding. Maintenance of that road is shared with the Town of Port Washington.

“I think combining the two is better, fiscally, for the town,” said Town Chairman Barb Jobs.

The board is expected to make a decision on the TRIP allocation at its November meeting.

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