

**Lincoln County Highway Committee**  
**Minutes of Thursday, March 5, 2009 – 7:30 a.m.**  
**Commissioner's Office**

Members Present: Bob Lee, John Bailey, Graham Rankin, and Arlene Meyer  
Richard Berndt was excused

Visitors: Randy Scholz, Sarah Olson, Scott Gabrich, Jason Lemmer, Al Fox, Jerry Jagmin, John Mulder, Jeromy Hoffman, David Pankow, George Janssen, John Spiegelhoff.

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 Meyer, seconded by Bailey to approve the minutes of February 5, and 17, 2009 meeting minutes as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. **Set Future Meetings:**

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

May 7, 2009, Thursday 7:30 a.m. Commissioner's Office

4. **Claims:**

None

5. **Public Comment:**

No one was present

**CLOSED SESSION**

6. Convene into Closed Session Pursuant to Sec. 19.85 (1)(e) for deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive bargaining reasons require a closed session.

a. Grievance

Motion by Bailey, seconded by Rankin to go into closed session with the Committee, Randy Scholz, John Mulder, Jeromy Hoffman, David Pankow, George Janssen, and John Spiegelhoff. All ayes by roll call vote. Motion carried.

**OPEN SESSION**

7. **Take any Necessary Action on Items Discussed in Closed Session**

Motion by Rankin, seconded by Bailey to forward the grievance to the Personnel Committee for their April's meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. **List of Possible Budget Consideration Prepared by John Mulder**

John Mulder explained that this started back in January with the Administrative & Legislative Committee suggesting that he compile a list of possible things that could be considered when going through the budget process to help with the 2010 budget. Mulder came up with 29 items for them to consider, it's not an exhaustive list. In regard to the Highway Department, it's has been Mulder's thought that we would be better coordinated and consolidated by creating a Public Works Department. There has been some talk with the City of Merrill to work together with Lincoln County with supervision of the street department. One of our current Supervisors would supervise the City guys and Scholz would do the administrative issues for the City. This may or may not happen around May, 2010 and would expire in May, 2011 for a trial processes. Another idea was putting the Maintenance Department with the Highway Department where there would be a savings of not having to build a new building. Another proposal was including Forestry shop with the Highway Shop, which could save on equipment and maintenance of equipment. There also may be a cheaper way of mowing, plowing, etc. and the County should at least look at some of these options. The County should also look at whether or not we should continue with doing town work. Scholz explained that if we reduce the work force that it would definitely affect how we work with Townships. Scholz felt that

his role as a department head is to do what's best for the County roads but if Supervisors feel differently and want to continue with Township work that's totally up to County Board members. At what point does it not make sense to have the staff when you can't buy the material, fuel, or afford to use the equipment. Each staff person that's reduced, we can put towards material, fuel and utilizing our equipment. Scholz said it's the same way for the State if they want 10 beats then the State has to provide the budget for 10 guys year round not just in the winter. The County can't afford to pick up the tab when they aren't working for the State. Scholz said in the past we had enough work to not only keep our county crew busy we also utilized the state crew on our projects. Now with our budget not being able to keep up with construction inflation we no longer can perform the same amount of work. Scholz explained that if we do 200 hours in a Township the County has to keep that person working the remaining 1,880 hours for the rest of the year. Everything that was discussed was for information purposes.

John Mulder left the meeting at this point.

9. **Bids Received for Asphalt, Emulsion, and Asphaltic Cement**

Scholz distributed a bid results for all 3 bids. One bid was received for Emulsion from Meigs, there are 4 oil types - CRS- \$1.8819 (up 28%), CRS-2L \$2,1819 (up 21%), HFRS-S \$1.8819, HFRS-2P \$2.1819. Emulsion is what we spray on the road prior to chip sealing. One bid was received for Asphalt from American Asphalt for \$35.11 per ton this is up 5%. Two bids were received for Asphaltic Cement, Murphy Oil USA \$534.44/ ton and Meigs \$539.14 per ton. Meigs said they would match the price. This is up 27% from last year. Scholz's recommended to award 60% of bid to Murphy and 40% of bid to Meigs. This is how it has been done in the past. Motion by Lee, seconded by Meyer to award the bids as follows: Emulsion be awarded to Meigs, Hot Mix be awarded to American Asphalt, and Murphy Oil USA and Meigs be split by 60/40 at the Murphy Oil USA price. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. **Financial Reports** -

