

# MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAY, INFRASTRUCTURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE

**DAY AND DATE:** Thursday, June 3, 2021  
**PLACE:** Wood County Highway Department  
555 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495  
**MEETING TIME:** 9:00 a.m.  
**ADJOURNMENT TIME:** 10:19 a.m.  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Jacob Hahn, Supervisor Lee Thao, Supervisor John Hokamp,  
Supervisor Dave LaFontaine

**HIRC MEMBERS PRESENT VIA WEBEX:** Supervisor Al Breu

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chad Schooley, Parks & Forestry Director; Fritz Schubert, Forest Administrator; Rachel Krause, Highway Administrative Assistant, Roland Hawk, Highway Commissioner, Supervisor Dennis Polach, Supervisor Bill Clendenning

**OTHERS PRESENT VIA WEBEX:** County Board Chairman Lance Pliml.

1. Call meeting to order. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. Declaration of quorum. Quorum declared
3. Public comments. None.
4. Correspondence: R. Hawke has been notified by the DOT that either they will purchase an attenuator for departments or reimburse departments who have already purchased one. If the Highway department were to be reimbursed for the entire amount spent on the attenuator, R. Hawke would like to purchase automated flaggers. An informational flier about one version of automated flagger was shared. These can be set up to change automatically at a specified interval or can be manually controlled by an individual. The one presented would be a preference because it has a camera that would provide video of work zone violations which is where the Highway Department and other counties are headed when automated enforcement was authorized. R. Hawk is not looking to purchase at this time.  
C. Schooley informed the committee that the grant application for the storm shelter at South Park, which Emergency Management applied for, was not selected for this year's grant and will be removed from the 2022 CIP request. C. Schooley and E.M. will apply for this grant again when funds are made available.
5. Approve minutes from previous committee meetings.  
**Motion to approve by D. LaFontaine, second by L. Thao. Motion carried**
6. ATV Trail/Route system update:
  - a. R. Hawk states that parks was recently invoiced from Hwy for about \$1500 for ATV signing and marking. This is because of the lag time between the time work is done and invoices are sent. The \$10,000 allocated for ATV signage in the 2021 P&F budget is already gone. R. Hawk is willing to put up signs in places where we are doing work anyway without billing the ATV account. Finance will not allow invoices to be held until next year for reimbursement. R. Hawk is looking for guidance from the committee as more costs will be incurred as more and more requests are made for opening up roads. L. Thao thought that \$20,000 was allocated for this year. C. Schooley states that \$10,000 was a CEED grant from last year and \$10,000 was allocated in the budget for 2021. L. Thao inquired why we aren't requesting that the requesting parties pay for the marking of requested roads. R. Hawk states that he knows of only one active club in the County and they have offered to help with some signing. The signs they use are much smaller and R. Hawke feels that on County highways that the larger signs should be used. The committee recommends holding off on signing any more roads until funds become available.

- b. R. Hawk is requesting that the committee approve opening up CTH V from Cary-Hiles Road to STH 73. Signs would be moved and added at no cost to the ATV fund because the sign crew is already out there signing for chip sealing. **Motion to approve by J. Hahn, second by D. LaFontaine. Motion carried.**
- c. L. Thao states that if everyone requests that their roads be open how will this get paid for. R. Hawk is working on a list of roads he would not recommend be opened to ATV use. He then would like to meet with the Sheriff's Department for any input they may have regarding roads that should not be opened. County highways in towns and villages that do not want ATV traffic also will not be opened. After this list is completed it would then be brought to the committee for approval to open county highways not on this list. J. Hahn would like the list and the cost associated with signing these routes be brought to the committee soon for consideration in the next budget.
- d. D. LaFontaine states that economic development grants may be available from the CEED committee for help in paying for the signing of these routes and suggests both Parks and Highway apply for money. C Schooley states that Parks wouldn't need to apply for CEED money for this purpose as they receive money for the trails from the State. R. Hawk states that a standalone account should be created for costs associated with the ATV routes. This would not be a general use fund but a fund for specific uses. C. Schooley suggests that this fund be housed with the Highway Department because of the lag time in billing to the Parks Department. L.Pliml states that there may be options for funding the route signing with one time Covid relief funds, and then some ongoing funds.
- e. B. Clendenning states that Grand Rapids is working on revising its ATV ordinance. Wants to ensure R. Hawk knows of the meeting and that he is invited to attend. He also inquired about future plans for South Park. C Schooley indicates there has been discussion about development of an additional campground that would include ATV sites.

