

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

Members Present: Bob Lee, John Bailey, Graham Rankin, and Richard Berndt
Arlene Meyer was excused
Visitors: Randy Scholz, Sarah Olson, and Heather Marheine

1. **Call Meeting to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Lee.
John Bailey arrived at 7:35 a.m.

2. **Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s):**

Motion by Berndt, seconded by Bailey to approve the minutes from the previous meetings.
All ayes. Motion carried.

3. **Set Future Meetings:**

December 3, 2009, Thursday 7:30 a.m., Tomahawk City Hall
January 7, 2010, 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 introduced Heather Marheine, who will be her replacement when she retires, to the Committee. Marheine currently is the accountant in the Clerk of Courts and will be transferring to Highway but will be part-time Clerk of Courts / Highway in November and then will be full time in Highway in December. Olson reviewed the financial reports with the Committee. We are within budget for the end of October. Motion by Lee, seconded by Berndt to place the financial report on file. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. **Establishing Cost/Price for Coldpatch**

Olson distributed a breakdown of the coldpatch cost per ton. The prices for 2008-2009 were \$29.34 and \$33.74 per ton. She was proposing the cost be increased to \$42.93 and \$49.37 per ton. Price County is charging \$81.00 per ton for coldpatch. Motion by Berndt, seconded by Rankin to set the coldpatch price for 2009/2010 at \$42.93 and \$49.37 which includes the 15% handling fee. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. **Lincoln County Cell Phone Policy and Highway Departments Subordinate Policy**

Scholz explained that the County has adopted a cell phone policy. The policy was created due to the IRS requiring that we track personal calls and those personal calls be taxable fringe benefit. The highway department has approximately 2,000 calls per month for the 6 cell phones and it would be a lot of work going through and tracking the personal calls. It is in the policy that a subordinate policy could be created. Scholz had drafted a subordinate policy and it has been looked at by Bergstrom, Schlising, Meehean, Leydet and the highway supervisors and all of them are in agreement with the subordinate policy. This policy would eliminate the county having cell phone plans for our supervisors and instead they would be required to have their own personal plan and the County would reimburse them \$25.00 per month. This will save the county approximately \$1,400 per year. This was driven by the IRS and not that someone is abusing our cell phones. The County has no options but to comply with the IRS regulations. Motion by Bailey, seconded by Berndt to implement the subordinate policy for the cell phones. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. **Report by Superintendents**

The superintendents weren't present. Scholz passed around pictures of our plow truck that was damaged on STH 8 after plowing. The damage was caused from a private contractor who

did the crack sealing on STH 8. They didn't route the cracks like the county usually does when they do the crack sealing. The counties have been telling the state that they have to require the same standards that they require the counties. Scholz feels it is the fault of the DOT for not written specs correctly.

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 –**

Scholz indicated that there was no reason to go into closed session. Both unions did agree on a side letter for Highway employees doing working in the Forestry Department. On November 19th Meehan is meeting with all bargaining unions.

11. **Open Session – Take any necessary action on Items Discussed in Closed Session –**
The Committee didn't go into closed session.

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

- a. Results of Chip Sealing Analysis – In 2008, we had Fahrner come in and help with the chip sealing which cost \$13,400 per mile and in 2009 it cost \$13,300 per mile by doing it with Adams County. The superintendents would agree that it went much smoother working with Adams County verses Fahrner. The biggest problem was waiting for oil. Scholz recommended that we continue to work with Adams County in the future for chip sealing.
- b. Update on CTH Y Bridge – County Y bridge is suppose to be replaced in 2012. There is a DNR issue and the clearance for boats. Currently there is a 75 foot bridge and they are proposing a 100 foot bridge due to a C3 standard. There is no way around constructing anything less than a 100 foot bridge. The cost difference for the County is anticipated to be about \$5,000.
- c. ATV Meeting Attended – The purpose of the meeting was to see if there is any interest in getting an ATV trail in and out of the City of Tomahawk. There was interest so they are looking at different routes. There is a problem with the Wisconsin River and how to get past that.
- d. Update on Financial Manager/Accountant Position – Heather Marheine is the person that will be replacing Sarah Olson and has started part-time at Highway and will be full-time starting in December.

13. **Adjourn** - Motion by Rankin, seconded by Berndt to adjourn at 7:57 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.