

Lincoln County Highway Committee
Minutes from Thursday, July 6, 2023 (4:30 PM – 5:06 PM)
Service Center, 801 N. Sales Street – Room 255

Members Present (in person): Gene Simon, Randy Detert and Bill Bialecki

Members Excused: Ken Wickham

Members via Internet: Jesse Boyd

Visitors (in person): John Hanz (Highway Commissioner) and Heather Marheine

Visitor via internet:

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 Detert/Bialecki to approve the June 1, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote.
4. **Set Future Meetings**
Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. Rm 255/257/260, Service Center, Merrill
Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. Rm 255/257/260, Service Center, Merrill
5. **Claims** – Hanz stated there is nothing new to report
6. **Financial Report** – Financial status discussed and placed on file.
7. **2024 Budget** – M/S Bialecki/Detert to approve the revised budget as presented. New form signed and will forward on to Finance. Motion carried on a voice vote.
8. **Alternative Funding for Projects – CTH O Bridge covered 100% - Engineer Selection** – Hanz explained now that the funding is approved at 100%, he is working on the next step which is to advertise for an engineer.
9. **Approve and Sign Commissioner’s timesheets and Travel Expenses** – M/S Boyd/Bialecki to approve and sign the timesheets as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote.
10. **CTH A – Reduce Speed Limit from 55 mph to 45 mph from River Edge by Wisconsin River in the Town of King** – Hanz received a request from the Town of King to reduce the speed limit on CTH “A” from 55 MPH to 45 MPH, .3 mile running East and West along the Wisconsin River in Tomahawk. Due to the request reduction being 10 MPH, Hanz stated the Committee is able to reduce it on a voice vote. Hanz recommends to approve the reduction. M/S Bialecki/Detert approve reducing the speed as requested. Motion carried on a voice vote.
11. **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - \$1.5 Million** – Hanz thanked the Committee and County Board for awarding the Highway Department the ability to repair more roads using the ARPA funding then explained what roads are planned to be worked on and how they will be affected.
12. **Tomahawk Highway Department Shop Facility’s Needs** – Hanz and committee discussed writing an RFP to make repairs to the current building.
13. **Highway Employees**
 - a. **Openings and New Hires** – One new employee is planned to start next week, currently the Highway Department is down 5 employees. Hanz interviews all available applicants who hold a valid CDL as they come in.
14. **Commissioner’s Report on Highway Operations and Superintendents Monthly Progress Report** – Hanz reported the new painting crew is doing great. Construction season is in full swing. Monday, July 10th the crew will begin pulverizing CTH “L”, then move to the Town of King, CTH “S” and Town of Merrill. Fitting in various other spot repairs and maintenance time allows and people are available. Some new equipment received have been having mechanical issues and already needing repairs. Detert explains to idle them during breaks to help keep them running. Salt prices are in for us to pick them up during breaks between jobs, then onto mowing County and State roads with Town work to follow.
15. **Items for Next Meeting Agenda** – Two way radios and closed session for claims.
16. **Closed Session** – M/S Detert/Bialecki to enter into closed session. Motion carried on a voice vote with H. Marheine to stay. Motion carried on a voice vote.
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.*
17. **Open Session** – M/S Detert/Bialecki to enter back into open session. Motion carried on a voice vote. M/S Detert/Simon to grant special exception for the new employee as requested. Motion carried on a voice vote.
18. **Adjourn** – M/S Bialecki/Detert to adjourn at 5:06 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Respectfully written and submitted by: John Hanz and Heather Marheine