

Barron County Highway Committee
Thursday, April 1, 2021 - 8:00 a.m.
Veteran's Memorial Auditorium

MINUTES

Members Present: Don Horstman, Marv Thompson, Dale Heinecke, Roberta Mosentine, Jim Gores

Others Present: Jeff French, Louie Okey, Mark Servi, Jodi Busch, Wendy Coleman, Nate Nelson, Lori Raven, Amy Okey

The Highway Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Horstman at 8:00 a.m. on April 1, 2021.

Public meeting notification was read by Servi confirming compliance with open meeting requirements.

Motion: (Gores / Heinecke) to approve the agenda with the change of moving item #12a *Highway Financial Update* between items #8 *Potential Gravel Property Purchase* and #9 *ATV / UTV Routes on County Highways* and the correction on #10 to be CTH A road rather than bridge. Motion carried.

Motion: (Mosentine / Heinecke) to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Servi introduced Nate Nelson, Highway Operations Manager and Lori Raven, Engineering Technician.

Use of Fund Balance to Develop Road Construction / Repair Plans for Future Projects: Servi explained anticipated increase in road funding for future projects and would like to hire a design consultant to prepare plans for a couple of future projects including a portion of CTH P and a portion of CTH U. Servi explained that in the past funding has become available for "shovel-ready" projects and proceeding with the design phase through local funding would be less expensive and quicker than through DOT funding options. Discussion. **Motion:** (Heinecke / Mosentine) to allocate up to \$250,000 of Highway Fund Balance to develop road construction / repair plans for future projects. Motion carried. Resolution will be drafted for Executive and County Board.

Purchase of Chip Spreader: Servi gave an update on potential purchase of chip spreader and discussed performing work for other Counties to make purchase feasible. Due to current costs, planning to delay purchase to 2022 or order late in 2021. Discussion with no action taken.

Potential Gravel Property Purchase: Family is considering the County's offer as well as others but have not received any response at this time.

Financial Update: Busch reviewed year to date financials for the Highway funds. There are no concerns at this time.

ATV / UTV Routes on County Highways - Review / Approve Resolution & Ordinance Change(s): Servi reviewed the existing ordinance, proposed process for ATV/UTV routes on the county highways as well as a map of existing and suggested portions of county highways to allow ATV/UTV traffic. Discussed

criteria that would be considered for allowing ATV/UTV usage but each section will be reviewed individually. Suggesting to rescind existing ordinance and recreate based on new policy. Servi will work with Corporation Counsel for wording. **Motion:** (Thompson / Heinecke) to rescind the existing resolution and ordinance and take new resolution with policy changes and new ordinance with current and proposed ATV/UTV route changes to County Board for approval. Motion carried.

Consultant Selection - CTH A Road Project: Proposals were received from Ayres Associates, CBS Squared, Cooper Engineering, Corre, JT and Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH). Servi developed criteria and ranked as follows: 1st - Corre, 2nd - CBS Squared and 3rd - SEH. Servi has good experience with Corre and in proposal they recognized potential for acceleration funding. Servi recommends moving forward with Corre and explained the process moving forward. **Motion:** (Mosentine / Gores) to rank consultants as 1st - Corre, 2nd - CBS Squared and 3rd - SEH and have Servi proceed. Discussion. Motion carried.

Detour Request - CTH SS - City of Chetek: A request from the Chetek Chamber for a detour of CTH SS in the City of Chetek was received to allow closure for their parade. City would be responsible for signage and traffic control. **Motion:** (Gores / Thompson) to approve the request to detour CTH SS for the Chetek parade. Carried

Staff Reports

- Commissioner's Report
Highway Facility Update: The bid opening for Bid Package # 3 will be this afternoon. Staff are working on an issue with historical designation on the highway shop building slowing up the grading permit with the DNR. There was no issue when permits were issued for the new fuel facility.
- Crew Update: Spring activities are underway. Crushing and hot mix plants are starting to run. New mechanic is doing well. Summer help recruitment has started with an anticipated start date around May 10th.
- Project Update: State salt prices have been locked in for 3% price increase. Purchased an additional 1,000 tons of County salt which brings our total inventory to a 1.5 year supply. Working on scheduling summer work. Road bans are in place and a portion of CTH U was also posted this year due to paving not being completed. Bridge projects are in process. Work on the CTH M bridge over German Creek, just south of USH 8 will begin on April 7 and will require CTH M to closed to traffic for the duration of the project. County staff will be performing a portion of the work on this bridge which will qualify as a portion of the County match funds for CHP funding. An exception to standards application has been submitted for some grading work that staff will complete on CTH A.
- Sand Haul Routes: CTH M haul route has ended today. Other routes are functioning as intended and no new routes have been requested.
- WCHA / NACE / NACo Update: NACE Virtual conference will be held the end of April. Servi, Nelson and Raven will attend. NACE and NACo are reviewing the proposed infrastructure bill released by White House. NACo conference has been moved from Texas to Maryland (just outside of DC) and will be in person. WCHA training / conference coming

up. Work zone safety proposals were explained by Servi. WCHA conducting interviews for Deputy Director.

Dummy Lake Association says that culverts are functioning well.

Edit Lists: No questions or concerns noted.

Future Agenda Items: None noted.

Set Future Meeting Dates: May 13th at 8:00 a.m. at the Highway Office

The Highway Committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:08 a.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Wendy Coleman, Executive Assistant

Minutes are not official until approved by the Highway Committee at their next meeting.

DRAFT