

Lincoln County Highway Committee
Minutes of Thursday, September 4, 2008 – 7:30 a.m.
Commissioners Office - Merrill

Members Present: Bob Lee, Graham Rankin, Arlene Meyer, Wayne Plant and Richard Berndt

Visitors: Randy Scholz, Sarah Olson, and 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 Rankin, seconded by Meyer to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. **Set Future Meetings:**

October 2, 2008, Thursday, 7:30 a.m., Tomahawk City Hall – Tomahawk
November 6, 2008, Thursday, 7:30 a.m. Commissioner's Office - Merrill

4. **Claims:**

None

5. **Public Comment:**

No one was present for public comment. Lee explained that he received a call regarding a concern in Tripoli over a speed limit sign that has been changed. This topic will be later discussed on the agenda.

6. **Financial Report**

Olson reviewed the reports with the Committee. Scholz will bring to the Committee some ideas for cost savings and what the ramifications of those savings will have and then the Committee will have to make a decision how they should proceed. They discussed winter maintenance to cost approximately \$250,000 to \$450,000 for November and December. There currently is \$3,000 in that account. The Department may be able to come up with \$80,000 - \$90,000 depending upon how construction ends up this year. Olson explained that on the County Road A project it appears to be over budgeted but in order for the County to be reimbursed the 80% from the State the County has to occur the cost before we can be reimbursed. Olson recommended doing a budget modification to include the full cost of the project since that's not how it was budgeted and Dan Leydet from Finance recommends the budget modification be done now instead of waiting until the end of the year. The final reimbursement from the state could take 6 months – 1 year for final payment. The Committee agreed to have the budget modification on next months meeting agenda for discussion.

7. **Attending North Central Region Fall Meeting: October 24th in Wood County**

Scholz explained that the fall meeting for North Central Region will be held in Wood County on October 24th and will cost \$20 each. Motion by Plant, seconded by Lee to approve the attendance of any Committee member for the North Central Region Fall meeting on October 24th in Wood County. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. **Consultant Firms for 2012 Projects**

Scholz explained that these are for our STP projects which are for replacing the CTH Y bridge and reconstruct CTH C from 17 to G. He has talked to a lot of other Commissioners who aren't even able to put out their letters of intent which is the first thing you do to get the ball rolling. He wasn't sure what's going on in the whole state. It's unfortunate what happened with County Road H bridge but it has put us on the fast track to get the process going on these other jobs. He explained that on County Road G they're looking at using fly ash application for soil stabilization. The reason for that is he doesn't want to get into buying right of way. Scholz asked if the Committee would like to interview the Consultant firms for the projects or do an evaluation of Consultants without interviews. He explained in the past the

Committee has done it both ways. Scholz recommended that the firm be located near to Lincoln County. For the County Road A project the consultant was from Madison and it made it difficult at times. He also recommended that the consulting firm have a background in working with fly ash. The Committee asked Scholz to narrow the list down to 2 or 3 Consultant firms and bring it back to the Committee with a recommendation and the Committee will take it from there.

9. **Replacing of Buyback Graders**

Scholz explained that CAT went to a new designed grader, the H series is not available any longer. They are offering \$193,000 for the 2 graders for trade in, the County initially paid \$195,000 for the 2 graders 2 years ago. The total cost would be \$114,000 and that's \$57,000 per grader. The cost is higher due to the new design of the graders but that money will be recouped when we trade the grader back in. They did offer a finance plan of paying it over 2 years with no interest. There was discussion on keeping equipment for a longer period of time but Scholz explained that it cost them \$2,000 to use the 2 graders for 2 years. If he could have this turn around with all his equipment he would do it. Scholz explained that he can't use his equipment money for any other parts of his budget except for equipment. Motion by Rankin, seconded by Berndt to approve the replacing of 2 graders with a total cost of \$114,000 after the trade in. All ayes. Carried ayes.

