



## MINUTES

**Eau Claire County | Committee on Highway**  
**Thursday, April 14, 2022 | 7:30 a.m.**  
**Eau Claire County Highway Department**

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Steve Chilson, Vice-Chair Carl Anton, ~~Supervisor Nathan Anderson~~, Supervisor Judy Gatlin, Supervisor Nathan Otto, Supervisor Nick Smiar

**Staff/Others Present:** Highway Commissioner Jon Johnson, Fiscal Associate IV Nicole Spaeth

1. **Meeting called to order by Chairman Chilson at 7:30 a.m.**
2. **Past committee meeting minutes (3/10/2022) - Discussion/Action**
  - Supervisor Gatlin motioned to approve. Motion carried 3-0.
3. **Public Comment**
  - The property owner of the land next to the new highway facility emailed Jon with frustrations about the construction and access to property. Jon visited the sight & talked to Market & Johnson and took pictures. They did maintain access but landowner is still frustrated and wants the county to reconsider purchasing his property. The highway building committee has already decided not to.
4. **Land Offer from Badger Refrigeration - Commissioner Update**
  - Dan Mauer (owner of BR) desires to purchase 1 acre from the county in the town of Union to securely store their property. Initially offered \$30k which Jon declined; they countered with \$42k.
  - The county is looking for a quite a bit more for the property to consider breaking up the parcel in such a desirable area. Conclusion: the county is not ready to part with that property at this time.
5. **Highway Improvement Plan Updates - Discussion/Action**
  - Tabled until next meeting.
6. **Staffing Update**
  - Scheduled 3 administrative assistant interviews, 2 declined & 1 was not qualified. Will look at additional applicants.
  - Highway Operators, 12 applicants. Starting wage around \$21.
  - Highway Supervisor had 6 internal and 6 external applicants - offered the job to an internal candidate.
  - Engineer - One applicant had conflicting commitments that would impact availability for position. Another potential candidate is being evaluated. There is a large shortage of engineers in the Eau Claire area. Right now there is about 30 open public & private engineering positions actively hiring. May try a new approach at looking at hiring 2 part-time engineers for different areas.
  - Fiscal Supervisor - very few applicants, one is formal fiscal supervisor but needs to work remote. Others withdrew application due to low salary. The pay for this position is very below market value.
7. **Highway Report**
  - Highway Commissioner Update - Jon Johnson
    - Capital projects and funding (IJA 2022-2023) - submitted grant applications for CTH D and C in April to seek pavement replacements with federal funding; CTH H bridge/road will be applying for funding in June
    - 2022-2023 LRIP CHID - received \$375k for CTH I in Cleghorn from Walnut south
    - 2022-2023 LRIP CHIS - received \$670k for CTH G in Bridge Creek

- Regional Commissioner/Committee Member meeting - Most attendance of state leadership they've ever had in their meetings
- Operations Update - Jon Johnson
  - Sweeping on state highways, washing on bridges; had emergency repair on I-94 for a failed culvert
  - Awarded 2 PBMs to do crack filling and sealing
  - County brushing season complete; grader operator training coming up; getting certified in herbicides to do weed spraying starting on 4/18/22 (CTH K)
  - Mowing town of Union, parks & forest concrete work coming up, culvert repair in town of Union
  - Contracted work: Larson Bridge replacing timber caps on structure on CTH N; CIP/Maintenance bids are complete
- Engineering Update - Jon Johnson
  - Ben Klitzke now working in the Surveyor position; already been out surveying some projects and working on driveway permits

**8. Review of Payment Vouchers (3/11/22-4/8/22)**

- Supervisor Gatlin motioned to approve payment of vouchers. Motion carried 4-0.

**9. Future Meeting Dates, Times, and Agenda Items - Discussion Action**

- Next meeting: Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 7:30 am
- Future agenda items:
  - Highway Improvement Plan

**10. Meeting adjourned by Chairman Chilson at 8:28 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Nicole Spaeth*

Nicole Spaeth, Fiscal Associate IV  
Eau Claire County Highway Department

APPROVED 05/12/2022