

Lincoln County Highway Committee
Minutes from Thursday, September 7, 2023 (4:30 PM – 6:30 PM)
Service Center, 801 N. Sales Street – Room 255

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

Visitors (in person): John Hanz (Highway Commissioner), Renee Krueger (Admin Coordinator), Karry Johnson (Corp Counsel), Don Friske, Joe Dorova and Heather Marheine

Visitor via internet: Anne Dorova

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 Bialecki/Wickham to approve the August 3, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote. All ayes.
4. **Set Future Meetings**
Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. Rm 255/257/260, Service Center, Merrill
Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. Rm 255/257/260, Service Center, Merrill
5. **Claims** – No new claims to report.
6. **CLOSED SESSION** – M/S Detert/Wickham to enter into closed session, to include the Committee plus Johnson, Hanz, Krueger and Friske. Motion carried on a roll call vote. Convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. §19.85(1) (g) for purposes of conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved, to wit: Status/Debrief on Cordova litigation and settlement.
7. **OPEN SESSION** M/S Bialecki/Wickham to enter back into open session. No action taken on the closed session.
8. **CB 2 Way Radios** – Johnson and Hanz explained the County does have a license in place to operate the 2-way radios.
9. **Dorova Request – CTH S** – Joe Dorova explained how he believes his property had a culvert feeding a pond back 80 to 90 years ago, and that the culvert was removed sometime in the 90's which dried up the pond. He is asking for the County to replace it. Hanz showed the committee pictures from 1938 to 2010 of the area, the original road placement and where CTH S currently sits. The Committee discussed. Wickham asked if a culvert is needed. Hanz stated no, there is no need for the county to install a culvert in that area from the county's perspective. Simon stated we will need to explore more and will bring the item back at another meeting.
10. **Financial Report** – Financial status discussed and placed on file.
11. **Approve and Sign Commissioner's timesheets and Travel Expenses** – M/S Bialecki/Detert to approve and sign the timesheets as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote.
12. **Speed Limit on CTH G** – Bill Bialecki – Bialecki explained why there has been a request to drop the speed down 10 mph in front of Reindl and Church Mutual. Hanz stated that area is under County jurisdiction and the Highway Commissioner is able to drop the speed limit 10 MPH. Hanz recommended dropping it by 10 mph to 35 mph. No action needed, Committee gave guidance to Hanz on how to go forward with the request.
13. **Award RFP for the One Ton Truck Bid** – Hanz presented the bid tab. Hanz recommended to approve the low bidder from Brickners'. M/S Bialecki/Wickham to award the RFP to Brickners'. Motion carried by a voice vote. Hanz informed the committee there are currently bids out for ½ ton, ¾ ton and 1 ton trucks.
14. **Ordinance to extend ATV/UTV route on CTH D from the Junction with Kings Road to the Junction with STH 86 and Allow ATV's to operate on STH 86 Bridge over US 51** – Ken Wickham – Committee and Hanz explained the reasoning and location behind the Ordinance. M/S Bialecki/Wickham to approve the Ordinance as presented and forward it to the County Board. Motion carried by a voice vote. Signage to be funded by the Harrison ATV club.
15. **Tomahawk Highway Department Shop Facility's Needs**
 - a. **Adjustment equipment rates** – Hanz passed out an analysis to increase the equipment rates by 31% up from the current State approved rates to be charged to all entities other than the State. 16% will be for funding the Tomahawk and Merrill building projects, 15% will be added to the equipment fund for future equipment purchases. Committee agrees and appreciates Hanz is looking for internal ways to help fund the building and equipment needs, no motion is needed to implement. Hanz will decide at his discretion when to start the increased rates.
16. **Highway Employees** –
 - a. **Openings and New Hires** – Hanz reported one new highway worker will start on Monday, September 11. There is one CDL holder to be interviewed on Wednesday, September 13th. There are currently 3 positions still available.
17. **Commissioner's Report on Highway Operations and Superintendents Monthly Progress Report** – Paving CTH S on Monday, September 11th. Adding a 2nd lift. CTH L will have to wait until the following week. Krueger expressed life/limb concerns for the transition spots from CTH L to the Town roads. Hanz will place wedging in the transition spots on CTH L and proper signage along with marking has been added to the area for the safety of all drivers/riders. RFP's are out for chip seal rock.
18. **Items for Next Meeting Agenda** – Dorova CTH S culvert and RFP bids.

19. **CLOSED SESSION**– M/S Wickham/Detert to enter into closed session, to include Krueger, Hanz and committee. Motion carried on a roll call vote. All ayes. Convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. §19.85 (1) (c) to consider employment promotion, compensation or performance evaluation date of any public employee over which the body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility - Highway Commissioner Evaluation
20. **OPEN SESSION**– M/S Wickham/Detert to enter back into open session. Motion carried on a voice vote. All ayes. M/S Simon/Detert to give Hanz a favorable performance review. Motion carried on a roll call vote. 5 Aye/0 Nay.
21. **Adjourn** – M/S / to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote. All ayes.

Respectfully written and submitted by: **John Hanz and Heather Marheine**