

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

DAY AND DATE: Tuesday, April 4, 2023
PLACE: Highway Department, 555 17th Ave N, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
MEETING TIME: 9:00 a.m.
ADJOURNMENT TIME: 11:46 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; Fritz Schubert, Forest Administrator; Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Supervisor Dennis Polach, Supervisor Jeff Penzkover, Chad Schooley, Park & Forestry Director; Ruben VanTassel, Courthouse Maintenance; Rachel Krause, Highway Program Assistant; Arne Nystrom, Jeremy Eichhorn, Town of Grand Rapid; Kim McGrath, Human Resources Director; Supervisor Bill Clendenning; Bill Kahl, WK Construction; Curt Andres, Scott Sager, WCSD; Stacie Doescher, Marcia Doescher; Bob Piatt, Grand Rapids Fire Department; Charlie Hoogesteger, WCSD; Nathen Dean, WCSD

OTHERS PRESENT VIA WEBEX: County Board Chair Lance Pliml, Amy Kaupt, IT Director; Norman Barrientos, Barrientos Design & Consulting

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. None
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. Route Updates
 - a. CTH Z (Griffith Ave). R. Hawk has had several requests to open CTH Z between the Portage County line and 20th St. Mel Peterson, GRPD police chief not in favor unless safety improvements are made at the intersection of 48th St. **J. Hahn made a motion to open CTH Z from the Portage County line to 20th St. No second. Motion dies.**
7. **HIGHWAY**
 - a. Highway staff reports. R. Hawk was notified that the department will receive funding for the design of the CTH N bridge. Accounting Supervisors reports that the snow budget will likely run over. R. Hawk informed the committee that the department is halfway through the lease for the salt shed in Pittsville. R. Hawk has been discussing purchasing a site on STH 80 that is currently part of the County forest that would be in ideal location for a salt shed. R. Hawk needs to start planning now so he can get on the list with the State for a shed.
 - b. Highway revenue report
 - c. Highway vouchers. **Motion to approve by D. LaFontaine, second by L. Thao. Motion carried.**
 - d. CTH A. Curt Andres, resident of CTH A presented a summary of a meeting held with residents of CTH A in the Town of Richfield. Residents would prefer the road remain a CTH because of the proximity of buildings to the road. Residents are concerned about safety issues and the deterioration of the road surface. Curt summarized the options residents would like considered. R. Hawk agrees that the road needs to be rebuilt and was not designed for the heavy truck traffic that are currently using it. The road is 12 miles long and with the current funding level would take a decade of current annual Highway budgets to rebuild the whole road. R. Hawk is seeking federal grant money to fund rebuilding the entire length. R. Hawk is proposing to lower the speed limit north and south of Richfield drive.
 - e. Marshfield Shared Campus. Table for a future meeting.
 - f. Space Needs Study. Options were laid out a couple months ago. R. Hawk would like to proceed with the next step of getting a wetland delineation, soil borings and re-zoning. Option to move to a central location and only have one shop are not the best idea as municipal sewer and water, three phase power,

and location on a road with all season access are needed and many times with projects throughout the county having multiple places to store equipment and materials is optimal.

