

MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025 – 9:00 A.M.
HIGHWAY COMMITTEE OF OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
301 WASHINGTON STREET, COURTHOUSE BUILDING “A” ROOM #3041
OCONTO, WI 54153
www.ocontocountywi.gov

(Draft minutes not approved by committee)

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Brandon Hytinen, Vanessa Hasenberg, Richard Heath, Al Sleeter, Beth Ellingson, Mike Beyer – CB Supervisor District 26, Bruce Jeske

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

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Motion by Wolf/Behrend to approve the July 1, 2025, minutes as printed. The motion was voted and carried.

5. Review Prior Months Vendor Payments

Vendor payments were discussed.

6. Communications

- Notice of Public Hearing – No impact at this time. We issued a variance for a driveway on a rezone property on CTH-F.
- Email received from Bellin thanking us for support with kids triathlon on August 2.
- Sleeter received speed zone concern on the segment of CTH-M in Suring between CTH-R and Red Bank Road due to a recent accident. Beyer questioned making this a no-passing zone. Ragen also received speed zone concern on CTH-S in Sobieski from US141 to CTH-J. Hytinen explained any changes to speed would require an engineering study, and shared possible changes to how WisDOT determines speed limits.

7. Facility Discussion

-Appraisal has been scheduled for Oconto shop property. The cost will be approximately \$2500 and is expected to take 2-3 weeks. Christianson shared concern with lack of funds for road improvements. Sleeter stated Highway Committee has the authority to bring resolution to Administration Committee requesting more funds for paving. Behrend recommends adding this to the next agenda. Discussion followed on next steps for facility upgrade/replacement. Heath will ask Samuels Group to attend a future meeting and present the process followed for the LEC. Heath will also request Jeff Belongia, Huntigton Securities, Inc attend a meeting to discuss options for possible funding sources. Lavarda questioned using current site. Hytinen referenced results of the study that stated this is not feasible due to size restraints and difficulties with relocating current staff during the extended construction period. Reminder that results of the study completed by Barientos are posted for county board to view recommendations that have been made to Highway Committee.

-Contractor submitted documents for Suring shop roof.

-Replacement of Suring salt shed roof moving forward.

8. Approve 2025/2026 Propane Contract

Hytinen showed contract from Country Visions on screen. There was an increase from \$1.299 to \$1.349. Motion by Wolf/Lavarda to accept contract at \$1.349/gallon until May 31, 2026. The motion was voted and carried.

9. Staffing Update

- Summer LTE's will be leaving throughout the month.
- Former employee who was terminated had unemployment appeal denied.
- Received 1 qualified application for grader operator position. Will reach out for an interview. No one applied from within our department.

10. Equipment Update

- Water tank was moved to a different tri-axle truck due to cracked rear-axle housing and scheduled replacement of truck. Box removed for water tank will be used on another truck as well.
- Equipment classes are currently being updated based on WisDOT standards.
- Incident in Oconto shop parking lot where truck spring broke and caught on pavement puncturing fuel tank. Fuel was promptly cleaned up with oil dry.

11. Roadwork Update

- Right of way purchases and design continue for CTH-C STP project. Two parcels may need to be acquired through condemnation due to lender not responding.
- Design is finishing up on CTH-CC structure in Oconto Falls.
- PS&E (Plan, Specifications & Estimates) was submitted for Pecore Road in Town of How.
- CTH-A and CTH-J paving projects are complete
- Concrete repair continues on 4 lanes.
- Mowing on the state and county systems.
- Crackfilling when crew is available.
- Replacement of Old 64 bridge in Town of Brazeau has started and has a detour in place.
- Paving in Towns of Little Suamico and Chase.
- Only had a few trees down from recent severe weather events.
- Looking at submitting FLAP (Federal Lands Access Program) application for segment of CTH-T. The goal of this program is to improve transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within federal lands.
- Hytinen will submit (3) bridges for the Local Bridge Program that require concrete overlays. Two of the bridges may qualify for 100% funding if selected.
- Crosswalk to newly constructed middle school in Oconto Falls has incorrect signs at the rapid flash beacons installed. Hytinen notified designer that the sign type and color of these signs will need to be changed.
- Lavarda questioned CTH-A overpass slope repair timeline. WisDOT gave recommendations on how to repair. Discussing with WisDOT a different method that has been successful in other repairs and waiting to hear confirmation.

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

- Hytinen discussed time and costs that went into current wage study and would appreciate committee support. Sleeter encouraged committee to view results that were sent to them in advance, and to ask questions if unclear about the report. To move forward, it requires recommendation to full County Board from Administrative committee on August 14.
- Silica testing took place at hot mix plant. Samples are currently being tested at lab.
- Work on 2026 Highway Department budget will start next week and will be presented at September committee meeting.
- WisDOT public official meeting regarding STH-22 from Gillett to Oconto Falls. Work not projected to begin until 2030 or 2031.
- Hytinen, Hasenberg and Heath met with Chris Hohol of Fire LLC regarding current safety policies and manuals. Hohol to supply fee schedule to maintain safety compliance.

- Lavarda had question from resident regarding any changes to physical address due to possible annex of CTH-I. Hytinen stated the steps still required for this annex to be approved.
- Beyer complimented the paving project that is now complete on CTH-A.

13. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 9am in County Board room.

14. Adjournment

Chair Christianson declared meeting adjourned at 9:58 am.

Vanessa Hasenberg
Recorder
Date Posted: August 14, 2025