

**Lincoln County Highway Committee**  
**Minutes of Thursday, December 3, 2009 – 7:30 a.m.**  
**Tomahawk City Hall**

Members Present: Bob Lee, John Bailey, Graham Rankin, Arlene Meyer, and Richard Berndt

Visitors: Randy Scholz, Sarah Olson, Heather Marheine, Russ Habeck, Jerry Jagmin, Scott Gabrich, Bob Lussow, and Jason Lemmer

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

3. **Set Future Meetings:**

January 7, 2010, Thursday 7:30 a.m., Commissioner's Office – Merrill

February 4, 2010, 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 explained that there were no financial reports this month since the period closed on November 29<sup>th</sup>. They will have a report at next month's meeting.

7. **Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA) with the State** – Russ Habeck, WIDOT, was

present to present the RMA to the Committee. The Lincoln County's RMA budget is down approximately 7.83% from last year or a total reduction of \$113,000. Lincoln County had a winter severity adjustment of \$35,000. The state has a formula process on what the counties should be spending on winter maintenance and that shows that Lincoln County is spent more. There will be no changes with how the roads will be maintained in 2010 and there will be no cut backs for winter. The State will have the same cutbacks as last year as far as litter pick up, surveillance, and mowing. The one thing new to the RMA is a 90 day opt out clause for both the State and the County. In the past it was a one year notification in order to opt out. Scholz recommended that the committee not sign the 90 day opt out because this is revenue for the County and this is a 2 way street, we can do it but so can they. Habeck said that the salt prices is really hurting the state. Motion by Meyer, seconded by Berndt to approve the Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA) with the State, but not the 90 opt out clause. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. **Establish Cost/Price for Treated Sand** – Olson reviewed the price analysis for mixing treated sand. She recommended the price for treated sand be set at \$6.39 per ton for the county and \$7.35 per ton for other governmental entities. This is up approximately 22% from last year. Motion by Rankin, seconded by Bailey to set the treated sand rates at \$6.39 per ton for the county and \$7.35 per ton for other governmental entities. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. **Speed Zone Reduction Request for CTH A** – Scholz passed around a petition requesting the speed zone be reduced on CTH A. This request was received from Charles Renn. Scholz checked in to the matter and he felt that the public isn't going to reduce their speed to 45 miles an hour in that area. They checked with the DOT and they agreed and said that the design speed is probably at or greater than 65 miles per hour during the day. Scholz looked back at the accident history over the last three years and found it would not meet the standard to reduce the speed limit. There has been a change now requiring a traffic study on any reduction of a speed zone, even when the County has the authority to reduce it. The cost of a

- traffic study for this area would cost \$8,000-\$10,000. Scholz recommended that the Committee not have a traffic study done, because it would not justify reducing the speed and if the committee still reduced the speed it would put additional liability on the County.
10. **2010 Budget Reduction Options** – The Highway’s budget for 2010 was reduced by \$97,000. Scholz recommended that the reduction be taken out of miscellaneous general maintenance as outlined in his handout. He didn’t want to reduce the 2010 projects because of the importance of these projects.
  11. **Report by Superintendents** – Jagmin explained the guys are crackfilling the roads that will be chip sealed next year. Lemmer said they have been ditching on CTH E due to water issues.
  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 Rankin, seconded by Meyer to go into closed session with the Committee, Scholz, and County Board Chairman Lussow. All ayes. Motion ayes.
  13. **Open Session – Take any necessary action on Items Discussed in Closed Session** – Motion by Bailey, seconded by Meyer to move forward on the reduction strategies. All ayes. Motion carried.
  14. **Commissioner’s Report on Highway Operations**
    - a. Crack Filling on STH 8 – Russ Habeck from the State was present and he indicated that he had never seen anything like that before, the damage that was done to one of the County trucks. The State will have to see if there are other complaints for this or was it a onetime deal. They felt it was heat related from the blade which created friction. The repair cost will be covered under the State’s RMA. Scholz indicated that the County always routed all their crack filling jobs and this wasn’t done by the private contractor that was hired. Scholz asked to be involved when they put the specs together in the future. Habeck said that routing depends upon the size of the cracks. The County will have to keep the State informed if there are continuing problems because then the specs will have to be changed in the future. Habeck didn’t know if going with private contractors was saving more but they could use a different pot of money. There is barely enough routine maintenance money to plow let alone do maintenance work. There is no way they can transfer money into the routine maintenance account in order to allow the counties to do the work. Jagmin indicated that the county has spent a lot of money on equipment they have bought in order to do the crack filling jobs & mowing and those pieces of equipment are just sitting there. Habeck indicated that they probably will continue with private contractor because of how the budgets are set up.
    - b. Update on Check Cashing Grievance – The union had filed a grievance against the county for not handing out their paychecks on Thursday in the summer when they are on 4 – 10 hour days. In the contract it states that a responsible effort will be made to give them their checks on Thursday. The Finance Department found that it is against the IRS code that we are not able to hand out checks early. It was awarded in the County’s favor by an arbitrator and the Finance Department indicated that they will continue to distribute checks on Friday.
    - c. Receiving CHIP-Funds for 2011 – The County will receive \$118,000 which is reduced by 2% and we receive this every 2 years. We are also eligible for CHIP-D money every 4 years which was also reduced by 2%. We will receive \$145,000 in 2010 – 2011 and we are planning on paving CTH G but we either have to hire the work done or we purchase hot mix and we can do the paving ourselves.
  15. **Adjourn** - Motion by Meyer, seconded by Berndt to adjourn at 8:36 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.