

**JOINT MINUTES**  
Eau Claire County  
**Committee on Finance & Budget**  
**Highway Committee**  
Thursday, February 24, 2022  
**8:00 a.m.**  
Webex Conference Call

**Committee on Finance & Budget Members present:** Supervisors Steve Chilson, Jim Dunning, Robin Leary, Stella Pagonis, Gerald Wilkie, Nick Smiar (ex-officio)

**Highway Committee:** Supervisors Nathan Anderson, Carl Anton, Steve Chilson, Judy Gatlin, Nathan Otto

**Staff present:** Norb Kirk, Finance Director; Kathryn Schauf, County Administrator; Jon Johnson, Highway Commissioner; Amy Weiss, Senior Accounting Manager

Chair Pagonis called the Committee on Finance & Budget to order at 8:00 am.

Chair Chilson called the Highway Committee to order at 8:00 am and confirmed compliance with open meetings law.

The committee clerk took roll call for both committees. Members present are indicated above.

No members of the public wished to speak.

Jon Johnson presented information on the history of the county PACER rating. This included conversation surrounding the historical Highway levy and current bond issues. The county maintains about 420 miles of roadway, which has held steady over the last 20 years. Funding is allocated based on use and functionality of roadways. A reduction in road investment will impact the County's general transportation aids (GTA). The GTA analysis is done over 5 years. GTA funds are put towards the road maintenance programs.

A PACER rating of 6 is at the bottom of fair condition, and should be the minimum the county would like the roads at. The county's total PACER rating is an average of all roads. Supervisor Chilson believes that the county's goal should be a PACER rating of 6.5-7.

The capital improvement program includes an allocation for bridges and culverts (structures). The bridge evaluation is complete on a percentage level (100% is brand new; 50% needs replacement). The Highway Commissioner is responsible for the health of county bridges. The county currently does inspections for all county and city structures. The county's vehicle registration fee (VRF) funds structure maintenance and replacement.

Jon Johnson gave some highlights from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation (BIL) presentation. Wisconsin has been allocated approximately \$1.29 billion over 5 years to improve the bridges and roads. Eau Claire County has identified three project candidates for the first round of funding. The application for construction only projects in this first phase are due April 1, 2022.

The committees adjourned at 9:48 am.



Amy Weiss  
Committee Clerk