

MINUTES

HIGHWAY, INFRASTRUCTURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, July 6, 2023
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Highway Dept. – Conference Room

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

MEMBER EXCUSED Al Breu

OTHERS PRESENT: Trent Miner, County Clerk, Lance Pliml, Dennis Polach, Bill Clendenning, Jeff Penzkover, Roland Hawk, Chad Schooley, Fritz Schubert, Ron Hett, unidentified member of public

1. Chairman Hahn called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and declared a quorum present.
2. There were 3 members of the public providing comment on shore damage on Lake Wazeecha, the proposed improvements on 45th St and CTH W, and mowing operations on CTH W.
3. The minutes of the June 1, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Motion by LaFontaine/Thao to accept them as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. The City of Wisconsin Rapids has not met regarding ATV/UTV routes but will be on the agenda for their Legislative Committee when it meets next. Meeting date unknown.
5. The Highway Dept. staff reports and revenue reports were reviewed. Motion by Hokamp to install a right turning lane on CTH W, eastbound, at 45th St. Motion died for lack of second. Motion by Hokamp/LaFontaine to leave this intersection as-is for the time being. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Motion by LaFontaine/Thao to approve the Highway Dept. vouchers. Motion carried unanimously.
7. The Finance Dept. has requested that the borrowed amount for CIP for the Highway Dept. be brought down to \$2.0 Million level. After adjustments Hawk brought it down to \$2.7 Million. No action was taken by the committee.
8. Hawk reviewed the reconstruction project that took place on CTH G. There is a parcel of land left over from the realignment of the curves that an adjoining landowner has showed interest in. Motion by LaFontaine/Hokamp to research the possibility of the parcel being deeded to the adjacent landowner and bring back to the committee. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Hawk presented a request for tuition reimbursement for an employee. Motion by Hokamp/Thao to approve the request per county policy. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Hawk reviewed the seasonal posting requirement of the area around CTH HH and CTH F and its effects on the towns surrounding those roads. Motion by LaFontaine/Thao to not post CTH F, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
11. Due to the fact that the Highway Dept. is taking over more and more winter maintenance of town roads and the difficulty in hiring summer help, Hawk is proposing adding 2 FTEs to the department by eliminating some of the LTE summer help positions. Motion by Hahn/LaFontaine to approve the hiring of 2 FTE employees. Motion carried unanimously.
12. Hawk discussed some building modifications needed at the Wisconsin Rapids location. Price estimate will be presented at a future meeting.
13. The Parks & Forestry staff reports were reviewed. LaFontaine reported on his attendance at the Wisconsin County Forest Association annual tour.
14. There were two special use permits presented for approval. Motion by LaFontaine/Thao to approve them as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
15. The committee reviewed the 2022 Annual Parks & Forestry Report. This will be presented to the county board in August.
16. Schooley provided an update on the Powers Bluff projects.
17. An application for the open appointment on the Wood County Wildlife Area was received and reviewed. Motion by Hokamp/Thao to recommend Larry Isensee to the county board chair for subsequent county board approval. Motion carried unanimously.
18. Schubert presented two contract extensions (#780 & #781) for the committee's review. Motion by LaFontaine/Hokamp to approve the extensions as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.
19. Parks & Forestry revenue reports were reviewed.
20. Motion by LaFontaine/Thao to approve the Parks & Forestry vouchers. Motion carried unanimously.
21. Motion by Hahn/Hokamp to approve LaFontaine's attendance at the Wisconsin County Forest Association annual tour. Motion carried unanimously.
22. Motion by LaFontaine/Thao to approve Hahn's attendance at the Summer Highway Road School. Motion carried unanimously.
23. Agenda items for next meeting include CIP for Highway and 48th St./CTH Z Project.
24. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 3rd at 9:00 AM at the Highway Dept.
25. Motion by LaFontaine/Hokamp to move into closed session pursuant to Wis Stats 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 10:35 AM. (Closed session minutes kept separately on file in the office of County Clerk)

26. Motion by LaFontaine/Thao to move back into open session. Motion carried unanimously at 11:02 AM.

27. Chairman Hahn declared the meeting adjourned at 11:03 AM.

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