

Lincoln County Highway Committee
Minutes from Thursday, June 1, 2023 (4:30 PM – 5:53 PM)
Service Center, 801 N. Sales Street – County Board Room

Members Present (in person): Gene Simon, Ken Wickham, Randy Detert, Bill Bialecki and Jesse Boyd

Visitors (in person): John Hanz (Highway Commissioner), Renee Krueger (Admin. Coordinator), Karry Johnson (Corp. Counsel), Pat Gierl (Maintenance Director) and Heather Marheine

Visitor via internet: Ann Dorava

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m.
2. **Public Comment** – None
3. **Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)** - M/S Boyd/Wickham to approve the May 4, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote.
4. **Set Future Meetings**
Thursday, July 6, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. Rm 255/257/260, Service Center, Merrill
Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. Rm 255/257/260, Service Center, Merrill
5. **Claims** – None to report at this time
6. **Tony Fischer – 25 years of Service** – The committee thanked Tony for his 25 years of service.
7. **Financial Report** – Financial status discussed.
8. **Strategic Plan/PASER rating** – Hanz explained where the roads are on the strategic plan and how the PASER ratings fit into the scope of maintaining the 271 miles of County Roads. The committee discussed their thoughts.
9. **CB Radios** – Walkie-talkie style CB radios are working great for traffic control. Johnson to look into any legal issues for next month.
10. **Alternative Funding for Projects – CTH O Bridge covered 100%** - Hanz explained the funding and how it was acquired.
11. **Approve and Sign Commissioner’s timesheets and Travel Expenses** – M/S Bialecki/Wickham to approve and sign the timesheets as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote.
12. **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Ratings for A & L Committee Meeting June 7th** – Hanz presented the application packet he will present to A&L requesting the funding again. The committee expressed their thoughts.
13. **Tomahawk Highway Department Shop Facility’s Needs – Consultant Qualifications & Reduced cost/Engineering** – Hanz verified the that reduced facility needs study of approximately \$400,000 does include engineering costs, \$80,000 for roofing and \$320,000 for structural repairs. Krueger will discuss bonding for the project with finance. Hanz and Simon will attend the A&L meeting to discuss this there. Committee discussed going back to the original value of \$6k-\$7k for repairs.
14. **Highway Employees**
 - a. **Openings and New Hires** – Highway is currently down 5 employees with a possible 6th soon.
 - b. **Experienced Limited Term Employees** – Hanz explained that due to the very new crews he is looking into hiring some experienced retirees to help train and oversee. These employees will be limited term employees only with limited hours and no benefits. Hanz will create a job description for these positions for the next committee meeting.
15. **Commissioner’s Report on Highway Operations and Superintendents Monthly Progress Report** – Hanz stated the Highway Department is finishing up with a state bridge washing Performance Based Maintenance (PBM) project. Chip sealing the budgeted 16-17 miles is planned to start June 5th on CTH S, H, JJ, K, and City of Tomahawk then the next week will be routing and sealing for the state. In Mid-August, they plan to pulverize CTH L followed by CTH S, in between jobs and when time and people are available, there will be State Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA) mowing and other issues the State wants us to address, County maintenance projects and Town work.
16. **Items for Next Meeting Agenda** – Discuss claims in closed session, Walkie-talkie CB Radios, Experienced Limited Term Employee job description.
17. **Closed Session** – M/S Detert/Wickham to enter into closed session. Motion carried on a voice vote with Krueger & Johnson to stay.
Pursuant to Wis. Stat. §19.85(1)(c) employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; and (f), considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations, to wit: *Leave of Absence request for Highway Department employee.*
18. **Open Session** – M/S Bialecki /Detert enter back into open session. Motion carried on a voice vote. M/S Bialecki/Detert to grant special exception for the new employee as requested. Motion carried on a voice vote.
19. **Adjourn** – Detert/Bialecki to adjourn at 5:53 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Respectfully written and submitted by: John Hanz and Heather Marheine