

Lincoln County Highway Committee
Minutes from Thursday, January 4, 2024 (4:30 PM – 5:47 PM)
Service Center, 801 N. Sales Street – Room 255

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

Members Excused: Bill Bialecki

Visitors (in person): Jason Lemmer, Todd Bishop, Renee Krueger (Administrative Coordinator) and Heather Marheine

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 Wickham/Boyd to approve the December 7, 2023 minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried on a voice vote.
4. **Set Future Meetings**
Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. Rm 255/257/260, Service Center, Merrill
Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. Rm 255/257/260, Service Center, Merrill
5. **Claims – General Services –**
 - a. **Action as Necessary – Lokemoen Tar Damage** – Lemmer read the report stating what happened the day of the incident. The insurance company denied the claim after it was repaired. The committee discussed the claim. Simon entertained a motion to have the Highway Department review the accounts and pay the \$384 upon the receipt of the paid invoice. Wickham feels these are extenuating circumstances and that it is justified to pay only because the owner of the car was encouraged by an authority of Lincoln County to have the tar removed believing it would be paid but does not feel that it should be the Highway Department accounts to pay it. Boyd feels there needs to be a corrective action taken to the authority that gave the advice because of the situation it created. Wickham/Boyd motion to pay the tar removal upon the receipt of the paid invoice. All ayes. Motion carried on a voice vote. Simon stated he did discuss the issue with the Lincoln County authority who gave the ok.
 - b. **Winter Maintenance on CTH B.** Wickham was contacted by a taxpayer concerned that the road was not salted to the edges of the road. Wickham talked to the Town of Harrison Chairman who stated there have been no issues, Wickham, Hanz, Bishop and Lemmer drove out there and found no issues plus Wickham talked to the Sheriff's department to see if there were any reported accidents over the past 12 months in which the only one reported was a vehicle that slid out onto CTH B from a slippery side road. Lemmer discussed the procedures, the committee assured Lemmer the Highway Department is doing well, no action or recommendation needed. Will bring back in the future if needed.
6. **Financial Report** – discussed the 2023 projected budget and 2024 ARPA standings.
7. **Five year road plan, PACER ratings 3-4; 5** – Lemmer explained the ratings and estimated road plans. All discussed the information.
8. **Approve and Sign Commissioner's timesheets and Travel Expenses** – M/S Boyd/Wickham to approve and sign the timesheets as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried on a voice vote.
9. **Closed Session** – Boyd/Detert Motion for Closed Session to include Krueger and Lemmer Roll call vote. All ayes. Motion carried on a roll call vote.
Convene into closed session pursuant to: Wis. Stats. § 19.85(1)(e), "Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session", to wit: *Discuss gravel acquisition.*
10. **Open Session** – M/S Detert/Boyd to enter into open session. Motion carried on a roll call vote. No action taken
11. **Highway Employees**
 - a. **Openings and New Hires** – Lemmer reported 2 new Highway Workers have been hired. The first started 12/28/23 and the second 1/4/2024. Both hold a CDL and some experience plowing snow & agricultural. Currently down we are down 4 positions. Discussed hiring levels.
12. **Commissioner's Report on Highway Operations and Superintendents Monthly Progress Report** – Lemmer stated 2 of the four pickups are in, all but one Township LRIP funding has been submitted. Manufactured sand has been hauled for the Forestry Department's ARPA funding, County Road T Bridge & Town of Russell Bridge costs have been submitted for 100% reimbursement just waiting for awarding now. Boyd inquired about Heidemann Rd.
13. **Items for Next Meeting Agenda** – Heidemann Rd project update.
14. **Adjourn** – Simon stated meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully written and submitted by: John Hanz and Heather Marheine