



## MINUTES

**Eau Claire County | Committee on Highway**

**Thursday, July 14, 2022 | 7:30 a.m.**

**Eau Claire County Highway Department, Room 101**

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Steve Chilson, Vice-Chair Nathan Otto, Supervisor Mark Beckfield, Supervisor Judy Gatlin, Supervisor Larry Hoekstra

**Staff/Others Present:** Highway Commissioner Jon Johnson, Assistant Commissioner Brian Spilde, Engineer Travis Pickering, Administrative Associate III Natalie Szews, Risk Manager Sonja Leenhouts, Corporation Counsel Sharon McIlquham, Recycling Coordinator Regan Watts

- 1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Chilson at 7:30 a.m.**
- 2. Past committee meeting minutes (06/09/2022) – Discussion/Action**
  - Supervisor Beckfield motioned to approve. Motion carried 5-0.
- 3. Public Comment – none**
- 4. Resolution and Fact Sheet Designating Official Map CTH T – Discussion/Action**
  - Reviewed map of CTH T corridor showing what areas need to be reserved to accomplish the future highway improvement project when funding is available. The current map is not the final design for the project.
  - There were two public hearings to discuss planning process and received a lot of input from the public. There are five residential impacts along the corridor for this project. Will need to decide if there's enough impact on residents affected to purchase property or provide access road for residents to the highway. When the exact survey and design is completed, that is when the actual Right of Way acquisition will take place. Some residents wanted to keep highway as it is, but with Country Jam's purchase of property it is necessary to make improvements to highway.
  - Applied last year for federal aid and wasn't successful. Applied again this year and hoping for federal grant within five years. There is also state aid available, but the county would not get state funding for other projects.
  - Supervisor Gatlin motioned to approve. Motion carried 5-0.
- 5. Abolish Highway Sign and Marking Support position, Create Highway Sign and Marking Foreman – Discussion/Action**
  - Discussed resolution to update position based on actual work being done in this position.
  - Foreman position would move current employee one pay grade up, but there is no financial impact as it will be covered by the state as state work accounts for about 80% of this position.
  - Supervisor Otto motioned to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

## 6. **Abolish Shop Lead position, Create Shop Foreman Position – Discussion/Action**

- Discussed resolution to update position. This position would be taking over all daily administration and reporting for shop and would help in keeping up on preventative maintenance and improve efficiency.
- There is no financial impact as new position is in the same pay range.
- Supervisor Hoekstra motioned to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

## 7. **Review of Malone Property Located at 5079 US-53 – Discussion/Action**

- Discussed offer to purchase Malone property. County doesn't currently have money budgeted to purchase the property. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant request was submitted, but unsure if this will be successful. County would consider purchasing the property if there was negotiation on price to save money and clean up the project, but this would be subject to financing from ARPA.
- If property is purchased, it could be used for recreation parking for trails and ATVs/snowmobiles.
- Property was originally appraised at \$275,000. Property was most recently appraised at \$300,000. May wait and see if the county receives an offer to purchase property for a lower amount.
- The state has inquired if county is purchasing property as they had concerns with access point and advised it needed improvements for future development. State required county to build access point to a higher standard so it can be used for multi-use access.
- Supervisor Beckfield motioned to move forward with the attempt to purchase the property while finding the funding. Supervisor Beckfield withdrew motion.
- Supervisor Otto motioned to proceed forward with the authorization to negotiate the purchase price of the property. Motion carried 5-0.

## 8. **Highway Report**

- Highway Commissioner Update – Jon Johnson
  - **Lease of Highway Property in Town of Union:** Working on process and will bring back at a future date.
  - **LRIP Funding Awards:** Received two projects, one was \$375,000 for CTH I and \$670,000 on CTH G project. Discussed how projects are selected due to road condition and safety concerns.
  - **Sight Distance Policy Language:** Went over new driveway access policy language as discussed in last committee meeting.
  - **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Application:** Eau Claire County, St. Croix County, and Dunn County are applying for grant for low-cost road safety improvements. Deadline is September 15. Focus will be on federal funding for 2023.
  - **Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP):** Reviewed CARP and focus areas for the county. Recently applied for carbon reduction grant to help pay for items for new highway facility in 2023. Received grant funding to purchase four Ford Lightnings that supervisors will be using.
- Operations Update – Brian Spilde
  - State work: Completed crack sealing on HWY 37. Will be finishing mowing for state system today and will be moving onto county mowing.

– Capital Improvement Projects: Preconstruction meetings are scheduled with Monarch For projects on CTH JJ, CTH G, and CTH F and work will be started during first week of August. CTH N project was pushed out due to funding, will be doing paver patching and work on bad spots.

– Reviewed work that will be done in Drammen, Pleasant Valley, Union. Will also be doing work for Parks & Forest and airport parking lot.

– Ordered three trucks and should receive them by fourth quarter of 2023.

• Engineering Update – Travis Pickering

– Will be working on 2023 project designs and would like to get surveying for 2024 projects done later this year. Goal is to be two years ahead for projects.

– Has been working on obtaining Professional Engineer license for Wisconsin and hopes to have it submitted next week.

– Bids are due on July 23 for CTH CC/Folsom St. project. Working with contactors on pricing and hope estimates come in below budget at \$850,000.00.

**9. Review of Payment Vouchers (06/10/22 to 07/01/22)**

- Supervisor Gatlin motioned to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

**10. Future Meeting Dates, Times, and Agenda Items – Discussion Action**

- Next meeting: Joint meeting with Finance & budget is scheduled on Thursday, August 11, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. in the County Boardroom. Proposed updating meeting time to 8:00 a.m. and sending update to committee members if approved.

- Future agenda items:

– Update on Item 7 regarding Malone property.

**11. Meeting adjourned by Chairman Chilson at 9:26 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Natalie Szews*

Natalie Szews, Administrative Associate III  
Eau Claire County Highway Department

APPROVED 08/11/22