

MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 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, Amy Zerbe

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 Wolf/Behrend 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 August 10, 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 showed on screen a location of concern on CTH-C with equipment and vehicles currently placed in county right-of-way. Discussion followed on the additional right-of-way in that location due to previous design layout of CTH-C. Committee recommends Hytinen pursue option of sale of 0.76 acres of excess right-of-way to owner.

-Anonymous letter received regarding concerns with road condition in Town of Chase. Hytinen will pass on to chairperson.

6. Review/Approve 2024 Budget

Hytinen and Zerbe presented budget numbers from 2024 verses 2023 on screen. Discussion followed on increases in salt price and equipment rates, fringe rates, and fund balances from 2019-2023. Zerbe explained the operating verses road/bridge funds, and the bridge aid program. The highway department is requesting \$413,263 to balance funds, and Pritzl recommends it be taken from the fund balance. Motion by Ragen/Wolf to forward the 2024 Highway Department budget to Administration to take to County Board. The motion was voted and carried.

7. Roadwork Update

-Pulverizing/paving work taking place on town roads.

-Bridge epoxy overlay taking place on STH-41 in Oconto.

-Crackfill crew working on STH-32.

-Finishing debris removal per WisDNR request on CTH-A, where culvert failed due to storm May 2022. Once complete Hytinen will turn all costs into WisDOT for final reimbursement.

-Concrete repair crew working on 4-lanes.

-LRIP reimbursement funds were received this week and will be applied toward paving additional segment of CTH-W and CTH-P.

8. Equipment Update

-Three Tri-Axles currently in production, with delivery expected the end of the month.

- Stock dump box for new F550 was painted this week
- New sign truck was delivered with plan to sell the existing one on auction.
- Waiting for pricing from vendor for 1-Ton truck, with plan to purchase two next year.

9. Staffing Update

- Three employees left since last meeting and currently recruiting to fill these positions.
- Mechanic from Suring shop has last day today due to retirement. No plan to fill this position at this time.
- Pay grades for operators discussed, including starting pay for employees hired with CDL vs. no CDL.

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

- Patrol superintendents attending leadership training today in Fond du Lac.
- CDL training started Tuesday for 4 employees.
- Hytinen meeting with members of Lakewood town board to rate consultants and submit results to WisDOT for Smyth Rd bridge.

11. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 9 am in the County Board room.

12. Adjournment

Chair Christianson declared meeting adjourned at 10:08 am.

Vanessa Hasenberg
Recorder

Date Posted: September 14, 2023