

MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 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, Joel Lavarda

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Brandon Hytinen, Vanessa Hasenberg, Al Sleeter, Erik Pritzl, Beth Ellingson, Pat Virtues, Brad Fisher-Item 6

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 Lavarda/Wolf to approve the agenda. The motion was voted and carried.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Motion by Behrend/Lavarda to approve the September 7, 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

-General Transportation Aid (GTA) estimated to increase by \$42,000 from 2023. Will be notified in December of actual amount.

-WisDOT / Escanaba Lake Superior Railroad are working on crossing at STH-22 in Stiles. Paving will be done by our department. Discussed message board wording due to WisDOT declaring any project that occupies a location for more than 3 days as being considered “long term.” Hytinen explained WisDOT posts detours on county/state roads to prevent high traffic on local roads that are not designed to handle the capacity.

-Letters from Commissioner on Railroads sent to towns regarding recent inspections.

6. CTH-J Driveway Variance Request

Hytinen brought up the location of request on the map. Permit was denied due to not meeting spacing and frequency requirements of ordinance. Discussion followed on speed limit in area and not wanting to discourage growth in the county. Virtues looking for ways to be more proactive with driveway ordinance information for future land division requests. Hytinen explained concerns are often communicated to seller but then does not get shared with future buyers. Motion by Lavarda/Ragen to approve variance request. The motion was voted and carried.

7. ATV Route Requests

Requests received from Gillett Sno/ATV Club to open 2 segments of county roads as ATV/UTV routes:

1) CTH-E from USH-141 west to STH-32/Shawano County line

2) CTH-D from USH-141 to CTH-C in Sampson

Discussion followed on speed limits and trail connections. Motion by Wolf/Behrend to approve opening both requests to ATV/UTV traffic. The motion was voted and carried.

8. Approval to Order Truck Chassis

Hytinen requesting to purchase a F350 and F550 in 2024 budget. Quote shown from state contract vendor EWald, for F550: \$53,940 and F350: \$46,987 (some modifications may be needed.) Motion by Behrend/Lavarda to approve request to order 2 chassis cab vehicles with expected delivery date in 2024: 1) F350 and 1) F550. The motion was voted and carried.

Quote shown from Olson Trailer and Body for dump box - \$16,200 and toolbox backpack package - \$3575. Motion by Behrend/Ragen to purchase 2 dump boxes and 1 toolbox-backpack from Olson Trailer and Body. The motion was voted and carried.

9. Roadwork Update

- Paving on CTH-P complete, striping today and shouldering to follow. Paving on CTH-W is finished.
- Pulverizing/paving work taking place on town roads.
- Paving STH-22 railroad crossing in Stiles today, planning to open road this afternoon.
- Hytinen submitted 2 projects for STP (Surface Transportation Program) cycle.
- OPM (Operational Planning Meeting) held with WisDOT and designer for CTH-C project.
- Consultant selection approved for Smyth Road bridge in Town of Lakewood.

10. Equipment Update

- Three Tri-Axles currently in production, with delivery to Monroe Truck expected the middle of the month.

11. Staffing Update

- Two employees start on Monday, currently recruiting for one operator/laborer position.

12. Approve CDL Contract – Steve Drella

Contract for Steve Drella's CDL training services shown on screen at a rate of \$75/hour. He is currently training 5 operators, and plans to do one more employee. Motion by Lavarda/Wolf to approve the contract with Steve Drella for CDL training. The motion was voted and carried.

13. Announcements/General Information/Guests (No action to be taken)

- National Move Over Day is October 21.
- Quarterly Highway Safety Committee meeting was held last week.
- Hytinen attending Highway Commissioner training October 9-10 in Eau Claire.
- Annual safety day is October 19 at the Law Enforcement Center.
- Hytinen shared information from Adams Asphalts on cost of configuring Hotmix plant to use natural gas or oil. Concerns with availability to purchase used oil in the future and would like the option to switch between the two fuels. Discussed potential costs and savings. Commercial Gas Service Application has been submitted with WI Public Service to find out if it is an option for that location.
- LRIP (Local Road Improvement Project) meeting held for towns. Meeting with municipal group to follow.
- Utility permit issues continue, with companies not following permit instructions during installation.
- Behrend commented on expanded weight and size limits currently in legislation.

14. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 9 am in the County Board room - a week earlier than normal due to November holiday schedule.

15. Adjournment

Chair Christianson declared meeting adjourned at 10:09 am.

Vanessa Hasenberg

Recorder

Date Posted: October 12, 2023