

Lincoln County Highway Committee
Minutes of Thursday, November 6, 2008 – 7:30 a.m.
Government Services Building Room 246

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

Visitors: Randy Scholz, Sarah Olson, George Janssen, Dean Neumann, Jeremy Hoffmann, John Spiegelhoff 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 Meyer seconded by Plant to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed. All ayes. Motion Carried.

3. **Set Future Meetings:**

December 4, 2008, Thursday, 7:30 a.m. Tomahawk City Hall – Tomahawk
January 7, 2009, Thursday 7:30 a.m. Commissioners Office - Merrill

4. **Claims:**

None

5. **Public Comment:**

No one was present for public comment.

6. **Closed Session**

Convene into Closed Session Pursuant to Sec. 19.85 (1)(e) for deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive bargaining reasons require a closed session.

a. Grievance

Motion by Lee, seconded by Berndt to go into closed session along with Randy Scholz, Jeremy Hoffmann, Dean Neumann, George Janssen, & John Spiegelhoff .

7. **Take any necessary action on Items Discussed in Closed Session**

Motion by Plant, seconded by Meyer to go back into open session. All ayes. Motion carried.
Motion by Lee, seconded by Berndt to allow Highway Management and the union to negotiate an agreement regarding the Dean Neumann grievance before the January Personnel Committee meeting and see if an agreement can be reached. If an agreement can't be reached then it will be forwarded to the Personnel for a decision. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. **Financial Reports**

Olson distributed and reviewed the revised financial report with the Committee. The Munis report shows that we were spent at 101%. At the last highway meeting the Committee approved a budget modification of \$491,000 which isn't reflected in the Munis report. The Finance Committee decided not to enter the budget modifications until the end of the year. That's why the report doesn't look good. If the budget modification was included we would be at about 90% spent. The big project this year was CTH A and is expensed at 96%. Scholz said nothing has really changed from last month financial report. Motion by Lee, seconded by Meyer to place the financial report on file. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. **Material Pricing - Salt/Treated Sand/Cold Patch**

Olson reviewed the pricing with the Committee. We have received 500 ton at \$44.26 per ton (last years contract) and 3,000 at \$49.17 per ton (this years contract) for salt. In 2007, there was a 600 ton salt discrepancy and the Committee decided to adjust 50% of that discrepancy in the cost for 2008. She recommended adjusting out 50% of that discrepancy into the new price to help compensate for that discrepancy in this years price. There is approximately 1,000 ton of salt remaining from last year but there still is an inventory discrepancy of \$17,862.65 dating back to 2007. She said the actual cost of the salt would be \$51.03 per ton

and for all other governmental units they would have to pay the added 15% handling fee or \$58.68 per ton. She said last years price was \$48.84 per ton actual cost and \$56.18 for all other governmental units. Scholz said that the discrepancy is due to the tare weights when the trucks are packed full of snow, slush, etc. and it's hard to get a true handle on how much salt is being used even though the salt is weighed. Olson explained the cost per ton for cold patch works out to \$29.34 for actual cost and \$33.74 per ton for other governmental units. This is an actual decrease from last years pricing which was \$36.34 and \$41.79 per ton. The reason for the decrease is because we produced three times the amount from the previous year. Scholz pointed out that this is a good example of how the price for material goes down when we are able to produce more at one time. Motion by Berndt, seconded by Rankin to approve the pricing for salt to be \$51.03 per ton for actual and \$58.68 per ton for other governmental units and for cold patch it would be \$29.34 per ton for actual and \$33.74 per ton for other governmental units. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. Selection of Design firms for CTH C reconstruction and CTH Y Bridge

Scholz reviewed and explained the Committee action report. Last month the Committee had narrowed it down to 4 firms and Scholz sent out letters to those 4 asking for their qualifications for these 2 projects since the Committee determined that they did not want to interview any of the firms. His biggest concern was which firm had experience with fly ash since it would reduce the amount of right of way we might have to purchase. After reviewed the firms qualifications he recommended hiring Central Wisconsin Engineers for the CTH C project and Donohue being the second choice. Scholz reviewed the CTH Y project what all has to be done; it will be a big detour. Scholz recommended hiring MSA and Ayres being second choice for the CTH Y Bridge project. They are familiar with that bridge already. Both projects would be done in 2012. Motion by Plant, seconded by Meyer to accept Scholz's recommendations of Central Wisconsin Engineers for the CTH C project and MSA for the CTH Y bridge project. All ayes. motion carried.

11. Resolution to Reduce Winter Service

Scholz distributed copies of the proposed resolution. Scholz said he discussed this with John Mulder and Nancy Bergstrom and they both agree that this shouldn't be a resolution to the County Board but a decision that should be made by this Committee. He said if we do adopt this policy then we would have more money for the roads in the summer. That doesn't mean the roads will be great but it will help. They also discussed that the resolution could be modified if the County Board doesn't agree with it. Scholz has been contacted by the media regarding this matter since it has been in our minutes. The bottom line is the County is running out of money due to the 2% tax freeze. A discussion took place regarding not plowing for the towns in the future and some townships had concerns. Motion by Plant, seconded by Berndt to present the resolution to the County Board at a future date along with a presentation by Scholz. All ayes. Motion carried.

12. Report by Superintendents

Lemmer was on vacation. Jagmin was present and explained that they have finished the Highway 51 north bound lane between the CTH Q & CTH K exits. They did a really good job. They did put the coating on the bridge deck which is a gritty coating consisting of lime stone and another rock in it which holds the salt brine longer which should help to keep the salt on them longer. The contractor who worked on that project has left a mess out there and they will be out there cleaning up for several days. The State has decided that they want to take a more hands on approach and they want to know what the guys are working on and why. Everyday he has to send a report and the reason the State is doing this is a result of the Barron County audit that was done by the state. Olson reviewed what happened with the Committee.

As a result of that audit the State is doing audits throughout the state and questioning things that they never questioned in the past. With the audit of Barron County we are required to change how we handle our timecards.

13. Commissioner's Report on Highway Operations

a. Safety Report – No reportables.

b. Interdepartmental Cooperation with Forestry – With working on balancing the budget along with the Land Services group they have been talking about more cooperation between departments which we have done in the past but we're talking about what does that really mean. What it boils down to is that Forestry has a couple pieces of equipment that need to be replaced and we're seeing if it's possible to share Highway's equipment.

c. Response letters from Jim Doyle and Secretary Busalacchi regarding transferring money out of the transportation fund – The letters were included with the Committee packets and will be the County Board packets as well.

14. City of Merrill Request for Supervisory Services

Scholz explained that the City Administrators contacted Mulder showing interest in when their current Street Commissioner retires if the County could do some supervisory work for the City. They are looking at a 2 phase process. The first phase would be the day in day out getting the guys to work with supervisory work. The 2nd phase would be having Scholz do the budget and other department duties. They are only discussing doing the Street Department duties. Scholz wasn't sure if this is going to work out or not but it's in the discussion process. If this can help the County bring in revenue and its things we currently do it surely would help out. Scholz just wanted the Committee to be informed in case they hear something about it. With the budget crunches this is making everyone think about how can we save money.

15. Adjourn

Motion by Rankin, seconded by Plant to adjourn at 9:17 a.m. All ayes. Motion Carried.