

MINUTES

HIGHWAY, INFRASTRUCTURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, July 7, 2022
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Powers Bluff County Park

Members present: Jake Hahn, Chair, Dave LaFontaine, John Hokamp, Lee Thao (arrived at 9:15 AM)

Member excused: Al Breu

Other present: Parks & Forestry Director Chad Schooley, Highway Commissioner Roland Hawk, Lance Pliml, Jeff Penzkover, Finance Director Ed Newton, County Clerk Trent Miner, Dave Westfall, Travis Mews

1. Chairman Hahn called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and declared a quorum present.
2. Public comments – There were no public comments
3. Correspondence
 - a. Hawk: Citizen concern about spraying ditches in road right of way
 - b. Hawk: Update on status of ATV signing in the county. This is mostly completed.
 - c. Schooley: Reviewed River Block security issues within department
4. Motion by LaFontaine/Hokamp to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
5. ATV Trail/Route system update
 - a. Hawk indicated that the signing is mostly complete on the county roads. They are working with the Town of Grand Rapids to ensure signage is complete and accurate in that municipality. A complete map of the county on which roads are open to ATV/UTV traffic will be forthcoming.
 - b. ATV access within South Wood County Park: Schooley is looking at providing access to the parking areas of the park but not necessarily to the campground or the walk trails. Discussion ensued on different options that may be available.
6. Hawk highlighted a couple of items on the highway staff reports, including the status of the CTH X project as well as the new chip seal process the county implemented this year.
7. Motion by LaFontaine/Hokamp to approve the Highway Dept. vouchers. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Hawk shared a letter he sent in regards to the 2023 CIP budget for the Highway Dept., in that he shares that they are unable to adjust their request due to the leverage of state and federal dollars associated with the projects. Discussion ensued regarding the use of ARPA funding for some of these projects as well as future projects that may have state and federal dollar matching.

9. Hawk discussed the truck driver pay scale and the plan that HR came up with involving the cross training of operators and truck drivers. He presented a plan that would leave these two positions separate but allow a CDL-licensed employee to start out at a Step 6 within their pay grade. Those that do not have a CDL would start at a much lower grade, but after training, would move to the Step 6 position. This would include the LTE drivers as well. The committee was agreeable to this change, but because it is a change to adopted county policy, a resolution would be needed to make that change. Motion by LaFontaine/Hokamp to direct Hawk to develop a resolution memorializing this proposed change. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously. A special meeting prior to the July county board will be scheduled to address the resolution.
10. Hawk presented a proposal whereby an employee that is called in for an emergency after normal work hours would be eligible for two hours of pay, plus \$25.00. There had been a call-in pay policy in the past but had been taken away a number of years ago. This policy is a replica of the Marathon County policy. Hawk states this is needed to make sure these emergency situations are staffed appropriately. Motion by LaFontaine/Thao to approve the Call-in Pay policy as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
11. Hawk stated he is still looking at a standardized shop overhead rate for all shop work done for outside department and municipalities to ensure all costs are being recouped. He is gathering information and will present a plan at a later date.
12. The Ravel Seal bids are due on July 13th and because this does not fall on a meeting date, Hawk is looking for permission to accept the bids and to award it based on what is the most advantageous to Wood County. Motion by LaFontaine/Thao to authorize Hawk to open bids and award the contract based on what is most advantageous to Wood County. Motion carried unanimously.
13. Schooley discussed the staff report and highlighted the Goose roundup that garnered over 70 geese being relocated from both North Park and South Park.
14. The 2023 CIP was discussed with the amount being requested staying the same as the original request.
15. Schooley provided an estimated cost and economic impact document for the Powers Bluff Development Project. There was a discussion on prioritizing the items on that list for presentation to the ARPA Adhoc Committee for when they eventually meet.
16. Motion by LaFontaine/Hokamp to approve the Parks & Forestry vouchers. Motion carried unanimously. Thao is excused at 10:50 AM.
17. The draft Sandhill-Meadow Valley work unit Master Plan was provided to the committee for their review. As it relates to the Sandhill fence and deer farm, the plan outlines 3 options. The committee and county board have gone on record in requesting that there be no change to this area and that the fence be maintained as it is currently.
18. Schooley presented the 2021 Parks & Forestry Annual Report to the committee. He will be presenting it to the county board at the July meeting. Schooley highlighted an

oversight in the financial section. He and Finance Director Newton are working on this and further action may be required at a later date.

19. There were 3 applicants to the Wildlife Area Advisory Committee terms that are expiring. Motion by LaFontaine/Hokamp to recommend Leo Kiedrowski, Scott McAuley, and Mike Wipfli to the county board chair for confirmation by the county board to these positions. Motion carried unanimously.
20. The Parks & Forestry revenue report was distributed and reviewed.
21. Set next regular meeting date:
 - a. Tuesday, July 19, 2022 – time to be determined – Courthouse, Room 114
 - b. Thursday, August 4, 2022 – 9:00 AM at the Highway Office
22. Chairman Hahn declared the meeting adjourned at 11:03 AM.

Minutes taken by Trent Miner, County Clerk and are in draft form until approved at next regular meeting.