

**MINUTES OF THE
HIGHWAY, INFRASTRUCTURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

DAY & DATE: Thursday, April 9, 2020
PLACE: Wood County Courthouse, Conference Room 114, 400
Market St, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
WebEx virtual meeting room was provided as well.
MEETING TIME: 8:00 A.M.
ADJOURNMENT TIME: 9:24 A.M.
MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Adam Fischer, Supervisor William Winch,
Supervisor Marion Hokamp, Supervisor Lance Pliml,
Supervisor Dennis Polach
EXCUSED: Not Applicable.
OTHERS PRESENT: Supervisor Bill Clendenning, County Board; Chad
Schooley, Parks & Forestry Director; Fritz Schubert, Forest
Administrator; Roland Hawk, Highway Commissioner;
Caitlin Carmody, Highway Accounting Technician; Lisa
Keller, Information Technology; Jeff Schuh, Fahrner
Asphalt; Michael Feirer

1. Call meeting to order.
2. Declaration of Quorum.
3. Public comments.
4. Correspondence

Supervisor Fischer thanked Supervisor Hokamp for her many years of service on the County Board and on the Highway oversight committee. Hokamp was first elected to the Board in 1994 and served on the Highway oversight committee (and later the Highway Infrastructure and Recreation Committee) from 1994-1998, 2004-2006, and again from 2008 to the present. The committee thanked her for her service.

R. Hawk stated that weight limits came off today. In addition, he received a letter stating that the frac sand company Carbo Ceramics had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Hawk stated the Highway Department has no outstanding balance with them since they received money up front for the improvement of the road.

Hawk also stated that they interviewed one person for and LTE Truck Operator position and the person did not accept the position. He is hoping to hire 4 Summer Help instead.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - a. Approve minutes from previous committee meetings.
 - b. Department Staff Reports
 - c. Department Vouchers
 - d. Department Revenue Reports

Motion by D. Polach and second by M. Hokamp to approve the consent agenda items less pages 3 and 6-19. All in favor. Motion carried.

6. Review items, if any, pulled from consent agenda

The committee reviewed the pages in question. Winch requested additional information on numerous vouchers presented by both the Highway department and the Parks and Forestry department.

Motion by L. Pliml and second by D. Polach to approve the removed pages from the consent agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

7. ATV Update

No ATV update was provided. Hawk stated he would have a few sections of County Highway for the committee to review for the purposes of opening for ATV use. He will have these on the May agenda.

8. **HIGHWAY**

a. GSB 88 Bid Results

Hawk stated both bids received were lower than he had expected. This will allow them to do more of these types of projects than previously planned. Gee Asphalt was the higher bidder with Fahrner Asphalt getting the low bid. Hawk stated that, as discussed at the March meeting, he would like to split the projects between the two bidders so he could test both of their products, as Gee Asphalt had indicated that they had some proprietary method that they claim will produce better results.

Jeff Schuh from Fahrner Asphalt expressed disappointment in the idea of splitting the projects between the two bidders. Hawk explained that the oversight committee already approved that.

Motion by L. Pliml and second by W. Winch to accept the bids and uphold the recommendation made in March to offer projects to both bidders. All in favor. Motion carried.

b. Chip Sealing Maintenance Plan

Hawk shared the chip sealing maintenance plan with the committee. He stated that the asphalt industry is recommending reconditioning of pavements as soon as 1 to 2 years after reconstruction. Hawk stated the Highway department is doing 3-5 years for treatments.

c. 2021 Capital Improvement Projects Bonding

Hawk shared correspondence from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation regarding the rebuilding of the salt sheds in Marshfield. They agreed to reimburse the County for construction of a State salt shed when built at the same time as the County salt shed. Hawk stated he would like a portion of the 2021 capital bonding to be used for the salt shed construction. He is estimating \$350,000 approximately for the site work, foundation, and shed. The State would fund their sister shed through the Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA) reimbursement. Hawk stated he would be overall lowering the bond amount to \$2 million for 2021, including the \$350,000 for the salt shed, but will end up covering the same amount of construction work as expected previously due to grant funding.

Motion by M. Hokamp and second by W. Winch to approve the 2021 capital bonding recommendation provided by the Highway Commissioner. All in favor. Motion carried.

