

MINUTES

HIGHWAY, INFRASTRUCTURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DAY AND DATE: Thursday, January 5, 2023
PLACE: Hwy Dept., 555 17th Ave N, WI Rapids, WI 54495
MEETING TIME: 9:00 a.m.
ADJOURNMENT TIME: 10:06 a.m.
MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Jake Hahn, Supervisor Dave LaFontaine, Supervisor Lee Thao, Supervisor John Hokamp, Supervisor Al Breu

OTHERS PRESENT: Roland Hawk, Highway Commissioner; Chad Schooley, Parks & Forestry Director; Fritz Schubert, Forest Administrator; Supervisor Dennis Polach; Supervisor Jeff Penzkover; Sandra Green, Wood County Parks & Forestry Office Supervisor; Jim Zdroik, Fahrner Asphalt

OTHERS PRESENT VIA WEBEX: Travis Hofer, Hwy Dept.; Nick Flugaur, H.R./Safety

1. Call meeting to order. Meeting called to order at 9am.
2. Declaration of quorum. Declared.
3. Public comments. None
4. Correspondence.
 - R. Hawk WCHD approached a property owner on Hwy F. Parking issue.
 - ATV – do not have GG open because it does not have access to other routes. May be able to connect to the ATV Intensive Use Area but may require a bridge/structure. Will open GG but if there are issues they will reconsider.
5. Approve minutes from previous committee meetings. **Motion by D. LaFontaine, second by A. Breu. Motion carried.**
6. ATV Trail/Route system update
 - a. Route Updates. R. Hawk had no additional updates. F. Schubert gave a brief update on the ATV County Forest trail as well. Waiting on the DNR Permit from the DNR for a bridge structure. We are working with Hwy on pulling stumps at this time. Peterson Rd and off Haycreek Rd there is plenty of storm damage that is currently being cleaned up and is not currently open to snowmobile traffic.
7. **HIGHWAY**
 - a. Highway staff reports. R. Hawk noted that the WCHA reimburses the county for Wood County for his out of state travels. Instead he noted this information on his report since there is no resolution required and just need approval from the committee. **Motion by D. LaFontaine and second by J. Hokamp. Motion carried.**

Regarding the road grader, they have a 2013 John Deere and a 1998 and 1995 Champions. Champion has gone out of business. Recently purchased a 2017 grader, looks brand new, for \$187k. Has a wing and GPS and is in great shape. The money was available in the budget instead of waiting for next year to bid something that may cost \$300k or more.
 - b. Highway revenue report.
 - c. Highway vouchers. **Motion by D. LaFontaine and second by A. Breu. Motion carried.**
 - d. Draft Concealed Carry Policy. R. Hawk would like to discuss this and invite any input into the draft. Re: Firearms / legally purchased, etc. Tough to do in WI as there is no formal form or registration to present if asked. Per N. Flugaur, he summarized some of the changes that are currently being presented to the Operations Committee. There should be something in the policy that while performing your duties while working out in the County Forest to be able to carry to protect yourself.

- e. Crushing operations and operator. Had a very good year and produced a significant amount of chips and recycled asphalt. Have been utilizing the asphalt plant crew for this work but some are working a significant amount of over time to make sure both operations can meet production. Would like to designate a FT position to carry these duties. This would free-up other employees to work on the crew they are assigned to. Two ways of doing this, one is to create a new position or two, when a truck operator position opens up would re-classify. His preference is to create an “operator” position. Would need distinct knowledge and skills for this position. D. LaFontaine is requesting that this position be cross-trained to operate both positions. This would require a resolution to add a position. **Motion to move forward by D. LaFontaine and second by J. Hokamp to draft resolution and bring to the next meeting. Motion carried.**
- f. CTH HH/F Intersection. Talked w/the current owner and has agreed to do some clean-up including automobiles, iron, etc., that he will salvage and dispose of. He will also pay the traffic control fee. There are no liens on the property. The cost to purchase is \$27k. **Motion for permission to purchase the property at an offer of \$25k by D. LaFontaine and second by J. Hokamp. Motion carried.**
- g. DOT STP Projects. R. Hawk reviewed the 2022 projects and gave an update on this past year. Highway completed \$4.17 million in construction in 2022 with only \$2.5 million budgeted in CIP. WCH received \$1.817 million in matching grants and reimbursements for County Highway improvements. He will have about \$145k left over from 2022 CIP budget and is going to utilize these funds for design of DOT STP projects awarded to Highway in the 2023-27 STP program. R. Hawk is also requesting the support of the committee to meet with Finance Department and discuss swapping ARPA funds that are to be issued to Highway for 2023 construction projects for other department’s Levy. Using ARPA funds for County Highway Improvement projects will have a negative effect on GTA calculations for future years. **Motion to authorize the swap of money (\$2 million) from the ARPA funding to receive tax levy funding by D. LaFontaine and second by J. Hokamp. These are dollars to be spent in 2023. Motion carried.**
- h. Quit Claim R/W on STH 186 to WI DOT. DOT went through records and found a parcel purchase at 186/K and they are asking Hwy. Dept. to Quit Claim this back to the DOT. **Motion to move forward to provide the Quit Claim Deed to the DOT by L. Thao and second by A. Breu. Motion carried.**

8. PARKS AND FORESTRY

- a. Parks & Forestry staff reports. C. Schooley discussed the South Park Storm Shelter grant that Emergency Management applied for. We have been notified that we were awarded the grant. Final documents have not been received yet. Construction should begin in 2023. Storm shelter will serve primarily as a safe location during storm event, but was designed to also serve other park users throughout the year. F. Schubert stated that the one timber sale that went unbid during the last bid opening, he was able to sell that sale directly to a contractor willing to pick it up for the minimum advertised price. Contract has been drafted, signed, and they started cutting already.
- b. Special Use permits. New event at Nepco County Park, hosted by MidState Independent Living Choice, using the shelter & surrounding area for July 9, 2023. An event for individual’s w/disabilities. Canoeing kayaking, etc. This will run from 10am-3pm C. Schooley is in favor to approve. **Motion to approve by D. LaFontaine and second by L. Thao. Motion carried.**
- c. Powers Bluff Project Update. The County Hwy. crew continued to work on the multi-use gravel trail and did complete quite a bit with some challenges with the heavier wet soils this fall. It’s possible the project will start up again this winter once the ground is frozen and work crews are available.
- d. Wood County Parks & Forestry Annual Work Plan and Resolution. **Motion to approve the resolution by D. LaFontaine and second by A. Breu. Motion carried.**
- e. Parks and Forestry Revenue Reports.

f. Parks and Forestry Vouchers. **Motion to approve vouchers by D. LaFontaine and second by L. Thao. Motion carried.**

9. Future Agenda Items.

- On all future agendas: “Attendance at Meetings” at or around item #9.
- Resolution from Parks & Forestry regarding carryover allotment for playground improvements and the Dexter Park swimming pond area which are utilizing ARPA funds that were in the 2022 budget.
- Wood County Parks & Forestry boot allowance.
- Next meeting C. Schooley will be at annual Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association conference/workshop in Wisconsin Dells from Wed-Fri. Depending on timing of sessions, he may be able to join meeting remotely.

10. Set next regular meeting date: February 2, 2023 at 9:00 am at Wood County Highway Department, 555 17th Ave North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

11. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 10:06 am.