

Lincoln County Highway Committee
Minutes of Thursday, May 7, 2009 – 7:30 a.m.
Commissioner's Office - Merrill

Members Present: Bob Lee, John Bailey, Graham Rankin, Richard Berndt, and Arlene Meyer
Visitors: Randy Scholz, Sarah Olson, arriving late - 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 Meyer, seconded by Bailey to approve the minutes from April 2, 2009 meeting minutes as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. **Set Future Meetings:**

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

July 2, 2009, Thursday 7:30 a.m. Commissioner's Office - Merrill

4. **Claims:**

None

5. **Public Comment:**

No one was present for public comment.

6. **Financial Reports**

Olson reviewed the financial reports through April 19 with the Committee. The reports reflect that the budget is at 21%. Winter Maintenance shows \$293,000 remaining. One of the new items on the report is a sign grant for \$22,000 which is federal money. A budget modification will have to be done at the end of the year to show the revenue coming in for that grant. The County also received a grant from 3M for using their material for the signs.

7. **Status of 2009 Winter Maintenance Budget**

Scholz reviewed the 2009 winter maintenance portion of the budget with the Committee. To date we have a remaining \$294,176 left in the winter maintenance budget. On average we have used \$271,609 for November and December. He felt comfortable that we should have enough money for the remaining year based on averages, so we wouldn't have to adjust our summer projects. The big issues about the guys possibly being laid off were 2 things. The first thing was the winter budget and if we needed to make adjustments for summer projects. The second thing was how much township work was going to be available. Scholz said he has many bids out yet and is unsure of what work will be awarded to Lincoln County. He would have a better handle on this issue next month. Scholz recommended that they don't make any changes with the summer projects that have been scheduled at this point. Scholz is also taking these same numbers to the Finance Committee and letting them know where we are for winter maintenance, etc. Scholz will make his recommendation at next months meeting regarding possible lays off in September.

8. **CIP Request**

Scholz reviewed the CIP request with the Committee. He reminded them that they are on a 10-year cycle with chip sealing. According to the cycle, he would be proposing to pave and pulverize County Trunk G for 5.1 miles, E for .9 miles, and L for 1.3 miles. We will need to request \$540,000 for general fund CIP designations for these projects. With the shortage of money in the future we may not be paving but looking at just maintaining what we currently have. CHIP money cannot be utilized for chip sealing because it only lasts for 7 years and the requirement is 10 years. Scholz explained that DOT is re-writing LRIP and trying to have it passed without legislative approval. The WCHA is fighting DOT and wants the legislature to approve it. By avoiding the legislators, they are not required to have public hearings or receive any input from the Counties.

Motion by Berndt, seconded by Rankin to approve the CIP request for \$540,000 as proposed by Scholz for 2010 and forward the CIP request to the Finance. All ayes. Motion carried

9. **Preliminary 2010 Budget**

Olson reviewed the County Road Fund budget and Highway Fund budget with the Committee. The County Road Fund budget is the tax levy portion of the budget and it also reflects the \$540,000 CIP money which was discussed earlier. This is where the Highway Fund bills the county for all the road work that is done during the year. The budget does reflect the 2% tax levy increase as recommended by Finance. This portion of the budget also reflects the revenue that is received from the DOT. Scholz reminded the Committee that it is a preliminary budget and some of these numbers may change such as winter maintenance due to salt prices and when the state finalizes their budget. The Highway Fund budget mimics the 2009 budget except for the project portion of the budget which has changed. This budget has an increase of 4.5% but it's due to increased revenues. They also have budgeted, as recommended, 0% increase for salaries and the employee's paying 5% for health insurance. This could change the budget depending upon how the union contracts end up during the bargaining process. If the unions receive something different than the 0% increase for salaries and paying 5% for health insurance it will be up to the Committee to determine how to make up the difference up, such as possible layoffs. Motion by Meyer, seconded by Bailey to accept the preliminary budgets and forward them to Finance. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. **Engineering Study for County Trunk K and FF Intersections**

Scholz said that over the 6 -12 months he has received 5 or 6 requests or concerns about turning south on County Trunk K from FF due to the hill. The public would like to see an acceleration lane constructed. Scholz recommended that an engineer study be done in that area to determine if an acceleration lane is necessary or would it be more of a hazard than what is currently there. Scholz received prices from and Traffic Analysis and Design was the lowest at \$5,645. The money could come out of the engineering portion of the budget. Motion by Lee, seconded by Meyer to accept the bid price of \$5,645 from Traffic Analysis and Design for an engineering study to be completed on the intersection of County Trunk K and FF. All ayes. Motion carried.

11. **Report by Superintendents**

Scholz indicated that the Superintendents are extremely busy and told them it wasn't necessary for them to attend the meeting.

American Asphalt informed Scholz that the DOT is negotiating with them to open Highway 51 for traffic on Memorial Day. They would have to take down all the traffic control and then set it all back up again after that week-end. American Asphalt was planning on paving on Monday and with this request from the DOT they wouldn't be able to pave until after Memorial Day, this would set them back about 3 weeks. Scholz attended a meeting with the DOT and he was informed that the Counties will no longer crack sealing on the State Roads and that it would all be contracted out to private contractors. The County will only be able to do crack sealing as part of an LFA project. Scholz indicated that he doesn't have a problem if they don't want us to do crack sealing but we have 10 state employees that we have to keep busy during the summer and we can't afford to shift them to the County levy because we don't have the money. The guys will be walking fence and picking garbage which the state doesn't really want them to do but there isn't any other work. The State is requiring a 14 day notice to them in order to shut down Highway 51 and a 3 day notice for Highways 64, 17, etc. and this has to do with the 511 system.

Jagmin arrived at this portion of the meeting. The County did receive an LFA for crack sealing Highway 17. Jagmin reviewed the state budget and he reviewed the final numbers for winter maintenance.

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

a. Stimulus Update – Scholz was informed last Thursday that he needed to have the plan signed by Friday and have everything submitted to the State. They were informed that they have a 99% chance of getting the County Road CC project approved. He heard through the grapevine that 10 projects made the first round of cuts and 7 of them were in this region. The Counties that kept moving forward with the process are in a very good position and for Lincoln County, that's \$1.5 million.

b. Application for Federal Reallocation for STP Funds – Scholz was informed last Monday that a 10-page application for Federal Reallocation for STP funds deadline was that day. He was able to get a one-day extension because it needed a representative signature, which he was able to submit to Obey's office. He also needed to have the County Board Chairman sign it as well and was able to get that done. The STP money would be for 2016 for the reconstruction of County Road C from Highway G to the Langlade County Line. The County's portion would be approximately \$600,000 and the funds would come out of the STP account that we put money in each year for these kinds of projects. He'll keep the Committee updated.

13 **Adjourn** - Motion by Rankin, seconded by Berndt to adjourn at 8:22 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.