- d. County and State Funded Salt Shed Project - This topic was discussed in conjunction with item 8.c.
- e. Discussion of March future agenda items:
 - 71st Street Culvert – Supervisor Clendenning requested this be an agenda item. Hawk stated that the culvert at the intersection of CTH W and 71st Street has not failed officially, but is undersized. Hawk stated they do plan to replace this eventually. Clendenning stated that he has been researching this culvert for years and cannot find record of it being approved. Hawk stated that nutrient flow issues are not the Highway department’s responsibility and that they are responsible for maintaining drainage of the roadway. C. Schooley stated that in prior years, they would never see water flowing on the park property but they have had a constant stream flow this year and it is disrupting use of the walking trail.

Study of County Truck U – Hawk stated that the Town of Grand Rapids had applied for grant funding for a project through the State MLS (Multimodal Local Supplement) program for Washington Ave. This was not approved. A cranberry producer owns the parcel that the road is being redesigned for, but the parcel has been annexed into the City of Wisconsin Rapids. Hawk believes that the issue is between the Township and the City and any improvements made to the roads should have the City included on the conversation.

9. PARKS AND FORESTRY

- a. Public service announcement/commercial for logging and snowmobile trail safety

F. Schubert stated that he had sent out an email with a video attached for the committee to discuss. The video is a Public Service Announcement encouraging safety around logging operations for snowmobilers and the like. Shubert stated that the Wisconsin County Forestry Association and the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association had funded the video and are now asking counties if they would be willing to contribute any funds to distribute the PSA. They produced the video last year, but Schubert did not ask at that time because funding was so tight.

Fischer asked if the funding would come out of the Parks and Forestry Budget. Schooley stated they have a small line item for advertising and promotions, but that it could maybe be absorbed into the budget. Schooley stated the PSA is already out and running on many platforms – this effort would just extend its reach.

Pliml stated he would be willing to bring the matter to the Wisconsin Counties Association to see if they would be willing to fund it at all, given that it is a matter that affects all counties.

Motion made by L. Pliml to allocate \$1000 in the Parks and Forestry budget for the PSA but to wait to pay until it is determined what involvement Wisconsin Counties Association will have. No second. Motion dies.

The committee agreed to wait to hear from Pliml on the WCA involvement before taking further action and asked that this topic be put on the May agenda.

- b. Discuss concerns from Wood County townships.

Schooley shared a draft agreement between the Parks and Forestry Department, Highway Department, and the Towns regarding debris cleanup in County property right of way. Schooley stated he has not heard back from Jim Patrick, the township representative he was working with on the matter. Clendenning suggested that Patrick take the matter to the Towns Association to get a collective approval. It was suggested that Schooley discuss the matter with Jim Tremelling who is the head of the Towns Association in Wood County.

- c. Forestry 15-year plan, Chapter 500 and discussion of notes.

Schubert stated that the only section in Chapter 500 that is not complete is section 525, which discusses Treaty Rights. Tribal involvement has changed on a number of the County forestlands and so this section will need to be revised extensively and brought back for review later.

- d. 2021-2025 CIP

Schooley stated he was looking for insight from the committee on their capital improvement projects list as a lot of it depends on if they have the support of the committee or the board for funding of the Powers Bluff project. Fischer stated that because committees will likely be reorganized after the elections, he thought it would be prudent for the new committee to provide their insight before approving the capital improvement projects. There was committee consensus to wait to approve the Parks and Forestry CIP until after the new committee is formulated. It will be put on the May agenda again.

- e. Parks Revenue Report

Schooley stated the Parks and Forestry Revenue Reports were able to be included in the consent agenda this month because of the late committee meeting date. Schooley did share that they had a number of shelter reservations cancel because of the COVID-19 restrictions but that camping has not seen many cancellations yet.

- f. Forestry Revenue Report

- g. Resolutions:

- a. To amend the 2020 budget to include monies that were budgeted in 2019 for (2) Parks and Forestry building projects, but were not used during the budget cycle due to unavailable contractors.
- b. 2) To become eligible for Snowmobile Trail Aid monies for replacement or rehabilitation of two bridges on private lands for the 2020-2021 snowmobile season.

Motion by W. Winch and second by D. Polach to approve both the presented resolutions. All in favor. Motion carried.

10. Future Agenda Items

- Review the ATV plan
- Forestry Public Service Announcement
- Revised sales tax revenue estimates
- Timber sale contract extensions
- Chapter 500, section 575 of the Forestry Fifteen Year Plan
- Parks and Forestry 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Projects

11. Set next regular meeting date: May 7, 2020 at 8:00 AM at Powers Bluff Recreation Area Shelter, 6990 Bluff Drive, Arpin, WI 54410

12. Adjournment at 9:24 A.M.

Minutes taken by Caitlin Carmody, Highway Administrative Assistant