

Barron County Highway Committee Meeting

January 8th, 2026 Minutes – 8:00 a.m.

Committee Members Attended in Person: Dennis Jenkins, Roberta Mosentine, Pete Olson, Marv Thompson, Karolyn Bartlett (alternate for Bill Effertz)

Committee Members Attended Virtually: None.

Committee Members Absent: Bill Effertz.

Staff Present: Jodi Busch, Jen Dalsbo, Michelle Drury, Jeff French, Mike Jones, Nate Nelson, Joe Olson, Lori Raven

Staff Present Virtually: None.

Others Present: Ryan Urban from Barron News Shield.

Others Present Virtually: None

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

Approve the agenda: (Mosentine / Jenkins) to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approve the Dec. 4th, 2025 minutes: Notes were to remove Louie Okey from the Committee Members Absent section as he is not a committee member. **(Olson / Jenkins)**. All in favor. Carried.

Public Comment: None.

Carryover of Unspent Equipment Acquisition Funds: Discussion. Motion to authorize the carryover not to exceed \$170,000.00 on equipment. **(Olson / Jenkins)**. All in favor. Carried.

Blacktopping at Museum: Discussion. Motion to allow the Barron County Highway Department to pave the parking lot for the expansion of their visitor parking area. **(Olson / Mosentine)**. All in favor. Carried.

Approval of ATV Ordinance on State Highway 48: Discussion. Motion to approve the ordinance to open the ATV/UTV road access on Highway 48 from 20 ¼ St/Hammond Ave to the north junction of 21st Street. **(Jenkins / Karolyn)**. All in favor. Carried.

Financial Report: Busch presented. No concerns.

Facility and Equipment Report: Mike Jones is filling in as interim. Working on recalls and waiting on trucks/equipment. Working on setting up trainings to keep mechanics up to date with education on tools and equipment. Working with getting contractors for some building maintenance that needs to be fixed.

Operation's Manager Report: Joe Olson is the new Operation's Manager. We were working on mowing until weather and storms came up, now they are parked and they will start up as weather permits. Have been mixing salt/sand and brine for operations to continue to be prepared for any future storms or bad

weather that comes up. Lori is working on permits for upcoming summer work, such as grading, DNR, boat landings, roads, storm water. Working on inventory to close our year end.

Commissioner's Report: Working on different funding and reimbursements for programs with projects that are upcoming and the County Highway D project that was completed. Joe has accepted the position of the new Operations Manager. Mike Jones is filling in as Facilities and Equipment Manager, there will be a switch next week as another in-house applicant is interested in the position. This process helps applicants have a better understanding of the position and its duties. As a whole, we are working as a team with more communication to get through changes and continue to keep our work going smoothly for the county. We will be looking at hiring 3 more operators coming up. Ride a longs are set up and there has been interest shown and waivers signed, just waiting for a "safe" storm to take persons out through.

Project Update: None.

WCHA/NACE/NACo Update: Nothing at this time.

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

Future Agenda Items: Adding in Engineering Technician Report under Staff Reports.

Set Future Meeting Date: February, 5th 2026 at 8:00 am.

Motion to adjourn: by unanimous consent at 8:56 am.

Minutes submitted by:

Jen Dalsbo, Administrative Assistant II