

Resolution Number #2440

Road Improvement Request Policy

WHEREAS Poweshiek County has about 974 miles of roads under its jurisdiction as of January 1, 2004 and

WHEREAS these roads are surfaced with rock, bituminous seal coat, pavement or nothing, of which 121 miles are dirt roads (with no surfacing), 740 miles have rock, 11 miles are bituminous seal-coat, and 102 miles are paved (Portland Cement Concrete or Hot-Mix Asphalt), and

WHEREAS Poweshiek County may elect to upgrade a road from dirt to rock or from rock to pavement (seal coat or PCC or HMA) in order to facilitate existing or reasonably expected traffic patterns or in the interests of economic development, and

WHEREAS there are occasional requests from a member of the public to upgrade the surfacing on a specific road that is not planned to be upgraded by Poweshiek County in order to build on a dirt road or upgrade the surfacing from rock to pavement, and

WHEREAS Poweshiek County wishes to establish a fair method to accommodate for this and expand the Poweshiek County tax base,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following shall be the policy for handling requests to upgrade roads under the jurisdiction of Poweshiek County. This policy shall supersede any previous agreements concerning upgrades, whether written or verbal.

Dirt to Rock

Poweshiek County will participate in improving a road from dirt to rock in order to access new construction with a permanent foundation that adds to the Poweshiek County tax base.

- The existing road must have a minimum 66' right-of-way. In certain cases this minimum may be increased by the County Engineer to ensure safety, adequate drainage, or reasonable service during winter months.
- The person making the request will be responsible for the cost and execution of acquiring any necessary right-of-way, fence replacement, relocation of utilities, etc.
- Poweshiek County will perform minimal grading (less than \$2,000) to upgrade a road from dirt to rock so that the person making the request may have reasonable access. These costs may also include removal of brush and minor culvert repair. Costs above \$2,000 shall be borne completely by the person making the request.
- The person making the request will be responsible for the cost of buying and hauling rock for the road. The amount of rock necessary will be

- enough to cover the road 2½" deep and 24' wide (0.30 ton per linear foot). This amount may be reduced if the County Engineer determines that there is some rock left over from when the road had previously been rocked. If private haulers are utilized for this it will be necessary to supply rock tickets which show that the proper type and quantity of rock were hauled. County forces may also be available to haul the rock. In this case the County Engineer will determine the cost of buying and placing the rock.
- If bridge or culvert repairs or replacements are necessary the cost-sharing arrangement between Poweshiek County and the person making the request will be determined by the County Engineer. In determining the cost sharing arrangement, the County Engineer shall consider the remaining useful life of the existing structure and the future plans that Poweshiek County would have regarding the structure if the status of the road were to remain unchanged.
 - All upgrades shall be performed under the direction of the County Engineer.
 - After the upgrade has been completed to the satisfaction of the County Engineer, all ongoing costs shall be assumed by Poweshiek County.
 - Rock shall not be placed until the permanent foundation is constructed.
 - It may be possible that improvement of the road is not the most cost-effective way to provide adequate service. Alternatives to improvement of the road will be considered, even if this pushes more of a financial burden onto the homeowner.
 - Poweshiek County shall retain the right to upgrade or downgrade the surfacing due to changes in funding or usage of the road.
 - The request shall be made to the County Engineer.
 - The request to upgrade the road may be denied if Poweshiek County feels that ongoing maintenance is not financially feasible.

Rock to Pavement

Poweshiek County will participate in improving a road from rock to pavement in rare situations.

- Upgrades must be an extension of an existing paved road, so as to fit in with existing snow-removal routes. Upgrades that branch off of existing seal-coated or paved roads may be denied for that reason alone.
- Upgrades must fit in with the existing traffic patterns or what could reasonably be construed to be the future traffic pattern.
- The existing road must have a minimum 66' right-of-way. In certain cases this minimum may be increased by the County Engineer to ensure safety, adequate drainage, or reasonable service during winter months.
- The person making the request will be responsible for the cost and execution of acquiring any necessary right-of-way, fence replacement, relocation of utilities, etc.
- Poweshiek County will perform minimal grading (less than \$2,000) to upgrade a road from rock to pavement. These costs may also include

removal of brush and minor culvert repair. Costs above \$2,000 shall be borne completely by the person making the request.

- The person making the request will pay for the initial cost of the placement of the pavement and will be responsible for maintenance of it for five (5) years. This maintenance will include filling cracks, patching potholes, pavement markings (if any), or applying a yearly chip seal, according to the County Engineer.
- The initial construction design and the ongoing need for maintenance must be satisfactory to the County Engineer. If the maintenance is not satisfactory and is not brought up to a satisfactory condition within a reasonable time period, Poweshiek County reserves the right to return the road to its original condition.
- Poweshiek County will perform snow removal on the road in accordance with policies established by the Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors.
- Ongoing maintenance will be assumed by the County after five years if the new pavement is in a condition acceptable to the County at that point.
- If bridge or culvert repairs or replacements are necessary the cost-sharing arrangement between the County and the person making the request will be determined by the County Engineer. In determining the cost sharing arrangement, the County Engineer shall consider the remaining useful life of the existing structure and the future plans that Poweshiek County would have regarding the structure if the status of the road were to remain unchanged.
- All upgrades shall be performed under the direction and approval of the County Engineer.
- It may be possible that improvement of the road is not the most cost-effective way to provide adequate service. Alternatives to improvement of the road will be considered, even if this pushes more of a financial burden onto the homeowner.
- Poweshiek County shall retain the right to upgrade or downgrade the surfacing due to changes in funding or usage of the road.
- The initial point of request shall be the County Engineer.
- The request to upgrade the road may be denied if Poweshiek County feels that ongoing maintenance is not financially feasible.

Signed this **14th** day of **August, 2006**.