

MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 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.ocontocountywi.gov

(Draft minutes not approved by committee)

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Brandon Hytinen, Vanessa Hasenberg, Richard Heath, Al Sleeter, Beth Ellingson, Todd Skarban, Greg Schnell – HG Meigs, Peter Wills – City of Oconto Falls Administrator, Stuart Russ – Oconto Falls Public Schools.

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/Wolf to approve the agenda. The motion was voted and carried.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Motion by Wolf/Behrend to approve the September 4, 2025, minutes as printed. The motion was voted and carried.

5. Review Prior Months Vendor Payments

Vendor payments were discussed.

6. Communications

- Notice of Public Hearing – No Impact
- Letter received from WisDOT regarding concern received at the CTH-I / STH-22 intersection. Passing on the right is legal and WisDOT stated no change is needed.

7. Approve CTH-I Engineering Study and Speed Limit Change

-Engineering study completed by Ayers for the 1.4 mile segment of CTH-I between S. Main Street and STH-22. A review of the speed limit was deemed necessary with the relocation of Oconto Falls Middle School. Summary of recommendations:

- 1) Post the speed limit between S. Main Street and Columbia Street at 35 miles per hour.
- 2) Post the school zone speed limit at 25 mph when children are present between Maria Volk Drive and Columbia Street. Add a second school speed limit sign within the school zone.
- 3) Update speed zone signing
- 4) Extend the no-passing zone pavement marking southbound
- 5) Replace the standard pedestrian warning signs that were installed as part of middle school project with schoolhouse shaped pedestrian warning signs at pedestrian crossing.
- 6) Make corrections to the speed feedback sign settings.

-Skarban requests the entire segment be reduced to 35 mph, however, state statute does not warrant this.

- Russ thanked all involved for keeping the safety of the students in mind.

Motion by Lavarda/Wolf to approve recommendations of the study. Motion was voted and carried.

8. Approve Septic Encroachment Easement

Hytinen showed survey map of parcel on CTH-B on screen where septic cells are now in right-of-way due to land division. Motion by Wolf/Behrend to approve the septic encroachment easement agreement for parcel 032-111100521 on CTH-B. The motion was voted and carried.

9. Facility Discussion

- Suring Salt Shed roof completed
- Suring shop roof work has started
- Heath, Sleeter, and Hytinen met with Kurt Berner with The Samuels Group regarding the next steps for the Oconto shop facility study. Heath contracted with The Samuels Group for \$5000 to put RFP (Request for Proposal) together and assist with next steps including site analysis. Hytinen showed on screen the scope of what is included. Heath recommends any future expenses come from contingency fund which requires 2/3 County Board vote and to prepare resolution for November Highway Committee. Berner will do presentation to full County Board in the future.

10. Roadwork Update

- Old 64 bridge in Town of Brazeau is now open.
- 3 mile segment of CTH-T has been paved using \$500,000 of unallocated sale tax funds as well as LRIP reimbursement. Striping, intersections, driveways and shoulder work will continue next week.
- Design continues for CTH-C STP project. One parcel will be acquired through condemnation.
- Design is finishing up on CTH-CC structure in Oconto Falls.
- Design continues on Pecore and Smyth Road bridges.
- Submitted a STP Rural and Local Bridge Application. Waiting to hear from Bureau of Structures on request to change scope for one bridge on eligibility list.
- Utility work to start on STH-22 in City of Gillett end of October.
- GTA amounts shown on screen. Our department to see a 0.15% increase. Schnell discussed how GTA amounts correlate to investing back into road work. He thanked us for our business and discussed new product options, including a warm mix additive. Heath asked about the frequency of counties bonding for road maintenance funds, Schnell estimates half of counties do. Christianson commented the need to get more funding to meet paving goals.

11. Staffing Update

- Interviewed for finish grader, offer made but was declined. Position will be reposted.
- interviewed 9 last week for 2 open operator positions. Two offers made and accepted, contingent on background checks and physicals.

12. Equipment Update

- Received email from Monroe Truck. DePere location is not on schedule due to loss of mechanics and unrealistic production schedules. Next estimate is one truck will be ready beginning of December, and one late December.

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

- LRIP meeting tomorrow. Counties are no longer allowed to bid LRIP work for towns.
- Safety Day is scheduled for October 21 at New View. Lunch will be provided by OC Squad.

14. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 9am in County Board room.

15. Adjournment

Chair Christianson declared meeting adjourned at 10:26 am.