

Lincoln County Highway Committee
Minutes of Thursday, January 7, 2009 – 7:30 a.m.
Commissioner Office – Merrill

Members Present: Bob Lee, Richard Berndt, John Bailey
Visitors: Randy Scholz, Sarah Olson, John Mulder, Scott Gabrich, Jason Lemmer, and Jerry Jagmin.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:**
Meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Lee.
2. **Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s):**
Motion by Berndt, seconded by Bailey to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. **Elect Secretary**
The Committee agreed to holdover the election for Secretary since there were only 3 Committee Members present.
4. **Set Future Meetings:**
February 5, 2009, Thursday 7:30 a.m. Tomahawk City Hall
March 5, 2009, Thursday 7:30 a.m. Commissioners Office - Merrill
5. **Claims:**
None
6. **Public Comment:**
No one was present for public comment
7. **Closed Session – Convene into Closed Session Pursuant to Sec. 19.85 (1) (c) Wis. Stat. to consider the Employment, Promotion, Compensation or Performance Evaluation Data of any Public Employee**
Motion by Bailey, seconded by Berndt to go into closed session in order to discuss the performance evaluation of the Highway Commissioner. Scholz and John Mulder were included in the closed session. All ayes. Motion carried.
8. **Open Session: Take any necessary action on Items Discussed in Closed Session:**
Motion by Lee, seconded by Berndt to go into open session and to give Scholz a favorable evaluation along with a step increase. All ayes. Motion carried.
9. **Financial Reports -**
Olson explained the financial reports to the Committee. Olson and Scholz estimated they would be short approximately \$330,000 for winter maintenance for 2008. Road construction shows a negative of \$233,000 but earlier in the year the Committee approved a budget modification for \$491,000. The County Road A STP project will be reimbursed from the Federal Government at 80% for the work completed and the County would pay the remaining 20%, this was budgeted in mid 2007 for the 2008 budget which was budgeted incorrectly and that is why the budget modification had to be done. Currently we were reimbursed \$532,225 and that will be adjusted for that exact amount. It could take up to 3 years to receive all the STP money. The bridge maintenance reports show that there are still outstanding amounts that still have to be collected from the federal government for the STP projects. They will continue to hang out there until we are reimbursed from the Federal Government. Motion by Lee, seconded by Bailey to place the financial reports on file. All ayes. Motion carried.
10. **Set Material Pricing – Topsoil**
Olson explained that 2008 was the first year that they screened topsoil since she has been with the department which is approximately 10 years. She captured the cost for screening the topsoil for 2008 which was \$10,800 and they screened 5,025 tons. This adds \$2.15 per ton to the topsoil cost. The current cost for topsoil is \$2.67 per ton plus the \$2.15 per ton equals \$4.82 per ton. The other governmental units have a 15% handling charge added to the \$4.82

or \$5.55 per ton. Motion by Berndt, seconded by Bailey to approve the topsoil price at \$4.82 per ton and \$5.55 per ton for all other governmental units. All ayes. Motion carried.

11. **Truck Bids**

Scholz reviewed the truck bids with the Committee. We received a lot of bids for the quad trucks. They again looked at leasing versus purchasing the trucks. Scholz indicated that Sterling trucks are going out of business and aren't an option any longer. Scholz recommended going with Mid-State with automatics and a 5 year lease. The lease agreement would be for 25,000 miles per year with a \$.10/mile cost if we go over the 25,000 miles. Going with a lease helps with eliminating the up front cash of around \$220,000. Motion by Lee, seconded by Bailey to award the lease agreement with Mid-State for 2 automatic quad trucks with a 5 year lease and 25,000 miles per year. The trucks will include the box, hydraulics, and the tags. All ayes. Motion carried.

Scholz recommended going with Stainless Specialist for the accessories for \$141,204 for 2 trucks. The accessories will be removed when the lease is up and put on the new trucks. Motion by Berndt, seconded by Bailey to award Stainless Specialist for the accessories for \$141,204 for 2 trucks. All ayes. Motion carried.

11. **County Board Presentation**

Scholz indicated that he doesn't think the public understands what the denial of the winter maintenance policy meant. He also thinks there's a misunderstanding with the union members when it comes to plowing for the towns. He will continue to talk with the union. Both the Committee and Scholz felt that the discussion at County Board was good and it got the information out there for everyone to think about. Randy didn't hear comments from law enforcement one way or another on the winter maintenance policy. They all agreed that the majority of crashes are not because it's slippery on the roads but people are driving too fast for conditions. Scholz indicated that he spoke with Dan Leydet and he said that for 2009 there will be no extra money for contingencies and we'll need to stay within budget. Scholz will give a report to the Committee in May with winter maintenance costs and the Committee can decide at that time how they would like him to proceed with the rest of the year with the money remaining. There are only 3 options for cutting back and they are cutting back on the projects they work on, lay off the guys, or a little of both. Hopefully we will be fine next year but it's something the Committee will have to keep in the back of their minds.

12. **Report by Superintendents** –

Lemmer reported that they basically have been plowing snow and mixing sand. There should never be a shortage of sand and we're fine right now for salt. Jagmin said the guys have been out a lot plowing and the guys have been spectacular. It's also been busy in the office with paperwork with the guys out plowing every week-end. They never have had a time where they didn't have enough guys to go out and plow. Jagmin indicated that they spent 16 – 17% of the State's winter budget just in the month of December alone. They will be over on the State's budget for 2008. The crew wanted to wish the Committee a Happy New Year.

13. **Commissioner's Report on Highway Operations**

- a. Safety Report – Scholz presented his end of the year annual report for safety. For 2008 we had 27 incidences and in 2007 we had 29. An incidence is anything such as if you hit your finger and it has to be reported. The Department keeps track of that so they can control hazards before they happen and become a reportable. In 2008 we had 4 reportables. One of those was a hearing reportable after an employee was given a hearing test. The whole crew was trained in CPR with the Merrill Fire Department which an employee had to use already.
- b. Memorandum agreement with Union for Dean Neumann Grievance – Scholz explained there was a grievance filed by Dean Neumann. Neumann was working in

the shop but posted out and then he helped out in the shop. When he was in the shop he was being paid class 5 pay and he had posted into a class 4 position. The issue is what he should be paid when he's working in the shop. With the mechanic position in the shop you could be paid a class 3, 4 or 5. It was brought to the Committee and the Committee advised Scholz to work with the union to try to come with a resolution. They agreed that there would only have 2 class 5 mechanics in Merrill and 1 in the Tomahawk shop and the County can choose who works in the shop. This agreement was signed by John Mulder and the union.

- c. RMA Clarification – Oneida County had some issues with the old RMA language and because of those issues they changed the language but it was only suppose to be for Oneida County but there was a screw up and it showed up on everyone's RMA as well. The County took off the back sheet and replaced it with the old language.
- d. County A Construction Letter – A copy of the letter was included with the County Board packet and he posted it for the guys to see. Lemmer and Jagmin did a lot of the work out on County A along with the crew who all did an excellent job. It's nice to receive positive feedback. This letter shows the excellent work that our crew can do and do it cost effectively.

14. **Adjourn**

Motion by Lee, seconded by Bailey to adjourn at 8:32 a.m. All ayes. Motion Carried.