

Lincoln County Highway Committee
Minutes of Thursday, May 6, 2010 – 7:30 a.m.
Commissioner's Office - Merrill

Members Present: Bob Lee, John Bailey, Graham Rankin, Arlene Meyer, and Richard Berndt
Visitors: Randy Scholz, Heather Marheine, Phil Rausch, Jeff Janik, Jerry Jagmin, John Spiegelhoff, and Tim Meehean

1. **Call Meeting to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

2. **Election of Officers** – Rankin nominated Berndt and Bailey nominated Lee for Chairman.

Nominations were closed. A ballot vote was taken and Lee was elected Chairman with a 3 to 2 vote. Rankin nominated Berndt for Vice Chairman. Motion by Lee, seconded by Bailey to close the nominations and elect Berndt as Vice Chairman. All ayes. Motion carried. Lee nominated Bailey for secretary. Motion by Lee, seconded by Meyer to close the nominations and to elect Bailey as secretary. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. **Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)** – Motion by Berndt, seconded by Bailey to approve the minutes from the last meeting as printed. All ayes. Motion carried.

4. **Set Future Meetings:**

June 3, 2010, Thursday 7:30 a.m., Tomahawk City Hall

July 1, 2010, Thursday 7:30 a.m., Commissioners Office - Merrill

5. **Claims:** None

6. **Public Comment:** No one was present for public comment. Rankin brought up a problem with a culvert in the Town of Rock Falls that Scholz agreed that he would look at.

7. **Request from Somo ATV Club for Route on CTH T** – Phil Rausch was present to support the Somo ATV Club for request for the route on CTH T. Scholz explained the request is between Carpenter Road to Pine Tree Lane on CTH T and this would connect to an existing ATV route. Scholz showed a video of the proposed route. Motion by Rankin, seconded by Berndt to approve the Somo ATV Club's request for a route on CTH T with sending it to the County Board for approval. This request can be reviewed at any time if any problems arise. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. **WCHA Summer Conference June 7 – 9** - Scholz explained the summer conference would be held at the WI Dells at the Kalahari Resort. Motion by Bailey, seconded by Lee to authorize Meyer to attend the WCHA Summer Conference. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. **Invasive Species Intern** – Scholz explained that we have to comply with NR 40 which deals with invasive species. We first have to inventory our right of ways. We are eligible for a \$2,000 grant through Land Services which would have to be approved by Hanson's Committee and we would have to match and come up with approximately \$3,000 more. He is planning to hire an intern to train 4 of our guys on invasive species, take the inventory by GPS, and treat them. Scholz asked the Committee to support them to inventory all the State and County roads in Lincoln County since the DOT is not on board with NR 40. He explained that if we don't do the State roads as well and the invasive species goes onto private land that the DNR can make them treat the invasive species, give them a fine, or charge them for treating the invasive species. He doesn't feel this is right or fair to the tax payer. We will bill the state through RMA. Motion by Rankin, seconded by Berndt to approve inventory of invasive species of all state and county roads and hiring of intern as Scholz described. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. **Financial Report** – Marheine explained we are within budget. She reviewed the other accounts with the Committee. The Committee placed the financial reports on file.
11. **Report Back from Personnel Meeting – Budget Reduction Strategies 2010-** Scholz indicated that the outcome of the Personnel Committee was that the Highway Committee should continue to explore the strategies presented and to implement the item(s) the Highway Committee feels are appropriate for the Department. The Personnel Committee felt that the Highway Committee is in the best position to balance their own 2010 department budget. If the Highway Committee desires to take action, which requires Personnel Committee approval, then they should bring that back to the Personnel Committee after they have developed a proposal. The Personnel Committee reminded Scholz that the Land Information program area made personnel reductions to balance their 2010 budgets. Meehan was present to answer any questions the Highway Committee may have had because of the Personnel Meeting. Discussion followed regarding which committee should make these decisions. Lee thinks it's up to the Personnel Committee to make a workforce reduction plan and/or policy for the County as a whole. Further discussion followed regarding early retirement, expanding voluntary unpaid leaves, voluntary surrender of health insurance benefits and layoffs. Scholz would like to meet with all the employees – privately to discuss some of these issues. Motion by Bailey, seconded by Meyer to instruct Scholz to take their early retirement proposal back to the Personnel Committee for approval. Scholz should discuss time off without pay with each employee. All ayes. Motion carried.
12. **2010 Budget Modifications** – Scholz and Marheine reviewed the 2010 Budget modifications with the Committee. Motion by Bailey, seconded by Lee to approve the 2010 budget modifications as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.
13. **2011 CIP Request** – Scholz reviewed the 2011 CIP request with the Committee. We are requesting \$250,000 from CIP for paving. If we didn't receive the money this year from CIP we won't be doing any paving. Motion by Lee, seconded by Meyer to approve the 2011 CIP Request for \$350,000 and forward it onto Finance. All ayes. Motion carried.
14. **2011 Budget** – Scholz reviewed the 2011 budget with the Committee. He stayed within the 2% cap limit but it is up to the Committee on how they would like to present the budget to finance. The proposed budget does include the \$250,000 (which will be amended to \$350,000 as approved by the Committee) of CIP money which if we do not receive this money then an adjustment would have to be made to the budget. Scholz reviewed the proposed 2011 projects and the rest of the budget. Motion by Bailey, seconded by Meyer to approve the 2011 Budget with increasing the budget by \$100,000 for increasing CIP money. All ayes. Motion carried.
15. **Report by Superintendents** – Jagmin reviewed the states winter actual costs for 2009. The crews have been out cutting the dead wood on Highway 8. All the roads that will be chip sealed are crack sealed and they are working on the shoulders. They will be starting our first prevailing wage job next week.
16. **Commissioner's Report on Highway Operations** –
 - a. Bargaining Update – Scholz said the final offer was received from the County it appears that the Union doesn't want to pay the additional \$10 towards health insurance in July, 2011. All the other issues the County had in their offer the union agreed too.
17. **Adjourn** - Motion by Meyer, seconded by Rankin to adjourn at 8:45 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.