

**LINCOLN COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes from Monday, April 8, 2024 (4:00 PM – 5:45 PM)**  
**Service Center, 801 N Sales Street – Room 247**

**Members Present (in person):** Gene Simon, Ken Wickham, Bill Bialecki, Randy Detert and Jesse Boyd  
**Visitors (in person):** Don Friske, Highway Commissioner John Hanz, Todd Bishop, Administrative Coordinator Renee Krueger, Corporation Counsel Karry Johnson, Ken Kraklow, Steve Uttech, Leo Leiskau, Tom Barkley, Jason Lemmer, Christine Vorpapel, Brett Rozek and Heather Marheine  
**Visitors (Via Teleconference):** Greg Hartwig, Julie Allen, Sam Fenske and Lee Vander Sanden,

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. **Public Comment** – Kraklow (a logger) inquired if there were other options to receive a permit other than from the Highway Commissioner while the weight limits are on. Chairman Simon stating anyone can talk to their County Supervisor to make a request.
3. **Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings** – M/S Bialecki/Detert approve corrected as indicated. All ayes. Motion carried on a voice vote.
4. **Set Future Meeting(s)** – to be decided after new committee is chosen.
5. **Claims - General Services** – nothing new to report.
6. **Financial Report** – Marheine noted department is within the budget.
7. **Service Recognition – Heather Marheine for 15 Years’ of Service Recognition and Burl Byer for 30 Years’ of Service** – Simon thanked both for their years of service.
8. **Snowmobile Route – CTH C from CTH K west to the Railroad Tracks** – Bowe explained the map provided in the packet.
9. **Discussion on Salt Purchases and Usage for Winter** – Lemmer reported on the winter use of sand/salt entire county and the amount ordered for 2024 then verified that the salt is ordered via state bid.
10. **Approve and Sign Commissioner’s Timesheets and Travel Expenses** – None to present.
11. **Highway Employees**
  - a. **Openings and New Hires** –The Highway Department is currently five employees short on the crew.
  - b. **Summer Help** – Lemmer reported that one summer help person started in Merrill two weeks ago, two will be joining the Tomahawk crew in May. Looking to hire one more for the summer season.
12. **Commissioner’s Report on Highway Operations and Superintendents Monthly Progress Report** – Lemmer updated the committee on the DOT work, cutting around bridges, tarring that has been done, and chip seal rock has been hauled for the season. The plan is to pulverizing & pave early.
  - a. **Upcoming Request for Proposals** – Blades – it will be a minimal order, possibly a 1 ton truck and a pickup.
  - b. **Advanced Weighing Systems** – Update software – Scale for the Merrill & Tomahawk shops and the Solid Waste Department.
  - c. **Corporation Counsel Opinion on CTH A weight limits** – Corporation Counsel Johnson responded to the Chair’s questions regarding CTH A.
  - d. **Weight Limits** – Lemmer stated the weight limits are off on all roads except Class “B” roads and the gravel portion of CTH E which will remain on for at least 2 more weeks.
13. **Items for Next Meeting Agenda** – none known at this time.
14. **Consider motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to sec. 19.85(1)(b), Wis. Stats. for the purpose of considering dismissal, demotion, licensing or discipline of any public employee or person licensed by a board or commission or the investigation of charges against such person, or considering the grant or denial of tenure for a university faculty member, and the taking of formal action on any such matter; provided that the faculty member or other public employee or person licensed is given actual notice of any evidentiary hearing which may be held prior to final action being taken and of any meeting at which final action may be taken. The notice shall contain a statement that the person has the right to demand that**

the evidentiary hearing or meeting be held in open session. This paragraph and par. (f) do not apply to any such evidentiary hearing or meeting where the employee or person licensed requests that an open session be held and sec. 19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats. considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, to wit: Review of Highway Commissioner's Conduct and Performance and review of evidence related to same. (NOTE: the Committee will not conduct a full due process hearing in closed session. The Highway Commissioner shall be provided the opportunity to demand the Committee not convene in closed session.) - M/S Detert/Wickham to go into closed session to include Corporation Counsel Johnson, Administrative Coordinator Krueger and Supervisor Friske if he returns and requests to join. Roll call vote – All ayes. Highway Commissioner Hanz was later brought into the closed session.

15. **Reconvene to Open Session**– M/S Boyd/Detert to reconvene to open session upon the request of Highway Commissioner Hanz. All ayes. Motion passed on a roll call vote. Corporation Counsel Johnson explained and clarified the process for the evidentiary hearing. Administrative coordinator Krueger presented information on behalf of the County. Partial Transcript from the March 7, 2024 meeting was read. Commissioner Hanz provided responsive information, discussed permitting process and answered questions from Committee members. No further information to be presented. Evidentiary hearing concluded.
16. **Consider motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to sec. 19.85(1)(a), Wis. Stats. for purpose of deliberating concerning a case which was the subject of any judicial or quasi-judicial trial or hearing before the Committee, to wit: to deliberate and potentially reach a decision on a recommendation to the full County Board concerning the discipline, up to and including termination, of the Highway Commissioner.** - M/S Boyd/Detert to go into closed session to include the Highway Committee members present, Corporation Counsel Johnson, Administrative Coordinator Krueger and Supervisor Friske. Roll call vote. All ayes.
17. **Take necessary action, if any, on matters discussed in closed session** – M/S Boyd/Wickham to reconvene to open session. Roll call vote. All ayes. M/S Bialecki/Boyd to recommend termination to the full County Board and Hanz to remain on paid administrative leave pending that decision. Motion carried on a voice vote.
18. **Adjourn** – Simon adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully written and submitted by: Jason Lemmer and Heather Marheine