

**Barron County Highway Committee Meeting**  
**July 6, 2023 - 8:00 a.m.**  
**Barron County Highway Conference Room**

**Members Present in Person:** Dale Heinecke, Bill Effertz, Roberta Mosentine, Jim Gores,  
**Members Present Virtually:** None

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

The Highway Committee meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Gores at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 6, 2023.

Servi confirmed the proper posting of the meeting and compliance with open meeting requirements.

Servi requested to move agenda item 11 *Closed Session to Review and Discuss Next Steps and Negotiating Strategy, City of Rice Lake and Menards for Possible Construction of Roundabout at County Hwy O and Wisconsin Avenue and Decker Drive Design Configuration* to item 15a. **Motion:** (Mosentine / Effertz) to approve the agenda as suggested with moving item 11 to 15a. Carried

**Motion:** (Heinecke / Mosentine) to approve the Minutes of June 1, 2023. Carried

Public Comment: None

Dedicating a Section of CTH SS as the Officer Emily Breidenbach and Officer Hunter Scheel Memorial Highway: Servi provided information on the request to dedicate a portion of CTH SS as a memorial to the fallen Officers. There would be a separate sign put up but the name of the road would not change. Servi recommending changing the word renaming to dedicating on the resolution. **Motion:** (Effertz / Heinecke) to recommend approval of the resolution with the recommended wording change from renaming to dedicating. Carried with Effertz, Heinecke, Gores and Mosentine voting in favor.

LRIP Administration: Servi disclosed that he will be going to work for the Wisconsin Towns Association and will be providing assistance with the LRIP program for municipalities in the southern part of the State and explained that the Wisconsin Towns Association will be taking over the Town portion of the LRIP administration. This will be a pilot program and the Towns Association will be liable party. A program administrator will be assigned by the WTA to the Towns to provide assistance with the application and administration process. WI DOT is in support of the pilot program and counties will maintain the CHIPS program. **Motion:** (Effertz / Mosentine) to approve transfer of the LRIP administration and for the County to sign the agreement and forward to Wisconsin County Highway Association (WCHA). Carried

Sale of Fuel Truck: The sale of this truck has been discussed over the past couple of months. Truck was put on Wisconsin Public Surplus auction and did not receive the minimum bid of \$40,000. Buffalo

County has maintained their previous offer of \$40,000. **Motion:** (Mosentine / Heinecke) to approve the sale of the fuel truck to Buffalo County. Carried

Right of Way Inquiry USH 8 and CTH K: Servi projected the area of Highway 8 & CTH K roundabout near Turtle Lake. The restaurant owner has requested to purchase or lease the area owned by the State near the roundabout for additional parking. County staff are not in favor of the request as snow is piled in that area during the winter and also has concerns of fencing the property. **Motion:** (Heinecke / Mosentine) to recommend that State not sell or lease the property and to provide a list of concerns. Carried

Discussion and Action Sale of Right of Way CTH H: Servi showed the area of CTH H right of way that remains as “reserved right of way” on the property deed after CTH H was moved a number of years ago. There is a concern of driveway access if a portion of the property is sold off and Servi has discussed this with the landowner. Discussion. **Motion:** (Effertz / Mosentine) to allow Servi and Corporation Counsel to work with Mr. Ruppel to complete the sale of the excess right of way provided conditions are met and to clean up this portion of the right of way no longer in use. Carried.

#### Staff Reports

Financial Update: Busch provided the financial update through May. Revenues are up and expenses are also up including utility costs and winter maintenance. Indirect costs were posted earlier than previous years. Snow and ice budget will need to be monitored for the last months of the year. Payroll overtime costs are up due to weekend storms.

Mechanic intern has resigned for other employment.

#### Operational Report

Facility & Equipment Report: Servi gave an update on equipment and facility. A new quad-axle truck was bid and awarded to Mid-State and patrol trucks have been awarded to Mid-State due to delivery date. There are still delays in acquiring new equipment and Servi suggests we will need to continue to pre-order a year ahead for the foreseeable future. There was a breakdown at the asphalt plant and the plant was out of service about 3 days.

Highway Facility Update: Paving at the new facility has started and will go until the paving allocation is gone. Curb and gutter is in discussion based on the method of work. Fencing work should continue today. There are issues with the IT room with necessary cooling capacity and no heating / cooling in the IT office area as well as no ability to shut down one server and maintain county operations. Will be requesting \$40,000 in general fund balance to cover the needed corrections. There was no flag pole in the facility site plans but staff will be putting one up.

French indicated that a special County Board meeting may be scheduled on July 28 to discuss the Highway facility project.

Operations Manager’s Report: Larry Mazel will be retiring on July 20. Nelson gave update on current and upcoming projects including paving the parking area; scrub seal on Highway 25, chip sealing and

crack filling. State mowing should be mostly completed next week and will move on to County system. There will be a pavement patch done at Highway 48 and Highway 25.

Commissioner's Report: Servi is starting to transition for retirement and Nelson will serve as interim Commissioner and Clay Paulson will transition to interim Operations Manager. Mak Kaiser will become building project point of contact. Chip spreader will be rented out help cover the cost of the equipment.

Project Update: Four bridges have received funding. 3 of the 4 will be funded 100%. CTH O will be at 80% / 20% match. Consultants will be hired upon DOT approval. Current projects CTH P from P to 7th; CTH SS bridge; Decker Drive is nearing end of design phase; speed study on CTH SS has been scheduled; DOT has contacted Servi regarding using CTH V as a detour route for Highway 48 in 2027.

Sand Haul Routes: All companies are current on payments;

WCHA: Kennedy has resigned; State budget was signed with 2% increase for GTA; cost share for Towns was vetoed but some additional town funding was included; \$150M for critical agriculture routes and LRIP supplement was approved.

Voucher edit lists: There were no questions or concerns regarding the voucher edit lists

Future agenda items: highway facility and grounds public access policy

Closed session:

Closed Session to Review and Discuss Next Steps and Negotiating Strategy, City of Rice Lake and Menards for Possible Construction of Roundabout at County Hwy O and Wisconsin Avenue and Decker Drive Design Configuration: **Motion:** (Effertz / Mosentine) to go into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds or conducting other specific public business or whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session and Section 19.85(1)(g) for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved based upon the above description with closed session to include all Committee French, Nelson and Servi. Carried with Effertz, Mosentine, Gores and Heinecke voting in favor.

**Motion:** (Effertz / Heinecke) to return to open session. Carried

There was no action taken in open session.

The Highway Committee adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:12 a.m.

Open Session Minutes submitted by Wendy Coleman, Executive Assistant

Closed Session Minutes submitted by Jeff French, County Administrator

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