

MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 8, 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.ocontocountywi.gov

(Draft minutes not approved by committee)

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Brandon Hytinen, Vanessa Hasenberg, Richard Heath, Al Sleeter, Beth Ellingson, Brenda Carey-Mielke – Town of Mountain Chairperson, Chad DeGrave – WisDOT, Tom Buchholz – WisDOT, Scott Nelson – WisDOT, Matt Ternes – WisDOT, Tim Rank – WisDOT

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 April 3, 2025, minutes as printed. The motion was voted and carried.

5. Review Prior Months Vendor Payments

Vendor payments were discussed.

6. Communications

- Invoice received from Brightspeed for utility line hit in August of 2023. We have no record of this incident and have requested further documentation.

- Notice of Public Hearing – No impact at this time.

7. WisDOT Update

-DeGrave, Buchholz, Nelson, Ternes, Rank each gave an update on their roles within Oconto County. Wisconsin Dept of Transportation has unique relationships with all 72 of the counties compared to other states. WisDOT does not own any equipment and instead contracts with each county to maintain their state system – which includes 3200 lane miles in the northeast region.

-They value our cost-effective partnership and appreciate the fast response to incidents. Safety is most important and changes to PPE will include type 3 vests, type 2 helmets, and encouraging high visibility pants.

-This is the 4th year of the transportation bill and concerns have been passed on in hopes of receiving more for road maintenance in the next budget. Current maintenance agreements were discussed, as well as Oconto County having lowest total winter costs per lane mile per severity index during the 2023-2024 season in the northeast region.

-Reminder to use 511 to get communication out to motorists.

-Handout was given on 6-year Oconto County project list.

8. CTH-G Driveway Variance Request

Hytinen brought up location on screen and read variance request. Requestor currently has temporary driveway that our department permitted to them in August, 2024, and they are requesting to make it permanent. Variance required due to not meeting spacing requirements in county ordinance. Motion by Lavarda/Wolf to grant variance allowing temporary driveway to become permanent based on safety reasons. The motion was voted and carried.

9. CTH-BB Detour Request

Joint Use Agreement form received from City of Gillett requesting detour on CTH-BB on June 14 for Roy Hubbard Memorial truck show parade. Motion by Lavarda/Behrend to allow the use of CTH-BB for parade with proper signage and detour. The motion was voted and carried.

10. Staffing Update

- New employee started Monday.
- Employee who was employed less than a year was terminated on Tuesday for violating county safety policy and creating unsafe conditions.
- Employee struck by mirror has not returned to work and the case is ongoing with workman's compensation.
- Hytinen meeting next week with McGrath regarding wage study that started last year.

11. Equipment Update

- Old paver sold on auction for \$21,250.
- Other F250 has arrived.
- (2) Tri-axles from 2024 budget at Monroe Truck and have build dates of end of June, (3) triaxles from 2025 budget have expected build dates of June 2026.

12. Roadwork Update

- Right of way purchases and design continue for CTH-C STP project.
- Design continues on CTH-CC structure in Oconto Falls. Public information meeting scheduled for May 19. Roadway will remain open to single-lane traffic during construction with temporary signals for traffic control.
- Designs are continuing for local bridge projects in Town of Lakewood and Town of How
- Town of Brazeau bridge on Old 64 will be constructed this year estimated start date is July 28 per Rank from WisDOT.
- Pulverizing to begin May 12 on CTH-J from Liegeois Road to Oconto River.
- Concrete Repair beginning on 4 lanes.
- WPS did not get ped moved during draft, waiting on easement documents from Town of Pensaukee.

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

- NE Region Commissioner and Committee meeting in Oshkosh on May 15.
- Received salt contract including 5% increase from last year with same vendor, Compass, for a price of \$86.37/ton. Hytinen showed contract prices for entire state for comparison based on proximity to docks.
- Barrientos is scheduled to present on Oconto shop facility study at the May County Board meeting. Discussion followed on this needing to be an action item to get a clear direction from County Board on how to proceed.
- WCHA Summer Highway conference June 2-4 at Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells.

14. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 2025, at 9 am in County Board room.

15. Adjournment

Chair Christianson declared meeting adjourned at 10:18 am.

Vanessa Hasenberg
Recorder
Date Posted: May 14, 2025