

Lincoln County Highway Committee
Minutes of Thursday, August 5, 2010 – 7:30 a.m.
Tomahawk City Hall

Members Present: Bob Lee, John Bailey, Graham Rankin, and Richard Berndt
Visitors: Randy Scholz, Jerry Jagmin, Heather Marheine, and Jason Lemmer

1. **Call Meeting to Order:**

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

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

3. **Set Future Meetings:**

September 2, 2010, Thursday 7:30 a.m., Commissioners Office – Merrill

October 7, 2010, Thursday 7:30 a.m., Tomahawk City Hall - Tomahawk

4. **Claims:** Scholz received a few calls relating to chipped windshields as a result of chipsealing on CTH D and CTH A. These claims will be turned over to our insurance company. Scholz received more complaints this year than usual.

5. **Public Comment** - No one was present for public comment.

6. **Financial Report** – Marheine reported on the financial report. Motion by Lee, seconded by Berndt to approve the financial reports as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. **Review Perkins Pit Lease** – Scholz explained that the Perkins pit is where the hot mix plant was located. In 1990 the original lease was agreed upon and signed for Lincoln County to pay \$5,000 per year. This lease hasn't been changed over the past 20 years. Art Perkins passed away in May 2010 and his wife, Marion, has asked if the lease could be increased to \$450 per month which is \$5,400 per year. The plan is to use up the materials in the next couple of years and reclaim the site. It would cost approximately \$75,000 to move all the materials which isn't cost effective. Scholz recommended to approve the increase. Motion by Rankin, seconded by Lee to increase the Perkins lease to \$5,400 per year or \$450 per month. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. **Clarifying Ordinance for ATV Routes on CTH CC and CTH D** – Bailey indicated that the amendment to the ordinance at the last County Board should have been an addition not an amendment. Motion by Lee, seconded Berndt to accept the clarification for the ATV routes and forward it to the County Board. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. **Advertising for Plow Trucks**- Scholz explained that the goal is to have multi uses for the trucks and to reduce the fleet. The lease would be a capital lease which is similar to the 2009 lease used for the last two units obtained by the highway department. Motion by Berndt, seconded by Bailey to advertise for leasing new plow trucks. All ayes. Motion carried.

10. **Blade Bids** – There was not one company that could provide all the blades that were requested which means we will have to award the bid to 2 companies. Scholz recommended approval of all but 2 blades to Mid- States Blade and Chain and the 2 blades that Mid-States Blade and Chain can't supply should be awarded to Brauer Supply & Equipment. Motion by Rankin, seconded by Bailey to approve Mid-States Blade and Chain for all but 2 blades and the 2 remaining blades be awarded to Brauer Supply & Equipment as recommended by Scholz. All ayes. Motion carried.

11. **Funding Options for Highway Department**- Scholz reviewed what some of the other counties are doing in these hard times. The 3 recommendations were a referendum for \$750,000 or a .31 cent increase per thousand, implementing the wheel tax in Lincoln County, or try to get existing funding sources within the county. The Committee discussed the pros and cons to each of the 3 options. Motion by Lee, seconded by Bailey to setup a joint meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss the fund balance and Highway Department's funding options on August 9th at 1 p.m. at the Service Center in Merrill. All ayes. Motion carried.

12. **Closed Session – Convene into Closed Session pursuant to Sec. 1985 (1)(e) Wis. Stats. For conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Sec. 19.85 (1)(e) – Workforce Reduction Strategies** – Motion by Berndt, seconded by Lee to go into closed session with Scholz. All ayes. Motion carried.
13. **Open Session – Take any necessary action on Items Discussed in Closed Session** – Motion by Lee, seconded by Bailey to reconvene in open session. All ayes. Motion carried. No action was taken in closed session.
14. **Report by Superintendents** – Lemmer informed the Committee that they completed the chip sealing projects and they are replacing some culverts due to the recent heavy rain. Jagmin indicated that the salt bids are out, Scholz indicated they have gone down \$4.00 per ton.
15. **Commissioner’s Report on Highway Operations** –
 - a. Letter from Town of Harding – Scholz explained he received an e-mail from the Chairman of the Town of Harding praising how well Jason Lemmer worked with her and the township and all the extra efforts he did to help the Town of Harding. Scholz indicated that our whole staff does a great job but when someone takes the extra time to send him an e-mail or letter praising an employee he wants the Committee to be aware of it. Lee indicated that the e-mail should be put in the whole County Board’s packet for their next meeting.
 - b. Scholz updated the Committee on invasive species inventory.
16. **Adjourn** - Motion by Bailey, seconded by Berndt to adjourn at 8:25 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.