10. **Replacing of Skid Loader**

Scholz explained that the current skid loader they have is an older model and is need of repair which would cost more than what the skid loader is worth. He was asking the Committee to allow him to put out requests to replacement or to rent a new one. They figured out that it costs approximately \$400 per month to own and operate the skid loader without fuel. This figure helps in determining if it's worth purchasing or renting. Motion by Meyer, seconded by Rankin to put out bids for a skid loader to either purchase or rent and bring back to this Committee for approval. All ayes. Carried ayes.

11. **Signage Complaint on State Road 8**

Scholz explained that he received a phone call regarding the speed limit being changed in Tripoli on State Road 8. Scholz contacted the safety engineer with the DOT in Rhineland and he said that he looked it over and he won't change it from what is currently posted which is unusual since the DOT is usually pretty conservative with issues like these. Jagmin wasn't sure who changed the signage if it was Oneida County but it is clearly Lincoln County's maintenance jurisdiction which is a concern having another County change our maintenance area and we are unaware of the change. The speed limit is increased right at the church and through Tripoli is a passing zone. The Committee agreed with the people of Tripoli that the speed limit should be reduced. This item should be on the next Traffic Safety Meeting agenda for discussion. It also should be brought to the DOT's attention that another County shouldn't be doing work in our maintenance jurisdiction.

Scholz indicated that on State Road 64 they posted a bridge for 30 tons just into Taylor County. The problem is truck traffic is taking County Road M to bypass State Road 64. Scholz spoke with the bridge engineer that posted the sign and asked that they post a detour on State Road 64. His answer was they weren't going to do that because there are several ways they could bypass the bridge and it wasn't necessary. They aren't planning on replacing that bridge until 2011 which County Road M will really taking a beating. Scholz indicated that at least a letter should be written to DOT locally expressing our concerns. Scholz would like to see the road logged. He will put this item on next months agenda for discussion.

12. **Resolution From Winnebago County (Re-emphasize the Transportation User Fee Concept)**

This resolution was directed to the Highway Committee from the County Board. The resolution states that they use Transportation funds for transportation. This money should not be use for other purposes such as the schools, to balance the budget, or borrow from the fund. The Committee directed Scholz to write a letter that we support the resolutions and a copy of the letter should go in the correspondence with the County Board packets and along to Frank Busalacchi with the DOT.

13. **Report by Superintendents**

Jagmin explained they are currently working on State Road 64 replacing a culvert. The County salt is being delivered and the State salt will follow. A discussion took place on when to lay salt on the winter roads and there is a difference between County and State roads. Jagmin said with the cost of salt, labor, equipment, etc. the Department can't apply it with very flake of snow on County roads. We have to wait until it stops snowing. He felt we can't afford to keep going the way we have been going. Jagmin said he doesn't understand how we can spend \$150,000 on a grader or any other piece of equipment but we can't afford to fix our roads. In his mind that makes no sense. The Committee felt that if our own employees can't understand that then how can County Board Members who are not on Highway understand that?

The Committee agreed to put on next months agenda for further discussion a policy of when to plow and salt the roads.

Jagmin indicated that Lemmer and the crew are doing an excellent job on County Road A in Tomahawk and should be patted on the back for doing a great job.

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

a. Safety Report – Scholz distributed the Frequency and Severity Report. He said that we have had 13 incidences this year but they can range from a scrap to a reportable.

Reportables are the ones that go on the OHSa 300 log. Incidences are anything that happens and the crew are required to report every incidence. In the years 2006 and 2007 there were a total of 29 for each year. There will be additional training coming up for NIMS which is tied to FEMA on September 25th. The guys will also have CPR and first aid training in October from the Merrill Fire Department. Ted Hayes, Wausau Insurance Representative, did a walk through both shops and was able to take pictures and give fed back on how we stood on safety issues. Scholz received an excellent report back that all the employees used proper safety equipment in both shops. Hayes will be putting together a specific safety training geared just for Lincoln County with the incidences that we have been having.

b. Update on NR40 – Scholz explained that NR40 is for invasive species on right of ways. The requirement will be that we have to inventory all the invasive species on right of ways and then follow the Best Management Practices for the those areas.

15. **Adjourn:**

Motion by Rankin, seconded by Plant to adjourn at 9:00 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.