

Lincoln County Highway Committee
Minutes of Thursday, April 2, 2009 – 7:30 a.m.
Tomahawk City Hall

Members Present: Bob Lee, John Bailey, Graham Rankin, Richard Berndt, and Arlene Meyer
Visitors: Randy Scholz, Sarah Olson, Scott Gabrich, Jason Lemmer, Jerry Jagmin, Phil Rausch, Galen Reinhart, and Dorothy Rausch.

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 from March 5, 2009 meeting minutes as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. **Set Future Meetings:**

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

June 4, 2009, Thursday 7:30 a.m. Tomahawk City Hall

4. **Claims:**

None

5. **Public Comment:**

No one was present for public comment.

6. **Request from Somo Area ATV Club to Open Route on CTH T**

The ATV Club had made a written request asking the Committee to open a route on CTH T from Pine Tree Lane to an existing ATV trail which is approximately 4.6 miles. Phil Rausch explained that they would like to expand the existing trail in the area. This request would open it up from Rib Lake to Tomahawk. Scholz showed a video of the requested area and he reviewed an e-mail from Kevin Kleinschmidt; Forestry Department. The only concern Kleinschmidt had was there is heavy truck traffic in that area. Scholz felt the same way about the truck traffic but could be controlled with signage. Rausch indicated that a lot of the truck traffic occurs during the week when most of the ATV traffic would be during the week-end. The club will probably post the speed limit at 35 mph. Motion by Lee, seconded by Rankin to approve the request from Somo Area ATV Club to Open Route on CTH T and forward the request to the County Board. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. **Request for Purchase Card**

Scholz explained that it's impossible to make any reservations for conferences or to make a purchases on line without a credit card. Motion by Bailey, seconded by Berndt to approve the request for getting a purchase card and forward the request to the Finance Committee. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. **Set Asphalt Price**

Scholz explained that the Asphaltic Cement price came in 27% higher but because we're not running the plant as much and there isn't as much maintenance or less money being put into the plant. He would like to keep the price the same at \$39.00 per ton as last year. Motion by Lee, seconded by Meyer to set the asphalt price at \$39.00 per ton. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. **Options for Charging out Equipment**

Scholz explained that there are 3 options for charging out equipment. Currently we have set up an equipment fund and everything stays with the Highway's budget. We charge out every piece of equipment that is used and the revenue for the equipment is put into an equipment fund and the money is used to only purchase equipment. The second option is not to have an equipment fund and all the revenue goes into the general fund and then the Highway Department would budget the equipment replacements. The third option is not to charge out for equipment and take out loans when a piece of equipment needs to be replaced. Scholz is on the Machinery Management Committee and he feels that with the way we are currently

handling the equipment fund seem to be more delinquent and watching their total assets and equipment because you really have to make it work for your department. You are only able to purchase equipment depending upon your revenues and we wouldn't be on the tax levy with the equipment. The other 2 options would be on the tax levy. No action was taken regarding this issue.

10. **2009 Budget Modification**

Olson reviewed the 2009 budget modifications with the Committee. The modification is for taking the ending balances for 2008 and adjusting the 2009 budget. For the road project account they need to show that the money was spent in 2008 and the revenue would be put into a budgetary account for money will receive from the state. There also was an excess in bridge maintenance from last year and needs to be reflected in the 2009 budget. Motion by Meier, seconded by Bailey to approve the 2009 budget modifications as present and forward it to the Finance Committee. All ayes. Motion carried.

11. **Financial Report**

Olson reviewed the financial reports with the Committee which were in the packets. She indicated that she looked at the March reports and we spent \$132,000 in winter maintenance in March with a balance of \$359,000 or 53% left of the budget in winter maintenance. Last year at this time we had 0% available in the winter maintenance. They were predicting they would need approximately \$250,000 for November and December. She explained the 2008 inventory and only \$39,000 needed to be adjusted which is good since our sales were 1.465 million. The key is to stay within 10% of your sales according to the state. We're at about 2.68%. The guys are doing an excellent job with the inventory. Motion by Lee, seconded by Bailey to approve financial reports and place them on file. All ayes. Motion carried.

12. **Report by Superintendents**

Jagmin handed out a report for the state budget. He explained that the first 1/3 of the season they were in the red and then they were in the orange or moderate and probably will stay there for the rest of the season. He explained that there is a problem area on State Road 51 between Lincoln Drive and Tamarack Road with glare ice with the last 3 storms. There was dry pavement before and after that section. He felt they will be plenty good with salt. He said thank god that winter is almost over, everyone is sick of winter. Jagmin said that he doesn't agree with Scholz on charging equipment. He has a real hard time telling his guys to go out and cut without using the brand new mowers we have just sitting there and having the public watch us. We already bought the equipment and we're paying the guys labor why can't we use the equipment? We can't afford to run the equipment that we have which is crazy. Maybe we can't afford blacktop for the roads but we have to keep the water away from the roads. We have to get these guys out there working some how. Jagmin didn't have the answer but something has to be done. Jagmin agreed that Scholz is doing what he has to, to keep within the budget. A discussion took place on the State budget and the trickle effect to the counties. Jagmin said we may see stimulus money for state road Highway 51 between Irma and Tamarack Road in the North bound lanes only. They would do block and joint repairs. Lemmer indicated that they are getting ready for tarring and chip sealing.

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

a. Stimulus Update – He explained that the CTH CC project has been delayed because of there was an archeological issue which has been cleared. Now the issue is the railroad tracks that are located in the City limits but are is within 1,000 feet of our project. They have to get the tracks cleared from the railroad company that they don't need to be replaced. If they don't get the tracks cleared then they will cut the project short by 500 feet to remain in compliance and the County pay for the 500 feet.

b. 2009 Projects – Scholz, Lemmer, and Jagmin have decided which roads they will chip seal and with the recalculations they are able to put some money towards County Road U and D.

14. **Adjourn** - Motion by Rankin, seconded by Berndt to adjourn at 8:25 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.