

MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAY, INFRASTRUCTURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DAY AND DATE: Thursday, November 3, 2022
PLACE: Wood County Highway Dept., 555 17th Ave N., WI Rapids, WI 54495
MEETING TIME: 9:00 a.m.
ADJOURNMENT TIME: 10:14 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; Reuben Van Tassel, Facilities Director; Rachel Krause, Highway Program Assistant; Joan Arnold; Jeff Parkover, District 11; Nathan Check, Portage County Hwy. Dept.; Dennis Polach; Sandra Green, Parks & Forestry Office Supervisor

1. Call meeting to order. Meeting called to order at 9am.
2. Declaration of quorum. Declared.
3. Public comments. None at this time.
4. Correspondence. J. Hahn stated was at CEED meeting recently and T. of Milladore applied for Economic Development funding. Discussion.
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. None at this time.
7. **HIGHWAY**
 - a. Highway staff reports. Light mechanic just hired has resigned recently. Another candidate interviewed and waiting on response. The position is reposted. Engineering position has had no candidates. Shop supervisor is resigning. Would like to bring in lead workers to help and rotate nights and weekends for on-call. One lead person has stepped up to help for this year. Would like a step increase for this. He would need to take home a vehicle due to being on call. R. Hawk is requesting to allow the lead worker to perform duties as a superintendent on a year round basis. A. Breu states he is in favor of this and we should move forward. R. Hawk will first discuss with the HR department and then a formal decision will be made at either next HIRC or County Board. Mechanic 1 and Shop Supervisor positions are open as well. Working on night person differential. Currently have no candidates. Will have someone here before end of month. We have a couple of towns in search of full time winter maintenance. Right now, we only have three spare trucks. Other considerations will be brought forward in terms of payments and optional subscriptions for the towns such as how to manage their roads and when. L. Pliml praised R. Hawk and what he has brought to the county over the past few years. Training CDL drivers – potentially could be the replacement for the shop supervisor. This is still being explored.
 - b. Highway revenue report.
 - c. Highway vouchers. **Motion by D. LaFontaine and second by L. Thao. Motion carried.**
 - d. ALBC Quotes. Aluminum Bottom Box Culverts (ALBC). Have three bidders. **Motion to approve the bids to select the bid with most advantageous to the County by D. LaFontaine and second by A Breu. Motion carried.**
 - e. CTH PP Rustic Road. Individuals, Joan Arnold and Nathan Check present. Wood County has about ¾ mile on PP. Wood County has just rebuilt this section of the road. It has a very straight segment. The proposal came if we would consider a rustic road designation. If we go about this designation, it would somewhat limit the County in terms of maintaining the roadway. If Highway would apply for STP funding, would have to meet current standards for that

classification of the road. R. Hawk's states if the locals prefer it be designated a rustic road that there be some ownership jurisdictional transfer to the towns. Joan spoke about reasons to label this as a rustic road designation. She also handed out a document with a full explanation. All six residents in Wood County on PP signed the petitions as well as all Portage County residents on PP. They are trying to preserve the rustic atmosphere. Nathan from Portage County stated this was brought forward to their Hwy. Committee in Feb 2022 where they postponed action. The main push at that time was to preserve vegetation on that side of the road. Discussion. Next Hwy. meeting is scheduled for November 15 at Portage County and this is on the agenda to discuss regarding Township responsibility. There is the opportunity for Portage County to make a separate decision than Wood County in this designation. This is tabled until Portage County makes a decision.

- f. Grand Rapids Roundabouts. Will be doing both next year. R. Hawk does have the CTH W preliminary plans in hand. Discussion. R. Hawk will put together a report of schedules.
- g. Survey Equipment. Discussion purchasing new or additional equipment. Will sell their TopCon unit and reserve a Leica unit at more than half off at approximately \$18k.
- h. Purchase of property, adjacent to the shop. Signed an offer to purchase with Terry Wolfe Realty and closing is scheduled for November 28th. Tenants will be out of the houses by then and will be empty.

8. **PARKS AND FORESTRY**

- a. Parks & Forestry staff reports. No questions.
 - b. Special Use permits. Port Edwards Lions Club Fisheree. **Motion by D. LaFontaine and second by J. Hokamp. Motion carried.**
 - c. Parks & Forestry revenue reports. No questions.
 - d. Parks & Forestry vouchers. Pages 43-45. **Motion by D. LaFontaine and second by L. Thao. Motion carried.**
9. Attendance at meetings. **Motion to approve the vouchers that attended the conference on October 28, 2022 by J. Hahn and second by L. Thao. Motion carried.**
10. Future Agenda Items. None.
11. Set next regular meeting date: Department Head evaluations will be a separate meeting to be held on November 16, 2022 at 9am at the Wood County Highway Department. Next regular HIRC meeting to be held on December 1, 2022 at 9:00 am at Wood County Highway Department, 555 17th Ave North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
12. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 10:14 am.

Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next HIRC meeting.

Recording Secretary, Sandra Green, Parks & Forestry Office Supervisor