## 7. HIGHWAY

- a. Highway staff reports. Truck operators have been interviewed and candidates for the three open positions have been selected. Filling these spots will bring the department back to full staff. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to fill all of our summer help and LTE positions. R. Hawk has been in communication with the DOT about the intersection of CTH BB and USH 10. This location is near a crest of a hill on USH 10 and has been identified as a dangerous intersection. DOT has given preliminary permission to proceed with the relocation of this intersection. The new desired location will be staked and DOT personnel will review for final approval. Design work will begin this year. Grant money will be sought to fund this project. D. LaFontaine inquired about the purchase of right-of-way for this project. R. Hawk states he has a verbal agreement with Nasonville Dairy who have offered to donate the land to the Highway Department in turn Highway will donate the old road to Nasonville Dairy. All of the right of way transmission is now complete for the Bridgewater project. J. Hahn inquired if being short LTEs hinders operations in the summer. R. Hawk states it depends on the how many others are off for the day.
- b. Highway revenue report. The asphalt plant has been started. Revenues are increasing.
- c. Highway vouchers. **Motion to approve by D. LaFontaine, second by L. Thao. Motion carried.**
- d. Shared Campus with the City of Marshfield. R. Hawk has been meeting with the city of Marshfield about a shared campus. The city is interested in purchasing a portion of Highway department property in Marshfield to build their new city facility. Highway currently uses approximately 6 acres of the 18 acre site. The City has plans developed and is looking for about 10 acres. A study is being conducted to look into three options, completely separate facilities, sharing some portions, or completed shared use facility. A consultant is looking into the feasibility of the options and when those options are finalized the consultant will be invited to present to the committee. J. Hokamp inquired if Highway would maintain a maintenance facility (garage/repair shop) if a shared facility was the option selected. R. Hawk states that maintenance

would still be out of the Wisconsin Rapids shop. D. LaFontaine would hope the city would move quickly. A. Breu inquired if the City would be getting the entire north end of our lot. R. Hawk states that it is at our discretion on how much would be used by them and that would be decided by which option was selected from the study.

- e. Update on Solar Array. J Hahn states this will be going to the operations committee and there is a possibility of more grants being available or the possibility the whole project could be paid for.

## **8. PARKS AND FORESTRY**

- a. Parks & Forestry staff reports. C. Schooley gave update on the reservation system demos. Three vendors were interviewed and demoed and have been narrowed down to a top pick. At the next committee meeting C. Schooley will be bringing a recommendation and asking for approval to move forward with this. The 1<sup>st</sup> year development costs will be approximately \$ 25,000, and would not be required to be bid. After the initial development cost, a yearly maintenance fee would be required. The current system was built in house and has served its purpose. Parks is looking to provide something that is more interactive for users and would reduce the number of calls fielded by their office.
- b. Special Use permits. C. Schooley recommends approval of a special use permit for an annual event held at South Park. The event is the Jigsaw Run fundraiser for Camp Autism to be held May 7, 2022. **Motion to approve by J. Hokamp, second by L. Thao. Motion carried.**
- c. Timber Bid Results and Award Contracts. F. Schubert states it was a good bid opening. One sale that didn't sell was not a surprise as it was a rebid of a winter harvest sale and generally low quality. **Motion to approve bids as presented by A. Brue, second by D. LaFontaine.**  
Discussion: J. Hokamp inquired if we received the bids we wanted. F. Schubert states that a minimum bid was set for each tract. D. LaFontaine is surprised that the oak is low. F. Schubert states that oak pulpwood has always been lower than aspen or mixed hardwood. Currently the only local market for large volumes of oak and mixed hardwood pulpwood is Domtar in Nekoosa. Also, while saw logs have a higher value, price depends a lot on quality. Our oak sawlogs up for bid this time were fairly low quality. **Motion carried**
- d. Parks and Forestry revenue reports. **Motion to approve by J. Hokamp, second by A. Breu. Motion carried.**
- e. Parks & Forestry vouchers: **Motion to approve by D. LaFontaine, second by L. Thao. Motion carried.**

9. Future Agenda Items. Notify Chairman Hahn, Roland, or Chad of any future agenda items.

10. Set next regular meeting date: July 6, 2021 at 9:00am at NEPCO shelter, 1410 Griffith Ave, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

11. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn by Chairman J. Hahn at 10:19 a.m.