

Barron County Highway Committee Meeting

August 3, 2023 Minutes – 8:00 a.m.

Committee Members Attended in Person: Bill Effertz, Dale Heinecke, Roberta Mosentine, Marv Thompson

Committee Members Attended Virtually: None.

Committee Members Absent: Jim Gores

Staff Present: Jodi Busch, Jeff French, Nate Nelson, Louie Okey, Mark Servi, Lori Raven, MAK Kaiser, Jennifer Holub

Staff Present Virtually: None.

Others Present: None.

The Highway Committee meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chair Thompson

Approve the agenda: (Mosentine/Heinecke) to approve the agenda as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Approve the July 6, 2023 minutes: **(Heinecke/Mosentine)** All in favor. Carried.

Public Comment: None at this time.

Approval of 2024 Budget: Busch presented the 2024 budget and answered questions from the Committee. **Motion:** to approve the budget as presented **(Mosentine/Heinecke)**. All in favor. Carried.

Highway Facility and Grounds – Public Access Ordinance: Servi discussed the need to control areas in which the public is allowed. Access control would be via signage. **Motion:** to approve the ordinance as presented **(Effertz/Heinecke)**. All in favor. Carried.

Right-of-Way Update – USH 8 and CTH K: Servi indicated DOT acknowledged Barron County's concerns and decided not to lease the right-of-way. No action taken.

Update on Designation of CTH SS: Servi indicated the signs are ordered and waiting for the local police departments and the Sheriff's Department to plan a dedication date and time. No action taken.

Update on Sale of Excess Right-of-Way – CTH H: Servi indicated the payment has been received and the transaction is complete. No action taken.

Update on Donatelle Pit: Servi discussed his meeting with Donatelle, anticipated material usage, and anticipated reclamation and reforestation plans. Corporation Counsel will work with Donatelle to update necessary paperwork. No action taken.

Staff Reports

Facility and Equipment Report: Kaiser indicated mechanics are now fully staffed, new oils are working great and waiting for Zahl to come back and adjust lube lines, maintenance on winter equipment is almost done and staying ahead of the summer maintenance.

Highway Facility Update: Servi said primary focus is UH2 and the IT room. Kaiser updated on the needs for the manhole repair. Servi discussed various curb and gutter needs. Servi recommended authorization of some additional funds for paving of the two access points.

Operation's Manager Update: Nelson indicated chip seal work is finished and they've moved into blade patching and paving work for both towns and county projects. Line painters are in the county and about 70 percent done with county work and then moving onto town work. Half of the culvert installations are done. Three boat landing projects still need to be completed.

Commissioner's Report: Servi discussed the one retirement and subsequent recruitment process. Outside of the Commissioner's position, the department is back to 100 percent staffing levels.

Project Update: Servi indicated the bridge on CTH SS is now complete and the road is open. CTH P project is now being paved and a contractor progress update should be coming in today. PBM project on STH 25 is completed. County chip seal projects are complete. Remaining shop site paving is dependent upon funding and curb and gutter. Decker Drive design has been submitted; bid letting will be in spring of 2024 with construction to follow. CTH U 60 percent plans are complete; STP-Rural applications are due October 27th; once approved and design is 100% complete, right-of-way purchases can begin. A new federal grant opportunity is available for applications on August 14th; Raven will submit the application based on the needs on CTH D from Chetek to the east county line. Raven and Nelson are part of the TAP Grant Committee and will be meeting next week to get things established. There are four local bridges that have been approved for DOT funding; CTH O was approved with 80/20 funding; CTH F, Town of Barron, and Town of Almena bridges were approved with 100 percent funding; the RFPs are out to the engineering firms and are due back to the Department by August 14th, at which time the staff will review and bring a recommendation to the Committee in September. CTH KK has been approved as a CHIP project in 2024. A speed study has been completed on CTH SS and the DOT recommendation is to drop the speed limit down to 45MPH from the current 55MPH.

Local bridge program funding applications are due October 27th.

Two bridges (Town of Barron and Town of Sumner) qualify for replacement funding due to an efficiency rating less than 50 percent.

CTH M bridge in the Town of Sumner needs a rehabilitation study and funding for a new deck.

Town of Dovre bridge is scheduled for a wood density evaluation and could fall below 50 percent efficiency. If it does, it will qualify for replacement funding. If it doesn't, it will likely qualify for funding in other areas.

Town of Clinton bridge is working on testing and rehabilitation study.

Town of Almena bridge qualifies for cap replacement.

Town of Dallas bridge qualifies for rehabilitation study.

Two bridges in the Town of Doyle qualify, but the Town is not ready and has been encouraged to apply in the funding cycle opening in spring 2024.

Sand Haul Routes: Servi indicated there are only two active haulers. Everyone is current and contracts are up-to-date.

WCHA Update: Executive Committee is looking to hire a Deputy Director.

NACE Update: nothing at this time.

NACo Update: nothing at this time.

Edit List: Edit lists were available with no questions or concerns.

Future Agenda Items: banner permit, speed study, design consultant selections

Set Future Meeting Date: September 7, 2023, at 8:00 a.m.

Motion to adjourn: meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:55 a.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Jennifer Holub, Account Technician