

Lincoln County Highway Committee
Minutes from Thursday, March 7, 2024 (4:30 PM – 5:56 PM)
Service Center, 801 N. Sales Street – Room 255

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

Visitors (in person): John Hanz (Highway Commissioner), Dean Bowe (Forestry Administrator), Jason Lemmer, Todd Bishop, Lance Meier, Steve Koch, Christine Vorpapel 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/Detert to approve the February 1, 2024 minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried on a voice vote.
4. **Set Future Meetings**
Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. Rm 255/257/260, Service Center, Merrill
Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. Rm 255/257/260, Service Center, Merrill
5. **Claims – General Services** – None
6. **Financial Report** – Marheine stated we are within budget and is working on year end financials.
7. **Roof Repair – Merrill Shop over Parts Room and Old Shop** – Lemmer and Bishop reported on the roof history and the repair needs. Committee discussed current progress on Tomahawk Shop repairs and ideas for the Merrill Shop roof leak. Simon to follow up with John before the April meeting.
8. **Gravel Ideas** – Hanz informed the committee of his ideas on the STH 107 gravel pit. Committee discussed.
9. **Snowmobile Route – CTH CC from CTH K west to the Railroad Tracks** – Lemmer spoke with Forestry about re-routing the current route to the one listed above in order to make a safer route with less traffic involved. Then cleaning up the current route. Simon looking for a written report and an updated map showing the new route. Dean further explained the areas affected and reasoning behind wanting to move it. M/S Wickham/Bialecki to approve the route change as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote. Simon requests Dean to bring the route and mapping back to the Highway committee.
10. **CTH A Seasonal and/or Special Weight Limits and Request for Exception/Permit – Discussion and Possible Action** – Request from Lance Meier/Meier Farms for a permit or waiver from the Seasonal Weight Limits on CTH A for travel from the US Hwy 51/CTH A Interchange to a temporary driveway off CTH A. M/S Wickham/Bialecki to grant Meier Farms/Trucking a seasonal permit or waiver from the weight restrictions from the US Hwy 51/CTH A interchange east to the temporary driveway. Chair Simon called for discussion. M/S Boyd/Detert to amend the motion to make it only applicable to the sludge hauling and that it be a temporary waiver for years 2024 and 2025 or until CTH A is replaced. Discussion ensued on the amendment and about withdrawal of the permit for legitimate reasons or if something changes. Chair Simon stated the amendment as an approval of a temporary exemption/permit to Meier Farms/Trucking for years 2024 and 2025, or until CTH A is replaced, for the hauling of sludge from the Rhinelander mill only and that the permit can be withdrawn at any time. Additional discussion ensued about amending to include Committee approval pending Corporation Counsel legal review. Chair Simon inquired of Supervisor Boyd as the author of the amendment if he would accept the additional amendment to include approval with review by Corporation Counsel for legality and so long as Corporation Counsel did not find fault with it. Supervisor Boyd accepted the additional amendment. Additional discussion on the amendment. Supervisor Bialecki inquired about withdrawing his second on the original motion. Additional discussion. Chair Simon called the question on the amendment. Amendment passed on voice vote. Amended motion before the Committee for action. Additional discussion ensued. Chair Simon called the question on the amended motion. Amended motion passed on voice vote. Committee directed Corporation Counsel to review the matter as soon as possible.
11. **Contingency Money for 2024** – Simon stated Finance will report the final numbers once they are known.
12. **Approve and Sign Commissioner's Timesheets and Travel Expenses** – M/S Bialecki/Wickham to approve and sign the timesheets as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried on a voice vote.
13. **Highway Employees**
 - a. **Openings and New Hires** – Hanz stated one new hire, three current openings
 - b. **Summer Help** – One prior year worker returning and two new applicants hired
14. **Commissioner's Report on Highway Operations and Superintendents Monthly Progress Report** – Boyd inquired about the STH 64 trimming project. Detert explained the process has not been done in so many years that it needed to be cut way back for visual safety. Lemmer stated the State requested the County clean up within reason on STH 64. The County was working under the State's direction. Bishop explained his understanding and process working with the State on these projects.
 - a. **Upcoming Request for Proposals** Hanz explained there are Asphalt, Emulsion oil and pulverizing bids coming in soon. Submitting price to Town of Merrill, all others need to wait for their SMAs.
15. **Items for Next Meeting Agenda** Corporation Counsel opinion on the CTH A proposal, building repairs, bid documents.
16. **Adjourn** – Simon stated meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully written and submitted by: Jason Lemmer and Heather Marheine