

MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025 – 9:00 A.M.
HIGHWAY COMMITTEE OF OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
301 WASHINGTON STREET, COURTHOUSE BUILDING “A” ROOM #3041
OCONTO WI 54153
www.co.oconto.wi.us

(Draft minutes not approved by committee)

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Elmer Ragen, David Behrend, David Christianson, Bob Wolf

ABSENT: Joel Lavarda

OTHERS PRESENT: Brandon Hytinen, Vanessa Hasenberg, Richard Heath, Al Sleeter, Beth Ellingson, Mike Beyer – District 26, Town of Maple Valley

1. Call to Order

Chair Christianson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

2. Statement of County Mission and Vision by Hytinen

3. Approval of Agenda

3.1 Change of Sequence – None.

3.2 Removal of Items – None

Motion by Ragen/Behrend to approve the agenda. The motion was voted and carried.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Motion by Behrend/Wolf to approve the December 5, 2024, minutes as printed. The motion was voted and carried.

5. Review Prior Months Vendor Payments

Vendor payments were discussed.

6. Communications

- Hytinen shared Christmas cards received by various vendors.
- Beyer stated concern with condition of pavement on CTH-A from CTH-G to STH-32. This is being considered for 2025 paving budget.
- Notice of Public Hearing – No impact.

7. Equipment Update

– **Ragen Absent**

- Paver scheduled to be delivered this month.
- Loader anticipated to be delivered beginning of April. Will post old loader on auction site in March.
- No Update on Pick-Ups
- Tri-Axels have lift axle installed, then will wait for build dates from Monroe Truck Equipment.
- Took possession of grader from Forestry Department. Repairs were needed and wing will be added for plowing.

–**Ragen Present**

8. Roadwork Update

- Cutting brush and trees in right-of-way.
- Patching on county system.
- Mastic on bridge approaches
- Right of way clearing being done in Town of Oconto
- Notice of second round of ARIP awards, which included a segment in Town of Little River.
- ROW plat approved for CTH-C intersections.
- Change management request for increase submitted for CTH-C project.
- Designs are continuing for local bridge projects in Town of Lakewood and Town of How. Discussion followed on options for Smyth Road bridge project.

-Email received from finance director answering the question on amount taxes would have to increase to generate an additional 1.5 million dollars to get to the goal of 15 miles of paving/year. Email shown on screen that this would require an increase to the mill rate of \$0.21, which would equate to \$31.50 tax increase based on \$150,000 home value. Discussion followed on feasibility of this increase.

- Graph from TDA (Transportation Development Association) newsletter shown on screen showing that without help from general taxes, inflation-adjusted revenue for transportation would be lowest since 1998.

- Hasenberg submitted total of 275 6-20' structures to WisDOT Bureau of Structures. Four bridges were discovered in the process. Reimbursement payments will be mailed out the end of next week.

9. Staffing Update

-One operator retired this week and the position is currently posted. Another retirement is expected early this year.

-Employee struck by mirror of a passing vehicle still incapacitated and requires surgery.

-MSHA Training scheduled for April 2.

10. Pit Contract

David Blazek contacted Hytinen regarding contract offer paid per ton for material removed from Blazek pit. Hytinen provided comparisons from other companies. Blazek requested a one-year contract. Location of property shown on map. Discussion followed on reclamation process and concern with lack of material available. Christianson recommends looking for alternative properties soon. Contract expected for committee approval in February.

11. Highway Facility Update

Meeting held on Monday regarding Oconto shop condition. Mountain shop roof shown with repairs needed. Site maps shown for Oconto shop in new location, as well as a combination site for Suring and Oconto. Discussion followed on current duplication of resources between the two locations. Hytinen has meeting today with consultant on roof repairs needed at Oconto, Suring, and Mountain shops, as well as what repair options are available.

12. Announcements/General Information/Guests (No action to be taken)

-Winter Conference scheduled for January 13-15 in Wisconsin Dells. Agenda posted on county website for possible quorum.

13. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 9 am at **Office of the Highway Commissioner: 202 Van Dyke Street**, to view new paver.

14. Adjournment

Chair Christianson declared meeting adjourned at 10:22 am.

Vanessa Hasenberg

Recorder

Date Posted: January 14, 2025