Olson reviewed the reports with the Committee. The reports reflected through January but she pulled the February numbers, which doubled the numbers from January, using 9% of budget through February. The big item was winter maintenance in January and less in February. Through February it puts the budget for winter maintenance at 37%. If we have a similar March as last year that would put us at 60% of budget for winter maintenance. This would put us at pretty good standing for November and December since the average is about 36% or 37% of budget for each of those months.

11. **Budget Modification** -

1. County Roads Fund. The budget modification reflects the contingency fund transfer for winter maintenance of \$326,305, approved in February by Highway and Finance Committees, and an increase of \$532,000 to reflect the state revenues for County Road A.
2. The Highway fund budget modification was for year-end maintenance, adjusting line items to actual spending/revenues.

Motion by Lee, seconded by Bailey to approve the budget modifications as presented and both should be forwarded to the Finance Committee and County Board for approval as well. All ayes. Motion carried.

12. **Attending Legislative Breakfast**

Scholz explained that every year the WCHA have a legislative breakfast where they try to get their points across on certain issues. The breakfast will be April 17<sup>th</sup> in Wausau at the Best Western and the cost is \$25 per person. Registration is at 8 a.m. and breakfast is at 8:30 a.m. Lee, Meyer, and Rankin acknowledged they would be attending and Bailey will contact Scholz if he will be attending or not. Scholz will also talk to Berndt to see if he wants to

attend as well. Motion by Lee, seconded by Rankin to authorize per diem for any Committee Member that attends the Legislative Breakfast. All ayes. Motion carried.

13. **Summer Conference Registration**

Scholz explained that the summer conference will be June 8 – 10 at the Kalihari in Wisconsin Dells. The last couple of years the hotel fills up rather quickly and then there aren't rooms available so reservations should be made early. Rankin and Lee indicated he couldn't make the conference. Meyer indicated that she could make the conference. Motion by Bailey, seconded by Lee to pay per diem for any member that attends the summer conference. All ayes. Motion carried.

14. **Report by Superintendents** –

Lemmer explained that they have been getting ready for chip sealing by moving rock, as well as dealing with the snow when it comes. They are thawing frozen pipes, and getting ready for tarring. Jagmin indicated he had a meeting with the State Engineer and we will see crack filling companies coming into Lincoln County working on State roads. There's nothing we can do since Lincoln County isn't eligible to do the work through the stimulus package. Jagmin commented on Mulder's list of budget considerations and felt we should also look at plowing in all parts of Lincoln County not just the roads. The Committee said they are looking at all possible ways that would help and nothing would be ruled out until looked at. He would be very disappointed if the County starts privatizing the work that our guys do now. He also remembers a past Commissioner that gave back to the tax levy over \$600,000 when a STP project was done and now we're sitting here trying to scrape every penny to stay ahead. We wouldn't be in as much trouble as we are in today if we would still have that money in our budget. We not only have to be good stewards to the people but also good stewards to our investments and our property as well. He said it's really hard to send the guys out to do work but they can't use any equipment to do it. Somewhere down the line there has to be a breaking point. Fox has been working on OSHA and MSHA. Gabrich has been getting trucks ready for hauling.

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

a. Stimulus Update – Scholz indicated that he has moved forward and has done everything he can do since the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting in order to receive money for the County Road CC project. The last he heard was they may have had an archeological hit on County Road CC project. After doing some checking into this, it was his understanding that the State is requiring all projects at least look for archeological hits, just part of the process. He still hasn't heard if our project as been approved or not. According to the FONZE report from the past there were 3 Archeological hits. Scholz did give credit to the DOT for all their help with the stimulus process and when this is all over with he will be asking the Committee to sign a letter that he will draft complementing them. Scholz will keep the Committee updated on the County Road CC project.

16. **Adjourn** - Motion by Rankin, seconded by Lee to adjourn at 8:58 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.