

**MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025 – 9:00 A.M.**

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE OF OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**OFFICE OF THE HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER**

**202 VAN DYKE STREET**

**OCONTO WI 54153**

**[www.ocontocountywi.gov](http://www.ocontocountywi.gov)**

*(Draft minutes not approved by committee)*

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Elmer Ragen, David Behrend, David Christianson, Bob Wolf, Joel Lavarda

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Brandon Hytinen, Vanessa Hasenberg, Richard Heath, Al Sleeter

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Christianson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**2. Statement of County Mission and Vision by Hytinen**

**3. Approval of Agenda**

3.1 Change of Sequence – None

3.2 Removal of Items – None

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

**4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

Motion by Behrend/Lavarda to approve the March 6, 2025, minutes as printed. The motion was voted and carried.

**5. Review Prior Months Vendor Payments**

Vendor payments were discussed.

**6. Communications**

- Letter received from motorist regarding barricade in ditch on Business 41, north of Oconto. Hytinen to verify owner. Also, complaint of dip in pavement in turn lane of US 41 and CTH-A turn lane, north of Oconto. Location to be reviewed with WisDOT.
- Notice of Public Hearing – No impact at this time.
- Hytinen met with WPS and pedestal at CTH-J and Brookside Road will be moved during the draft.
- Information received from Town of Lakewood regarding closure/detour of STH-32 for Mardi Gras parade on July 20. The town filed permit with WisDOT and was approved. Discussion followed on insurance/liability requirements.

**7. Approve Bid for Suring Shop Roof**

Bids were opened on March 20, 2025 in no particular order. Corporation Counsel found no judgements that would bar Oconto County from contracting with low bidder and Sleeter stated due diligence was done to verify contractor. Discussion followed on alternate roof hatch option, and the amount of insulation that will have to be replaced is unknown until project begins. No subcontractors will be used. Motion by Lavarda/Behrend to approve the bid received from JT Rams, including alternate roof, hatch, and ladder option in the amount of \$260,668.00. The motion was voted on and carried. Project must be completed by October 31, 2025.

**8. Salt Order Update**

Salt order originally submitted for 2025 was updated to 7948 tons, of which 1308 tons is vendor reserve and available to purchase if needed after recent weather events. Order amount is based on a 15-year average. Price in 2024 was \$82.26/ton. Vendor and price for next year is currently unknown. Reserve order from 2024 will be delivered to take advantage of lower price per ton.

**9. Staffing Update**

-One offer was made for operator opening and since rescinded due to results of pre-employment physical. Offer made to second person, contingent on background check and physical.

- Position posted internally for upcoming retirement of parts manager has been put on hold due to change of retirement date.
- Employee struck by mirror has not returned to work. No update.
- Wage study started last year is progressing. No results at this time.
- MSHA is scheduled for April 14, crew will be split between morning and afternoon.

#### **10. Equipment Update**

- Paver arrived on Tuesday, old one will be sold on auction.
- 1) F250 has arrived, the other is in transit.
- Parts for truck 162 vbox repair are installed and it's back in service. Highway Department cost to repair was \$9000, after \$10,000 deductible.
- Moving attenuator to a truck in a better condition.
- Truck 181 repairs will be completed in-house. After further investigation, it's believed the wing dug into shoulder, pulled truck into ditch and caused the wing to hit driveway and cut tire.
- Notification email received from Monroe explaining the 2026 build calendar is almost full. Heath recommends Hytinens talk to sales rep regarding options for ordering prior to next meeting.

#### **11. Roadwork Update**

- Design continues on CTH-C STP project.
- Design continues on CTH-CC structure in Oconto Falls.
- Designs are continuing for local bridge projects in Town of Lakewood and Town of How.
- Town of Brazeau bridge on Old 64 will be constructed this year, no start date at this time.
- Submitted inventory of 17 additional 6-20' structures due to change in parameters now including 6'.
- Tenative paving schedule for this season will include CTH-A from CTH-G to STH-32 and CTH-J from Liegeois Road to Oconto River. This would total 8.2 miles on county system.
- More funding will be needed in order to complete an additional LRIP project in 2025. The LRIP project on CTH-R was chosen for STP funding.
- Hytinens showed Sheboygan County featured in Pavement Preservation journal. Discussion followed on various counties that have added sales tax to be used for road improvements.

#### **12. CTH-CC Detour Request**

Request received from City of Oconto Falls Police Chief Brad Olsen to detour traffic on CTH-CC for Memorial Day parade. Motion by Lavarda/Wolf to approve closure with detour and appropriate signage and barricades. The motion was voted and carried.

#### **13. Review 2024 Annual Report**

Report was shown on screen. Accomplishments included an increase in paved miles on the county system of 14.3 miles up from 11.7 miles in 2023, as well as 15.9 miles of local roadways, which increased from 13.1 miles in 2023. Paving season started week prior to Memorial Day and ended October 23. Our department maintains 358 pieces of equipment with a total value of \$18,953,912. All safety requirements were met through our annual safety day and Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration training. Brine use was down this year due to less anti-icing as storm events started as rain. On the horizon are concerns with little increase in funding and falling behind on county's paving needs. We are seeing improvement in our truck fleet due to County Board funding commitment. Committee directed the report be sent to full County Board for review.

#### **14. NE Region Commissioner and Committee Meeting**

Behrend, Christianson, Wolf, and Lavarda plan to attend meeting in Oshkosh on May 15. Ragen will decide prior to April 25.

#### **15. Approve Presentation of Highway Facility Study to Full County Board**

Committee toured Oconto shop, viewed new loader, new loader, and other equipment. Discussion followed emphasizing the need for upgrades and improvements in efficiency. Hytinens followed up Heath well water concern, that Forest County highway shop uses as a high capacity well with no issues. Motion

by Behrend/Wolf to recommend facility study presentation to full county board. The motion was voted and carried.

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

- Annual Work Zone Awareness Week is April 21-25.
- Commissioner Training in Sheboygan County is April 8-9.
- 7 Towns meeting is scheduled for April 16.
- Town unit meeting scheduled for April 17.

**17. Next Meeting Date**

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 9 am in County Board room.

**18. Adjournment**

Chair Christianson declared meeting adjourned at 11:46 am.

Vanessa Hasenberg

Recorder

Date Posted: April 10, 2025