- g. Amend Ordinance 401. **Motion to approve by D. LaFontain, second by J. Hokamp. Motion carried.**
- h. Grand Rapids Roundabouts. R. Hawk gave the history on how the projects came about. The town requested the county to review both CTH W & 48th and CTH Z & 48th, at which time the highway department presented options and a roundabout was selected for both. A public meeting was held last Thursday, March 30 and there is overwhelming support for the roundabout on CTH W and 48th St and a mix of support and opposition to the roundabout at CTH Z. R. Hawk agreed to bring the CTH Z intersection to the committee. The Grand Rapids Fire Chief and Grand Rapids Police Chief are in support of the roundabout at both intersections and specific to the one at CTH Z and 48th St. because of the severity of crashes, most of which are failure to yield. J. Hahn agrees it is the right time for CTH W but thinks other remedies such as enforcement should be tried first. R. Hawk states that roundabouts have a history of being the safest option. L. Pliml voice his concerns about a better way to spend the money for highway improvement. **J. Hahn made a motion to continue with the CTH W roundabout and to table the CTH Z roundabout for one year to allow R. Hawk to seek funding. Second by A. Breu. For: J. Hahn and A. Breu. Opposed: J. Hokamp, D. LaFontaine, and L. Thao. Motion failed. D. LaFontaine made a motion to continue with both roundabouts, second by A. Breu. For: D. LaFontaine, J. Hokamp, L Thao, A. Breu, Opposed: J. Hahn. Motion Carried.**
- i. Sick Time Policy review for Highway and P&F employees. R. Hawk presented a proposed policy change. K. McGrath states that a personal policy cannot be changed by this committee but a recommendation for a change can come from this committee to look at the policy at the operations committee. K. McGrath explained the purpose of sick time is to replace wages so an employee doesn't miss out. **A. Breu made a motion to recommend to the operations committee to adopt the presented policy for Highway and Parks and Forestry, second by J. Hahn. Motion carried.**
- j. 2024-2028 CIP. **Motion to approve by D. LaFontain, second by A. Breu. Motion carried.**
- k. CIR Bids. CTH F CHI Project CIR bids were as follows: WK Construction: \$642,616, Midstate Reclamation Inc. \$684,867. CTH W CHI Project CIR bids were as follows: WK Construction: \$212,101.20, Midstate Reclamation, Inc. \$196,437.90. **A. Breu made a motion to approve awarding CTH F CIR to WK Construction and CTH W CIR to Midstate Reclamation Inc. pending review of the commissioner, second by D. LaFontaine. Motion carried.**

8. **PARKS AND FORESTRY**

- a. Parks & Forestry staff reports. F. Schubert is planning a timber bid opening in the middle of May.
- b. Special Use permits. Two for the State water ski show, one for the event and one for Wood County Rescue to use the North Shore, Ice cream truck that would like to sell products in South Park and maybe NEPCO. Annual Kiwanis summer youth outdoor day at South Park. Fundraiser walk around Lake Wazeecha for SWCHS. Request by a company that provides kiosks for rentals of kayaks, canoes, and paddle board, similar to the bike share program, has inquired about placing them at South Park and Dexter Park. Parks would receive 10% of sales. **D. LaFontaine made a motion to approve the special use permits with the discretion and restrictions of C. Schooley, second by J. Hokamp. Motion carried.**
- c. Resolution(s): ATV/Snowmobile Trail Maintenance Grants. **Motion to approve both resolutions by D. LaFontaine, second by A. Breu. Motion carried.**
- d. Powers Bluff Trailhead Shelter Building renderings & cost estimate. **D. LaFontaine made a motion to apply for as much funding as possible for the Powers Bluff Projects, second by J. Hahn. Motion carried.**
- e. Excess 2022 P&F revenue carryover approval. **Motion to approve by D. LaFontaine, second by A. Breu. Motion carried.**
- f. 2024-2028 CIP Request. **Motion to approve by D. LaFontaine, second by A. Breu. Motion carried.**
- g. Northern Long Eared Bat. Has been listed as an endangered species. F. Schubert states this is an issue that has been in the works for a long time and the County will need to consider joining the HCP (Habitat Conservation Plan) being drafted and promoted by DNR. This is an ongoing process which will involve many Wisconsin Counties. F. Schubert is waiting for more from the DNR. There will likely be a County Board resolution required to Join the HCP, which will include an "Incidental Take Permit" and allow Counties to continue forest management activities and avoid lawsuits with USFWS.
- h. Parks and Forestry revenue reports.

- i. Parks & Forestry vouchers. **Motion to approve by D. LaFontaine, second by J. Hokamp. Motion carried.**
9. Attendance at Meetings. J. Hahn would like to attend the WCHA Summer Road School.
10. Future Agenda Items. Sick Time Policy. CTH Z ATV, WCFA exec. Director presentation.
11. Set next regular meeting date: May 4, 2023 at 9:00 am at Wood County Highway Department, 555 17th Ave North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
12. Adjournment. L Thao was excused at 11:00 a.m. Chairman Hahn adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

*Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next HIRC meeting.
Recording Secretary, Rachel Krause, Highway Program Assistant*