

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

DAY & DATE: February 4, 2021
PLACE: Wood County Highway Department
555 17th Ave. North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
MEETING TIME: 9:00 a.m.
ADJOURNMENT TIME: 10:22 a.m.
MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Jacob Hahn, Supervisor John Hokamp

HIRC Members Present via WebEx: Supervisor Lee Thao, Supervisor Al Breu, Supervisor David LaFontaine

OTHERS PRESENT: Chad Schooley, Parks & Forestry Director; Fritz Schubert, Forest Administrator; Sandra Green, Parks & Forestry Office Supervisor; Rachel Krause, Highway Administrative Assistant; Roland Hawk, Highway Commissioner; Supervisor Dennis Polach; Mike Wiberg, Aqua Skiers; Jason Sachs, Aqua Skiers; Adam Berg, Street Smart

OTHERS PRESENT VIA WEBEX: County Board Chairman Lance Pliml; Supervisor Bill Clendenning

1. Call meeting to order. Meeting called to order at 9:08 am. The meeting was delayed due to issues with the WebEx.
2. Declaration of quorum. Declared.
3. Public comments. None
4. Correspondence.
 - a) R. Hawk spoke about a notification from DATCP. Agreement with the town to maintain the sidewalk on the bridge. Send Bill Clendenning the Town Chairman a copy of the correspondence. The Hwy. Dept. does not maintain or shovel the walking areas in the town.
 - b) C. Schooley reviewed an acknowledgement from Marv Kohlbeck for the Pittsville Lions Fisheree. He also sent a thank you note for our support in fundraising.
 - c) Chairman Pliml dropped off a plaque for the Parks Department for “Best of Marshfield for North Wood County Park.”
5. Approve minutes from previous committee meetings. **Motion by John and second by Dave to approve the minutes. Motion carried.**
 - d) ATV Trail/Route system update. Portage County opened all of their roads to ATV’s. They opened up all county roads within their jurisdiction, which is different from maintaining authority. County Trunk U, which is 80th St., which is a shared county road. We will not open any town roads that do not want ATV traffic. The East side of U from PC section (WW or Whitrock South) is not going to be authorized ATV traffic on the west side of the road.
6. **HIGHWAY**
 - a. Highway staff reports. Introduction of Rachel Krause to the Highway department as the new Administrative Assistant. Welcome!
 - b. Highway revenue report. Closing out from 2020 Budget Year. No questions.
 - c. Highway vouchers. **Motion by A. Breu and second by J. Hokamp to approve the vouchers for the Highway Department. Motion carried.**

- d. Work Zone Attenuator. RE: DOT Work Zone Manual, which need to be followed by the Hwy. Department. Our attenuator is outdated and should be taken out of service according to WDOT. Without an attenuator, they cannot do many tasks on State Highways. They did some research and got in touch with Adam regarding an attenuator called “The Scorpion”. The Work Zone manual requires them in many more areas than what used to be. The counties who do work on four lane systems are now looking at multiple attenuators. This policy was changed in 2020 so plans need to be made to obtain these while staying in our budget. **Motion by D. LaFontaine, second by J. Hokamp. Motion carried.**
- e. Maintenance Equipment Procurement Plan. Peter Kastenzholz approved this plan. The plan shows the reason why they need to look at turning over the vehicles quicker to provide a higher quality, safer fleet vehicle. The turnover would be every even year, replace two new patrol trucks and on the odd years, replace one in order to make it economical. **Motion to approve by A. Breu and second by D. LaFontaine. Motion carried.**

7. PARKS AND FORESTRY

- a. Parks & Forestry staff reports.
 - S. Greens correction to her report of \$6,805 for trail aid additional monies.
 - C. Schooley mentioned that Powers Bluff was open this last weekend and we had a good attendance. Due to the extreme cold weather (at least -15), coming on Sunday, 2/7/21, Powers Bluff will not operate. C. Schooley would like to operate in the future, having a cut-off temperature to make a decision on closing the Bluff. The Parks Department will let the news media know about this for future reference. There was a question regarding “doubling-up” on the tubes at Powers Bluff. C. Schooley gave an explanation as it causes more speed to the tubes and is dangerous to both riding. It is the Parks opinion that no double riding or chaining up be allowed for everyone’s safety.
 - In the next packet, B. Clendenning would like a report of the solar system at Nepco Lake County Park. .
- b. Special Use permits. C. Schooley has two special use permits. The first one is in the packet and is a proposed date sheet from the Aqua Skiers for shows and practices for 2021. C. Schooley gave a brief background to the members who are new to the committee. The time for each individual date is approximately 5:30 – dark. The Red Sands Beach Pavilion is always open from April through October except during the State Water Ski Tournament in July. **Motion by J. Hahn and second by J. Hokamp. Motion carried.**

What is the big picture in future use? There are two sites with the Aqua Skiers (WI River/Biron and Lake Wazeecha) to practice. In the future, the Aqua Skiers would like to move to having all events and practices at Lake Wazeecha. This today is for conversation only. It would be beneficial to make Red Beach a premiere water ski site, to work with the county and make multi-use improvements that will benefit both the county, the Aqua Skiers and Wood County residents. Would also like to build an ADA access path down to the site. One of the things that could improve the shelter is to make it somewhat or completely enclosed. In the near future, an agreement will be put together while working together to realize exactly how both parties would benefit from this. The committee agrees this would be a good idea to move forward with a cooperative agreement. **Motion by J. Hokamp and second by A. Breu to approve last Special Use Permit by C. Schooley. Motion carried.**

- c. Parks revenue report. C. Schooley stated that the “Budgeted Revenues” does not look accurate, so he is going to check on this. This is a concern regarding the Parks Tax Levy. That total should have been reflective of keeping our Tax Levy stable. This will be brought back to next committee meeting.
- d. Forestry revenue report. F. Schubert pointed the lighter shades of green, which are jobs that are active or continuing. There is currently a lot of movement of timber and S. Green is busy sending billings out to the contractors. Weather and markets are preventing contractors from operating on some contracts that were extended through this winter. It is likely we will be considering additional extensions on some of these contracts.
- e. Parks & Forestry vouchers. **Motion to approve by D. LaFontaine and second by A. Breu. Motion carried.**
- f. ATV Trail Aids Grant Resolution. **Motion to approve by J. Hokamp and second by A. Breu. Motion carried.**
- g. Snowmobile Trail Aids Grant Resolution. **Motion to approve by J. Hahn and second by J. Hokamp. Motion carried.**

8. Future Agenda Items:

9. Set next regular meeting date: March 4, 2021 at 9:00am at Wood County Highway Department,
555 17th Ave North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

10. Adjournment. Chairman Hahn declared the meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.