

Lincoln County Highway Committee
Minutes of Thursday, October 1, 2009 – 7:30 a.m.
Tomahawk City Hall

Members Present: Bob Lee, John Bailey, Graham Rankin, Richard Berndt, and Arlene Meyer
Visitors: Randy Scholz, 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 September 3, 2009 meeting minutes as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. **Set Future Meetings:**

November 5, 2009, Thursday 7:30 a.m., Commissioner's Office – Merrill

December 3, 2009, Thursday 7:30 a.m., Tomahawk City Hall

4. **Claims:**

None

5. **Public Comment:**

No one was present for public comment.

6. **Financial Report**

Olson distributed and reviewed the financial reports with the Committee. The department is at 63% for general and winter maintenance and if we have a normal winter the department should stay within budget. She explained the adjustment in the amount of \$40,220 was made to CTH CC – Engineering to cover the cost of the engineer we had to hire in order to receive the stimulus money. Another adjusted was made on CTH H bridge maintenance & construction account for \$20,000. Overall the department is within budget. Motion by Lee, seconded by Berndt to place the financial report on file. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. **Set Salt Price**

Olson distributed a breakdown of the salt cost per ton. The prices for 2008-2009 were \$51.03 and \$58.58 per ton. She was proposing the cost for salt be increased to \$66.20 and \$76.13 per ton. This is an approximately 30% increase from the year before. Motion by Rankin, seconded by Bailey to set the salt price for 2009/2010 at \$66.20 for actual cost and \$76.13 which includes the 15% handling fee. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. **Memorandum of Understand for State Purchase Salt Conveyor**

Scholz explained that this issue has been going on for years. In 1998, the state purchased 2 salt conveyors for district 7. It has always been an issue of who owns them, who has control of them, and who should repair them. In the past the state would designate where the conveyors would be placed. The state isn't going to purchase another since they don't have enough money. The county has put approximately \$40,000 in repairs for one of the conveyors. The memorandum of understanding for the salt conveyor, which Nancy Bergstrom has reviewed, states that we would pay for the cost of repair, take ownership of the conveyor and then charge the counties and state a rental rate, which is \$65.00 per hour. The conveyor would have to be used approximately 44 hours per year for us to recoup our money. Along with renting out the conveyor one of our men's time would be also charged as well which would also save money on the county levy. A new conveyor is estimated to cost approximately \$100,000. Scholz wouldn't recommend purchasing a new conveyor but felt really comfortable with the rebuild of the old conveyor and would recommend entering in on the memorandum of understand for the state purchased salt conveyor. The rebuilt conveyor is estimated to depreciate in 12 years. Prior to the rebuilt the conveyor lasted 10 years and no one was taking care of it so it should easily make it 12 years with continued maintenance.

Motion by Rankin, seconded by Bailey to sign a memorandum of understanding to transfer ownership of the state purchased salt conveyor to the county. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. **Report by Superintendents**

Jagmin informed the Committee that everything is going good and they're getting ready for winter. They are putting in culverts where they will be chip sealing next year. A state contractor will be crack filling on Highway 8 and the money will be coming out of the state's construction account instead the maintenance account. Jagmin will be sending an e-mail to the state asking why the contractor isn't held to the same standards as the County and not having to router, which makes no sense. The County had tried eliminating the routing in the past and the underbodies of the trucks peeled it all off within 2 years. Jagmin indicated the guys did a terrific job on seal coating and had it done at a lesser cost than private contractors. Jagmin distributed the state budget for 2010 and Lincoln County will be taking an approximate 7.8% cut. Lincoln County had the second lowest cut in the region. The state is still giving Lincoln County \$1.3 million. Scholz feels at this time its still helping Lincoln County to continue working for the state. Scholz was informed by the state that they have the same marching orders for this winter as far as plowing and the number of beats. The state has put Highway 51 back as an 18 hour service instead of 24 hours in the winter when the weather is bad. This helps with liability issues. If the roads are bad the guys are out there anyway. Lemmer informed the Committee they have been doing some bridge repairs and the state is allowing us to use their equipment for free. The guys also have been mixing coldpatch. The guys will be patching and getting ready for winter. Lemmer indicated that they have been cutting along the roads and only have so much money so they had to pick the worst areas to cut.

10. **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 Meyer, seconded by Bailey to go into closed session with the Committee, Scholz, Jagmin, Lemmer, and Olson. All ayes by roll call vote. Motion carried.

11. **Open Session – Take any necessary action on Items Discussed in Closed Session –**
No Action was taken.

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

- a. Update on RMA – This item was discussed earlier under Superintendents report.
- b. Update North 4th Street Project in Tomahawk – Scholz explained that the North 4th Street project in Tomahawk won't affect the Highway Department much but it's nice to be included in with the discussion and to be kept informed. The plan is to start the Monday after Harley week-end and run into May, 2011 but that will depend upon the DNR. This will affect the emergency services so it was good that everyone was involved with the discussion. They discussed if the City of Tomahawk could open Theiler Drive for thru traffic during this construction period. This would help the Highway Department. Lee recommended bringing that up at the next meeting.

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