

Lincoln County Highway Committee
Minutes of Thursday, February 5, 2009 – 7:30 a.m.
Tomahawk City Hall

Members Present: Bob Lee, Richard Berndt, John Bailey, Graham Rankin
Visitors: Randy Scholz, Sarah Olson, Scott Gabrich, Jason Lemmer, Al Fox, 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 Bailey, seconded by Berndt to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. **Elect Secretary**

Motion by Rankin, seconded by Berndt to nominate and elect John Bailey as secretary. All ayes. Motion carried.

4. **Set Future Meetings:**

March 5, 2009, Thursday 7:30 a.m. Commissioners Office - Merrill

April 2, 2009, Thursday 7:30 a.m. Tomahawk City Hall

5. **Claims:**

None

6. **Public Comment:**

No one was present for public comment. Bailey indicated that he was driving on Hwy 17 and there was a line of vehicles behind the plow truck and the driver pulled over to let everyone pass. When he was in another County the plow wouldn't pull over. He wasn't sure if that was common practice here in Lincoln County. Scholz explained it depends on the situation and circumstances. Bailey said he felt it was not only a courtesy but rather a safety issue.

7. **Financial Reports** - Olson reviewed the reports with the Committee which were in their packets. She indicated that the 2008 figures are not fully complete since we have through the end of February to make any necessary adjustments, but there wouldn't be any major adjustments. The plan is to request for contingency money for \$326,305 which is the overage for winter maintenance. This had been discussed with the Committee previously indicating that we would be over in winter maintenance. The remaining overage is covered by money that we need to be reimbursed for the County Road A project from the State. Olson will prepare a budget modification for the Committee to approve at next months meeting.

8. **Requests from Contingency** - This item was discussed above as well. The request will be for \$326,305 to cover the overage in winter maintenance. Motion by Rankin, seconded by Berndt to request \$326,305 from contingency from the Finance Committee and County Board for winter maintenance. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. **Resolution for Financing 2 Quad Dump/Plow Trucks** – Scholz explained that the leasing company requests that we have a resolution approved from the County Board to finance 2 quad dump/plow trucks. The resolution will state that the County has the funds to lease these 2 vehicles. These 2 trucks were approved through this Committee and the CIP process. Scholz also has been discussing this with Corporation Counsel and the Finance Director as well. He also spoke with the County Clerk regarding insurance coverage on these vehicles.

Motion by Lee, seconded by Bailey to send a resolution to County Board for Financing 2 Quad Dump/Plow Trucks. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. **Traffic Maintenance Agreement from the State** - Scholz explained that this is a routine traffic maintenance agreement and we get them every year. This agreement is for \$7,850 to put up signs. The state will give the county the signs and tell them where they go and the county puts them up. There are 3 copies that need to be signed. Motion by Rankin, seconded by Berndt to sign the traffic maintenance agreement from the state. All ayes. Motion carried.

11. **Closed Session: Convene into Closed Session Pursuant to Sec. 19.85 (1) (e) Wis. Stat. for conducting other specified public business whenever competitive reasons require closed session – Hot Mix Plant**

Motion by Bailey, seconded by Lee to go into closed session along with Randy Scholz, Sarah Olson, Al Fox, Jason Lemmer, Jerry Jagmin, and Scott Gabrich. All ayes. Motion carried.

12. **Open Session: Take any necessary Action on Items Discussed in Closed Session**

No action was taken during closed session.

13. **Report by Superintendents** – Jagmin reported that they have been going through a lot of salt due to the cold weather. They have to use a lot of salt in hopes that it melts the roads since salt doesn't work the best in cold weather. He had to get a list of contractor work together for the State which the County guys usually do such as shouldering, crack filling, concrete repair, etc. The list will be used as part of Obama's stimulus package where a lot of this work will be done by private contractors instead of County workers. Jagmin included a comment at the end of the list that this is very disappointing since Lincoln County's resources are stretched to the limits and the County needs to be stimulated too. The State said they don't care who does the work as long as it gets done. The crew has been great as usually. Jagmin and Lemmer have been out looking for work for this up coming summer. Lemmer said that the Townships are talking that they wouldn't have a lot of work for the County to do either. Everyone is in the same boat. The guys have been getting ready for summer with working on the trucks. It's been a slow January so they have been able to catch up on things that haven't been getting done. Jagmin said he was attending the Harrison ATV meeting with Birkensee and Cloverbelt and he would be representing the County. Birkensee and Cloverbelt informed the Harrison ATV club that they wouldn't be donating any money for the trail for signage. Jagmin said that Harrison ATV probably won't have a trail in that area if they won't receive any funding from them. The businesses have felt their business has not increased due to the ATV trail.

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

- a. Safety Report – Scholz said the guys will be finishing their NIMS training within the next few weeks. The tests need to be taken on line so IT Department has set up computers at the Government Services building for them to utilize. Scholz is taking his last courses as well in the up coming weeks. We would be the first County in the state to be NIMS certified. The NIMS program is tied to federal money.
- b. Report on Machinery for 2007 – In 2007 we earned \$8,000 for machinery and the past 5 years we have averaged a loss of \$152,000 per year. This is due to a lot of changes that have been made as far as getting rid of as many pieces of equipment that we can and utilizing the quad axle trucks year round.
- c. Report on Winter Conference – The big talk was the stimulus package. Scholz received a call from Greg Wolf, Consultant Management, indicating that the Highway H bridge project will be funded 100% through the stimulus package which is a good thing. But our guys can't do the work for the project like he had planned. Scholz attended a session on chip sealing and the different emulsion testing. He will be looking into if we can do the different testing. Scholz felt that the stimulus package is really going to hurt the Counties. There is going to be a lot of jobs on the State level which is going to eat up a lot of material such as asphalt cement and

emulsion. The end result is we may not even be able to get these materials. A lot of the companies are looking at 30 day prices for giving quotes on these materials as well which can't happen on a county level with getting Committee approval. A special meeting may have to be held to get approval.

15. **Adjourn**

Motion by Rankin, seconded by Berndt to adjourn at 8:17 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.