

MINUTES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025 –9:00 AM

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: David Behrend, David Christianson, Bob Wolf, Joel Lavarda

ABSENT: Elmer Ragen

OTHERS PRESENT: Brandon Hytinen, Highway Commissioner; Richard Heath, County Administrator; Beth Ellingson, Corporation Counsel; Al Sleeter, County Board Chair; Kim Pytleski, County Clerk; Mike Beyer, Supervisor District 26

1. Call to Order

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

2. Statement of County Mission and Vision

Brandon Hytinen, Highway Commissioner, read the Statement of County Mission and Vision.

3. Approval of Agenda

3.1 Change of Sequence – None.

3.2 Removal of Items – None.

Motion by Wolf/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 January 9, 2025 minutes. The motion was voted and carried.

5. Review Prior Months Vendor Payments

Committee reviewed the prior month vendor payments. Discussion followed. Handout on file in the Office of the County Clerk.

6. Communications

Brandon Hytinen, Highway Commissioner, presented the following items:

- Notice of Public Hearings – 02/10/2025 – listed a rezone request that may require a variance.
- Invoice received from Brightspeed for \$5600.00 related to a September 2023 incident where a phone line was struck when replacing a culvert pipe. Claim for damages was rescinded following picture evidence that the line wasn't properly marked.
- Estimates for roof repairs were received from Garland Company following last month's meeting. Hytinen worked with Richard Heath, County Administrator, to move ahead with the repairs.
- WPS put a new electrical box in at CTH J and Brookside. Hytinen is working with them for a possible relocation.

7. Approve Gravel Contract

Hytinen explained the gravel contract was the same price of \$0.80/ton as the last contract. Motion by Lavarda/Behrend to approve the gravel contract with Roscoe/Blazek. The motion was voted on and carried. Committee signed contract.

8. Aggregate Source Discussion

Hytinen attended the 02/04/2025 Land & Water Resource Committee meeting to request exploration of a quarry on county forest land as the County needs to begin looking for another aggregate source. The Land & Water Resource committee approved entering into an agreement with the Highway Department to bore county forest land with the possibility of extracting material. If a source is found it can be mined with the required permits. Monty Brink, Forest, Park & Rec Administrator, will research the written agreements on file with other counties who source from county land. Discussion followed.

9. CTH-S Right of Way

Hytinen reported on the possible mining of pit materials from a ROW. Following discussion and review of aerial map, Committee directs Hytinen to explore the option of selling the ROW and recouping the value of the aggregate material for pit in question.

10. Equipment Update

- Loader was supposed to be delivered to DePere this week – two months early.
- Old loader will be placed for sale on WI surplus. If a bid of more than the trade in value (\$15,000.00) is not received, the option to trade in is still available.
- Paver shipment was pushed back twice from the original estimate of mid-December. Request from CAT that the new paver stay on site the week of March 17, 2025 during the training conference for visual walk arounds by others in attendance. In exchange, the cost (\$1800.00) of Oconto County sending six individuals to the training would be covered. This would move the date for the committee to view the paver back to the April meeting. Committee suggested sending down a logo to be placed on the paver.
- No updates on triaxles or pick-ups.
- Update given on fatal traffic incident on Sunday, February 2, 2025. Repairs, estimates, and insurance information were reported. State Patrol is assisting as family liaison. Discussion followed.
- Update given on traffic incident on Tuesday, February 4, 2025. The truck sustained damage of a broken spinner disk and bent guard. Discussion followed.

11. Roadwork Update

- Work continues on CTH C STP project. Consultant is working on purchasing the needed ROW at intersections getting curb and gutter. Change management request has been submitted requesting additional funds for project.
- Design continues on Pecore Road and Smyth Road bridge projects.
- Letting for Old 64 bridge is scheduled for next week.
- The Sheboygan model for preventative maintenance was discussed. This model was shown at the Highway Conference and would require a change to the formula. Such a change could stretch the repaving needs from 20 years to 30 years. This option is currently cost prohibitive for Oconto County. Sheboygan has half percent sales tax that goes to the highway for road needs.

12. Staffing Update

- Application period for the Operator position was extended until Friday, February 7, 2025 with interviews set to take place in the coming weeks.
- Driver involved in 02/2/2025 incident on leave.
- Grader Operator off for an extended period of time.

13. Highway Facility Update

- Barrientos continues to work on facilities study.

14. Approve Uniform Agreement

Price decrease. Motion by Behrend/Wolf to approve the Uniform Agreement. The motion was voted on and carried.

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

- Nextera submitted an Engineering Plan to the PSC for the solar project in Morgan.
- Rep from Garland Company will work to get budget estimates for roof replacement on Mountain shop.
- Request to review the Financial Management Policy at a future meeting.
- Reminder, formal headshots will be taken prior to the February County Board meeting.

16. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting of the Highway Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

17. Adjournment

Chair Christianson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Kim Pytleski, County Clerk
Recorder

Date Posted: February 17, 2025