

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

**DATE:** Thursday, October 5, 2023  
**TIME:** 9:01 a.m.  
**PLACE:** Powers Bluff County Park – Shelter House

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jake Hahn, Dave LaFontaine, John Hokamp, Lee Thao

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Al Breu

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Trent Miner, County Clerk, see attached sign-in sheet

1. Chairman Hahn called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM and declared a quorum present.
2. There was no public comment
3. ATV Update: Work is continuing on the Hay Creek Trail in preparation for a bridge that will need to be placed along that route.
4. The minutes of the September 7, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Motion by Hokamp/LaFontaine to accept them as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
5. The Highway Dept. staff report was reviewed. Hawk highlighted the easement work on the intersection of CTH A/Richfield Dr. that will be commencing this fall; bids will be going out yet for the remodel at the highway shop, and grant applications for CTH A. Hahn reported the decision of the Operation Committee to leave the holiday hours for 2024 at the 80-hour mark, as per county policy.
6. Motion by LaFontaine/Hokamp to approve the Highway Dept. vouchers. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Hawk reported that the Highway Dept. is looking at a possible 20-acre wetland mitigation site on the border of the Town and Village of Milladore. He is working with the Corp of Engineers to see if this is a viable parcel.
8. Hawk presented a resolution authorizing the hiring of 2 truck driver positions. Motion by LaFontaine/Hahn to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration.
9. Hawk updated the committee on the CTH A proposed reconstruction project and is anticipating using unspent funding to pay for some engineering in 2024.
10. The 2024 Highway CIP budget was reviewed. Extensive discussion on how to reach the Operations Committee objective of \$2.1 million in borrowing for Highway CIP. Hawk shared some options and Finance Director Newton provided financial guidance. Motion

by Hahn/Thao to remove the Brine Building from the CIP borrowing, and to recommend to the Operations Committee to use the \$137,000 from the levy savings from the Transportation & Economic Development budget, apply those to the Highway Levy and use the Highway maintenance fund, along with the additional levy, to pay for the brine building. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Motion by Hokamp/Thao to move into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 19.85 (1) (c), to consider the employment status of employees under the jurisdiction of the Committee including discussion of potential disciplinary action involving department employees. Motion carried unanimously at 9:14 AM. (*Closed session minutes kept separately and filed in the Office of County Clerk.*)
12. Motion by LaFontaine/Hokamp to come back into open session. Motion carried at 9:27 AM.
13. The Parks & Forestry staff reports were reviewed. Highlighted was the recent forest fire on the county forest, located off Park Road in the Town of Dexter. Over 90 different fire department personnel worked in upwards of 4-5 days to completely extinguish the fire. The county will end up with a small bill, based on a DNR formula. This bill is paid out of the County Clerk's budget. Cause has not yet been determined.
14. Parks & Forestry revenue reports were reviewed.
15. Motion by LaFontaine/Hokamp to approve the Parks & Forestry vouchers. Motion carried unanimously.
16. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 AM at the Highway Department Conference Room.
17. Chairman Hahn declared the meeting adjourned at 9:39 AM. The committee then went on a tour of various Parks & Forestry and Highway Dept. sites.

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

**Highway Infrastructure & Recreation Committee  
October 5, 2023**

NAME	REPRESENTING
John Hokamp	WCB #13
JEFF FENKNER	WCB #11
Lee P Thao	WCB #10
Stacie Kleifgen	WCPF
Roland Hawk	WC Highway
Gavin Hutchison	W DNR
Ed Newton	FINANCE
DAVE LA FONTAINE	WCB #7
CHAD SETHOBY	P&E
Kim McGrath	HR
Oke Hahn	WCB #5
Lance Pliml (Phone)	County Board Chair