



Barron County Highway Committee

Thursday, May 7th, 2026 Minutes – 8:00 a.m.

Barron County Highway Department Facility – Committee Room
260 N 7th St – Barron, W 54812

AMENDED MINUTES:

Members Present: Dennis Jenkins, Pete Olson, Craig Turcott, Diane Vaughn, Brad Wolf

Attending Virtually: None.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Administrative Assistant II - Jen Dalsbo, Financial Director - Michelle Drury, County Administrator - Jeff French, County Board Supervisor - Jim Gores, Account Technician - Jen Holub, Facility and Equipment Manager - Mike Jones, Highway Commissioner - Nate Nelson, County Board Supervisor - Louie Okey, Operations Manager - Joe Olson, Engineering Technician - Lori Raven

Call Meeting to Order: Administrator French called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

Approve the Agenda: Motion: (Olson/Jenkins) to approve. Carried.

Approve the April 2nd, 2026 Minutes: Motion: (Jenkins/Turcott) to approve. Carried.

Public Comment: Dennis Roshell -1128 CTH O in Barron discussed his concerns on the CTH O and Hwy 8 intersection. Jim Gores – 1269 6th Street in Almena would like his concerns on CTH P noted.

Elect Chair: Motion: (Jenkins/Turcott) to nominate Olson as Chair. **Motion: (Wolf /Jenkins)** to close nominations and elect Olson as Chair. Carried.

Elect Vice Chair: Motion: (Olson/Turcott) to nominate Jenkins as Vice Chair. **Motion: (Vaughn/Turcott)** to close nominations and elect Jenkins as Vice Chair. Carried.

Elect Executive Committee Representative: Dennis Jenkins and Pete Olson self-nominated to serve as the Executive Representative. **Motion: (Jenkins/Wolf)** to place Jenkins on the ballot. **Motion: (Olson/Turcott)** to place Olson on the ballot. Ballot vote recorded as Olson 3 votes and Jenkins 2 votes. Ballots were counted by County Board Supervisors Okey and Gores. Olson was elected as the Executive Representative.

Financial Report: Financial Director Drury presented. No action taken.

Discussion of Virtual Attendance at Committee Meetings: Motion: (Jenkins/Turcott) to allow virtual attendance by Highway Committee members. Carried.

CTH O and Hwy 8 Intersection: Highway Commissioner Nelson explained the State jurisdictional control over intersection of County Highway O with Highway 8 in the Town of Barron. Nelson will draft letter and contact the State with safety concerns regarding the intersection.

Transportation Development Association Roundtable – May 19th, Eau Claire, WI: Legislative and Highway Commissioners from the State will be in attendance.

Pokegama Lake Culvert 9 ¾ Ave and Cooper Engineering Billing: Highway Commissioner Nelson reviewed the information and no further action will be taken at this time.

Facility and Equipment Report: Facility & Equipment Manager Jones reviewed newly acquired equipment which includes: three new skid steers and a new quad axle truck with the S13 engine. He is also researching tractors for ditch mowing. A new mechanic was hired to replace an open position and one more remains open with recruitment in process.

Operation's Manager Report: Operations Manager Olson noted the end of brushing on State, ATV gravel hauls and construction on Bayer Ave in Village of Cameron is near completion. Upcoming projects include paving on CTH VV, bridge washing, finishing shouldering on CTH D, blade patching, patching, crack filling, and mowing operations.

Engineering Technician's Report: Engineering Technician Raven hosted trainings in April. This construction season will include 75 culvert installations, 2 boat landings, and paint marking to be finished.

Commissioner's Report: Highway Commissioner Nelson reviewed the concern on CTH P and explained the future reconstruction and repairing of this road, as well as what can be done in the meantime to maintain the road until more funding can be granted. Nelson welcomed the new committee members, explained the process of recruiting and training new hires for fulltime and seasonal staff, and reviewed future projects.

Project Update: None.

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

Edit List: Reviewed.

Future Agenda Items: Fixed Assets and End of Year Financials.

Set Future Meeting Date: Thursday, June 4th, 2026 at 8:00am at the Highway Facility in Barron.

Motion to Adjourn: By unanimous consent at 9:28am.

Minutes submitted by:

Jen Dalsbo, Administrative Assistant II