

MINUTES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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, Kurt Berner – The Samuels Group

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

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Motion by Lavarda/Wolf to approve the November 6, 2025, minutes as printed. The motion was voted and carried.

5. Review Prior Months Vendor Payments

Vendor payments were discussed.

6. Communications

- Email received from WisDOT requesting support for highway safety improvements on the segment of STH-32 from Lakewood to Townsend. Proposed improvements include upgrading beam guard, increasing pavement line to 6 inches, and wider paved shoulders. If approved, this work will coordinate with pavement replacement planned in the future. Hytinen will respond with support for these improvements.
- Email received from Town of Lakewood. They passed an ordinance that would open STH-32 to ATV traffic in town, only when the trails are closed. When trails open for the season, access will not be allowed. Their ordinance needs to be sent to WisDOT for approval.
- Email received from Transportation Delivers. Research found more than 40% of major roads are in poor or mediocre condition. Local road conditions have declined since 2010. Over 2000 structures are rated poor or below.
- Notice of Public Hearing – No impacts
- Reminder to committee from county clerk to complete survey sent to them by December 31. All data collected with be anonymous and managed by CESA 8.

7. Facility Discussion

- Request for Proposals were due November 12. Three were submitted and given to Berner for review. Berner provided copies of each proposal for committee. Committee will meet with each company on December 9. Berner stated it's important to evaluate their entire team and inquire about experience similar to our operation. He discussed the closed-session interview process. After presentations are complete, a committee recommendation of who to proceed with will be needed. This recommendation will require approval from administration committee, and also full county board. Berner reminded committee not to base decision on fee schedule alone, as operating efficiency is more important than capital. The recommended firm will then be responsible for the next phase which will include site analysis and schematic design.

8. Review and Approve CTH-CC Structure LRIP Project

- Bid opening was held November 20. Two bids received. Lunda Construction - \$784,140.22, and Zenith Tech was low bid in the amount of \$724,011.24. When budget request was submitted, the project estimate was about 60% complete. The low bid is over our estimated budget amount by \$98,370.74. This is partially due to change from solely deck repair, to repair and overlay due to delamination. Motion by Lavarda/Behrend to approve contract with Zenith Tech and recommend resolution to County Board. Motion was voted and carried. Approximately \$575,000.00 will be reimbursed from LRIP funds. Sleeter recommends to place item on regular agenda.

9. Lena Snow Drifters Club Request

- Club requesting use of CTH-J bridge across Little River, with the condition they maintain snow removal. Motion by Ragen/Lavarda to allow them to use this crossing. The motion was voted and carried.

10. 2024-2025 Winter Summary

-Hytinen brought up summary on screen. Statewide there was a 24% increase in costs from the prior winter. 35% of total winter costs is salt. Discussed Oconto County severity index, 54" of snowfall received and salt use per mile. 2024-2025 winter costs for Oconto County were \$1762.00 per lane mile. Discussion followed on snow fence installation and effectiveness.

11. Roadwork Update

-CTH-C STP project posted for bids, they are due Tuesday.
- LRIP meeting was held October 10, applications due December 1, with selection meeting scheduled for December 9. Applications are due to WisDOT by January 15, 2026. MLRIP meeting not scheduled.
-Precon STH-22 in City of Gillett. Relocating sanitary and water lines is expected to be completed in March. This requires a hard closure, with detour being CTH-R to CTH-H.

12. Equipment Update

- Update from Monroe Truck – one truck in shop starting build.
- Asphalt roller and trailer yet to be ordered from this year's capital plan.

13. Staffing Update

- Nothing to report

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

- Winter Conference in La Crosse January 13-15.
- Wishing all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

15. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 8am in LEC and regular meeting January 8, 2026, at 9am in County Board Room.

16. Adjournment

Chair Christianson declared meeting adjourned at 10:04 am.

Vanessa Hasenberg
Recorder
Date Posted: December 11, 2025