

Barron County Highway Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 6, 2022 – 8:00 a.m.
Barron County Highway Department Conference Room

Members Present In Person: Dale Heinecke, Bill Effertz, Marv Thompson, Roberta Mosentine, Jim Gores

Members Present Virtually: None

Others Present: Mark Servi, Louie Okey, Wendy Coleman, Jeff French, Nate Nelson, Jim Gores, Lori Raven, Bruce Willers

The Highway Committee was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 6, 2022 by Chair Thompson.

Servi confirmed public meeting notification confirming compliance with open meeting requirements.

Motion: (Heinecke / Mosentine) to approve the agenda as presented. Carried

Motion: (Mosentine / Effertz) to approve the minutes from September 1, 2022. Carried

There were no comments from the public.

Holiday Parade Road Closure Request: Chetek Chamber has made their annual request for a road closure on 12-3-22 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on CTH SS for their holiday parade. City will take care of traffic control. Discussion. **Motion:** (Gores / Effertz) to approve the City of Chetek request for closure of CTH SS from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on 12-3-22 for the holiday parade. Carried

Speed Limits - Haugen: Servi projected a map showing the area of CTH V entering the Village of Haugen and crossing CTH SS. The Village of Haugen has expressed concerns with the speed of traffic coming into the Village on CTH V and the intersection of CTH V and CTH SS. Flashing light will be added to the speed limit sign to see if that helps before considering reducing to 35 mph. Intersection does not meet the criteria for a 4-way stop. Speed limit on CTH SS speed from Village limits could be reduced to 25 mph by Statute. Concern of the visibility at the intersection as well as potential changes. Discussion. **Motion:** (Effertz / Heinecke) to reduce the speed limit on CTH SS from 55 mph to 25 mph beginning about 25 feet south of Gardner Street and returning to 55 mph at the other side of the box culvert. Carried

There was a fatal accident off of the intersection of CTH V and Hwy 48 where the driver went into water and drowned. There have been 5 accidents including 2 fatalities near this location. There is signage and rumble strips however an additional sign indicating the end route of CTH V and flashing lights will be added.

Speed Limits - CTH SS: CTH SS south of the City of Rice Lake limits in the southbound direction. Servi received a request to keep the reduced speed to 45 mph for a further approximately 1 mile distance to the intersection of CTH SS and 16 ½ Avenue. A speed study would be required to reduce the speed on this stretch of road and would likely not meet the criteria for the reduced speed. Discussion with no action taken.

Security at Site Facility: French suggesting that an ordinance be developed to establish specific areas at the Highway Department site where public is allowed access and parking. Discussion. **Motion:** (Effertz / Mosentine) to direct staff to develop an ordinance to establish public access and parking areas at the Highway . Carried

Farming on Highway Way Right of Way: Over the years, there have been issues with crops being planted in the ROW. In the past, letters have been sent to the property owners where there is an issue. There is a current issue on CTH M which needs to be addressed. Letter to be sent and staff will start putting a press release out annually in the spring. County Survey to survey the property if necessary.

ATV/UTV Signing Project Update: Raven gave an update on the signage for the ATV/UTV project. Other counties have signs posted that all county roads are open unless otherwise posted. Recreation Deputy Wolfe has confirmed with the DNR that this type of signage is allowable and would significantly reduce the number of signs and cost of installation for the project. Raven will confirm that all signage meets State requirements.

Staff Reports

Financial Update: No financial update was provided this month.

Commissioner's Report:

Highway Facility Update: Construction on the facility continues. Cabinet work and finish work are in process. Office staff and mechanics are expected to move in early November.

Crew Update: Lee Stokes has announced his retirement and new hire is starting 10-17-22. There is an average of 4.5 crew members gone per day for leave purposes. There are currently 41 field & shop crewmembers.

Nelson gave an overview of current projects remaining for the season. Mowing will be completed on the County system and will move back to the State system. Culvert and patching work will continue. Silver Lake parking project is waiting on DNR approval and will be postponed until next year. A few town projects remain. We will be putting the second map of asphalt on CTH A from Dallas to STH 25 beginning on Monday, October 10.

Project Update: Servi provided a project update. CTH A is complete from CTH I to Dallas; CTH P (CTH A to 7 ½ Avenue) will be constructed next year; CTH U (CTH A to the south County Line) design will be paused at 60% until funding is secure. This will be an “on the shelf” plan set. Neither the CTH U project or the CTH D project (Chetek to Rusk County Line) received funding in the recently announced STP project cycle. Servi explained how the funding process

works. CTH SS bridge over the Chetek River is nearing end of design phase; TAP bike grant waiting on clarification of selection of consultant process from the State. Project Scoping meeting for the Decker Drive was held 10-4-22 with SRF and the State. SRF now will be developing the contract proposal.

Sand Haul Routes

Update on Existing Routes: No report or changes

Additional Routes: No report or changes.

WCHA / NACE / NACo Update: WCHA meeting update by Thompson & Serv. WCHA advertising for Executive Director; Regional meeting will be held 10-26-22 in Hayward and Winter Road School is coming up. No update NACE or NACo at this time.

Future Agenda Items: Topics for Heart of the North Meeting

Next Meeting Date: November 3rd at 8:00

The Highway Committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:18 a.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Wendy Coleman, Executive Assistant

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