

**Lincoln County Highway Committee**  
**Minutes of Thursday, September 3, 2009 – 7:30 a.m.**  
**Commissioner Office - Merrill**

Members Present: Bob Lee, John Bailey, Graham Rankin, Richard Berndt, and Arlene Meyer  
Visitors: Randy Scholz, Dan Leydet, Jerry Jagmin, Jason Lemmer, and Sarah Olson

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 Rankin to approve the minutes from August 6, 2009 meeting minutes as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. **Set Future Meetings:**  
October 1, 2009, Thursday 7:30 a.m., City Hall – Tomahawk  
November 5, 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 Report**  
Olson reviewed the financial reports with the Committee which were in their packets. Miscellaneous general maintenance is at less than 50% which is good and we have approximately \$260,000 in the winter maintenance account. Everything looks really good. Scholz explained that the crew wasn’t able to work on general maintenance in spring, that’s what they will be working on in the next 2 months. Motion by Lee, seconded by Berndt to place the financial report on file. All ayes. Motion carried.
7. **North Central Region Fall Meeting October 30, 2009 -**  
Scholz explained that the North Central Region Fall Meeting will be on October 30, 2009 in Wood County. They will be a discussion on NR40 which took effect on September 1<sup>st</sup> and there will be discussion regarding Senator Decker’s proposal regarding bidding out projects over \$25,000 since they are meeting several times this month. Motion by Rankin, seconded by Bailey to approve per diem for any committee member that would attend the North Central Region Fall meeting on October 30, 2009. All ayes. Motion carried.
8. **WCHA Winter Conference January, 11-13, 2010**  
Motion by Meyer, seconded by Berndt to approve per diem for any committee member that would attend the WCHA Winter Conference held on January, 11 – 13, 2009. All ayes. Motion carried.
9. **Selling 160 acres off of Swamp Road in the Town of Merrill and applying funds to winter contingency**  
Scholz explained the money that we would receive from selling the 160 acres off of Swamp Road in the Town of Merrill would be put into a contingency fund to be used for winter maintenance. He recommended selling the land vs. cutting off the timber. There may be a possible easement for the property but they still have more research to do. If there is an easement it would help with the sale. He spoke with the Real Estate Lister for Lincoln County and she felt that \$2,000 per acre is the going rate and this would be our minimum bid price. If the property doesn’t sell as one parcel then they will look at selling it in smaller parcels. Motion by Bailey, seconded by Rankin to sell the 160 acres off of Swamp Road in the Town of Merrill with a minimum bid of \$2,000 per acre. All ayes. Motion carried.
10. **Request to replace Financial Manager/Accountant and waive the 90 day hiring freeze**  
Scholz announced that the Sarah Olson is retiring and he would like to have the Committee recommend the replacement of her position and waive the 90 day hiring freeze to the

Administrative Committee and the County Board by resolution. Scholz, Leydet, and Meehan have met several times and they all agree that the position needs to be refilled immediately. Leydet indicated that the Finance Department could not take over that position duties during the 90 day hiring freeze period. They looked at different options but nothing seemed to work. He also explained that the end of the year is a very critical time of the year and Scholz will be needing numbers in order for him to do bidding along with helping to close the books. It will even be a challenge with someone new but would be a real strain on the County if we have to wait the 90 days. Olson indicated that her last day would be December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Motion by Bailey, seconded by Lee to recommend to the Administrative Committee that the Financial Manager/Accountant position be replaced and waive the 90 day hiring freeze. All ayes. Motion carried.

11. **Report by Superintendents**

Jagmin explained that the crew has been busy with marking and digging out pipes and culverts. They purchased the culvert markers out of last years' budget. They will be crack sealing STH 17. They are also doing ditching on State Road 107. Lemmer indicated that they are finishing up with painting and they have been doing some wedging as well. The crew will be mixing up coldpatch in the next couple of weeks.

12. **Closed Session – Convene into Closed Session pursuant to Sec. 19.85 (1) (e) Wis. Stats. For conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session – Bargaining Update –**

Motion by Lee, seconded by Meyer to go into closed session with the Committee and Scholz. All ayes by roll call vote. Motion carried.

13. **Open Session – Take any necessary action on Items Discussed in Closed Session –**

No action was taken in closed session.

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

- a. Update on LRIP – Scholz reported that that LRIP has been put on hold after the hearings that took place last month. The DOT planed on making over 90 pages of changes to the current program, but after the hearings they are going to go with the old program. Scholz indicated that there will be a delay put the program will be moving forward.
- b. Update on NR 40 – Scholz said that NR 40 took effect on September 1<sup>st</sup> and the best management practices are still being worked out.
- c. Update on CTH CC Stimulus Project – CTH CC project will start on September 21<sup>st</sup>. It originally was going to start on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The change is good because the project will not conflict with the fall ride.

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