

MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023 – 9:00 A.M.
HIGHWAY COMMITTEE OF OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
301 WASHINGTON STREET, COURTHOUSE BUILDING “A” ROOM #3041
OCONTO WI 54153
www.co.oconto.wi.us

(Draft minutes not approved by committee)

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Elmer Ragen, David Behrend, David Christianson, Robert Wolf

ABSENT: Joel Lavarda

OTHERS PRESENT: Brandon Hytinen, Vanessa Hasenberg, Al Sleeter, Erik Pritzl, Beth Ellingson, Tom Boguszewski - AECOM

1. Call to Order

Chair Christianson called the meeting to order at 9 am.

2. Approval of Agenda

2.1 Change of Sequence – None.

2.2 Removal of Items – None.

Motion by Behrend/Wolf to approve the agenda. The motion was voted and carried.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Motion by Behrend/Ragen to approve the July 6, 2023 minutes. The motion was voted and carried.

4. Review Prior Months Vendor Payments

Vendor payments were discussed.

5. Communications

-Notice of Public Hearing – No Impact

-Hytinen read letter received from GoRail regarding a bill proposed in Congress raising weight limits on trucks from 80,000 pounds to 91,000 pounds. WI Counties Highway Association not in favor of the increase. After discussion, Hytinen will reply that Highway Committee is not in favor of bill proposing increasing the allowed weight limit.

-Email received from Oconto County Sheriff Dept reporting contaminated water has been given to flagging crews outside of WI while they were working along roadways. Discussion followed on having Narcan available within the department in case of emergency.

-Letters received from Commissioner on Railroad on maintenance required after inspections were completed on crossings within Oconto County. Various improvements were made per their request.

-Letter received from US Forest Service regarding culvert replacements we are doing in Forest County through the Good Neighbor Agreement.

6. AE Com Representative

Boguszewski discussed previous projects and asked they be considered for future bridge design opportunities in Oconto County.

7. CTH-B Run/Walk Request

Request received from Mathew Lehmann to use portion of CTH-B from West Rost Lake Road to East Rost Lake Road for Run/Walk event on September 2, 2023. Motion by Ragen/Wolf to allow the use of the requested segment, with Town of Brazeau Fire Dept providing proper traffic control. The motion was voted and carried.

8. Equipment Update

-Lowboy trailer was picked up from Aring Equipment.

-Stock dump box was purchased for new F550 for a price of \$8350.

-Sign truck not delivered; there continue to be issues with computer programming.

9. Roadwork Update

- US-41 south of Abrams is complete and mowing has started.

- Pulverizing/paving work taking place on town roads.
 - Concrete repair crew working on 4-lanes
 - Notice of interest letter emailed out for Smyth Road bridge replacement project in Town of Lakewood.
 - Paved 7.37 miles of CTH-W with LRIP reimbursement. Paving account has funds remaining. Hytinen brought up current PASER (pavement surface evaluation and rating) scale for Oconto County as well as comparison ratings from 2021. Committee recommends to Administrative Committee to designate \$300,000 of ARPA funds for road improvements on a segment of CTH-W. This would bring the total paved on county system for 2023 to 11.59 miles. If request approved, ask to have on regular agenda at September County Board meeting.
10. Staffing Update
 - Welder retired, position filled internally.
 - Four new employees in last month, currently fully staffed.
 - Hytinen and Amy Zerbe had discussion this week with HR on grade adjustments needed for future retention.
 11. Budget Discussion
 - 2024 Capital budget requests include, 2 tri-axes that were previously approved, 2 chassis with dump boxes and roof on Suring shop. Discussion followed on equipment needs in the future.
 12. Approve 2023/2024 Propane Contract; Country Visions
 - Propane contract decreased from \$1.79/gallon in 2022 to \$1.399/gallon in 2023. Discussion followed on costs to purchase a propane storage tank to utilize lower propane prices when available. Motion by Wolf/Behrend to approve the 2023/2024 propane contract with Country Visions. The motion was voted and carried.
 13. Announcements/General Information/Guests (No action to be taken)
 - WisDOT collaborated with Quality Assurance Bridge Inspections and examined 5 bridges in Oconto County. No issues found.
 - Safety Day is scheduled for October 19.
 - Hytinen discussed close call on US-141 where a semi hit a barrel next to crew working in the construction zone. Sheriff Skarban was contacted and provided presence to slow traffic during concrete repair.
 - Behrend questioned UTV policies and was directed to All Terrain Vehicles Ordinance – Chapter 27.
 14. Next Meeting Date
 - Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 9 am in the County Board room.
 15. Adjournment
 - Chair Christianson declared meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Vanessa Hasenberg
Recorder
Date Posted: August 15, 2023