



MINUTES

Eau Claire County | Committee on Highway

Thursday, September 8, 2022 | 7:30 a.m.

**Hybrid Meeting | Eau Claire County Highway Department Room 101 and WebEx Virtual
Teleconference**

Committee Members Present: Chair Steve Chilson, Vice-Chair Nathan Otto, Larry Hoekstra, Mark Beckfield, Judy Gatlin, Nick Smiar (ex-officio)

Staff/Others Present: Highway Commissioner Jon Johnson, Assistant Commissioner Brian Spilde, Engineer Travis Pickering, Administrative Associate III Natalie Szews, Risk Manager Sonja Leenhouts, Fiscal Supervisor Kyle Welbes, Former Eau Claire County Engineer Rod Thorson

1. **Meeting called to order by Chairman Chilson at 7:30 a.m.**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Review/Approval of Past Committee Meeting Minutes (08/11/22) – Discussion/Action**
 - Supervisor Hoekstra motioned to approve. Motion carried 4 – 0.
4. **Public Comment** – No written notices. Jon Johnson noted that he has been receiving phone calls from the public with concerns regarding weed spraying not affecting rye blue grass and had to be mowed.

Supervisor Gatlin arrived at this time.
5. **ATV Route Application for Clear Creek - Discussion/Action**
 - Route being considered: South section of CTH D from Williams Road to CTH Y to connect existing routes between Clear Creek and Trempealeau County. Jon Johnson and Brian Spilde reviewed application and they are in favor of approving the application. Sheriff's Department didn't have any concerns.
 - Supervisor Otto motioned to approve. Motion carried 5-0.
6. **ATV Route Application for Wilson - Discussion/Action**
 - Route being considered: CTH H from Shoemaker Road to Henneman Road. Jon Johnson and Brian Spilde reviewed application and they are not in favor of approving this application. The ATV route would be connecting dead-end town routes and there are safety concerns. The Sheriff's Department also had concerns regarding accident history.
 - Supervisor Gatlin motioned to approve. Motion defeated 0-5.
7. **Safe Roads and Streets for All (SS4A) Grant Application - Discussion/Action**
 - St. Croix County, Dunn County, and Eau Claire County would like to apply for this grant together to pay for all the costs to create localized safety plans for all three counties, which will allow them to apply for federal funds for safety improvements. Deadline is September 15th.
 - Supervisor Gatlin motioned to approve. Motion carried 5-0.
8. **Rail Crossing Elimination FRA Grant Application - Discussion/Action**

- The purpose of the Railway-Highway Crossing Program is to separate railroads and highways where there is high traffic volume. Grant would be used to separate CTH T and railroad crossing as part of existing CTH T corridor plan. Approximate cost would be around \$12 million, which would be 100% covered by the grant. Deadline is October 11th.
- Supervisor Gatlin motioned to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Consideration of 2023 Budget for Highway Department – Discussion/Action

- Discussed 2023 budget and reduction in budget requested by Finance Committee. Original submittal was for \$9.7 million total in capital improvement programs, and \$4.7 million was requested for bonding with the addition of other revenues such as grants, other aides, vehicle registration fees, etc.
- Discussed the effects of a lowered budget on the Vehicle Registration Fee. The VRF was originally implemented as an addition to the existing Highway Department budget to improve roads, and reduced bonding could affect the VRF.
- Supervisor Beckfield motioned to amend the previously approved budget documents reflecting the accuracy of the figures presented by the Highway Department. This motion to amend will state the actual capital request by the Highway Department is \$4.776 million for bonding. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Highway Report

- Highway Commissioner Update – Jon Johnson
 - Highway Operations Informational Sessions went well and were very educational for County Board members.
 - 2022 West Central District Fall Commissioners & Committee Members Meeting is being hosted by Pepin County at Durand Rod and Gun Club on October 4. Opportunity for Committee members to represent Eau Claire County at meeting to go over current programs, legislation, funding, and specific things in the region.
- Operations Update – Brian Spilde
 - Discussed work being done on CTH V and CTH O.
 - Monarch currently working on CTH F and CTH G and Madison Contractors working on CTH JJ.
 - Working on mowing for county and state.
 - County working with state on concrete blowup repairs across state highway system.
 - Still working on urban mowing.
 - Working on areas of need in county such as filling random washouts and ditching.
 - Seal coated with rejuvenators on around 20 miles of roads. Crews will be out crack filling and patching roads.
 - Haas will be starting Folsom St./CTH CC project next week.
- Engineering Update – Travis Pickering
 - Continuing work on plans for 2023 projects. Will be doing training and working on pavement designs for those projects.
 - Received Wisconsin PE license.
 - Recently finished updating bridge inventory and will be working on large diameter culvert inventory.
 - Will work on defining necessary maintenance needed for bridges and culverts.

- Helping airport with phase one of parking expansion project.
- CTH CC/Folsom St. project will be starting next Monday.
- Haas is working on CTH D from CTH XX to STH 27 is progressing well.
- Recently made site visit to CTH G south of Augusta for roadway improvement project to provide input to correct soft soils and improve drainage to help the new road last longer.
- Discussed erosion issues and plans to improve section of CTH V from CTH VV to CTH O where culverts have been replaced.
- Have begun collecting survey for 2024 projects.

11. Review of Payment Vouchers (08/12/22 to 09/02/22) – Discussion /Action

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

12. Future Meeting Dates/Times/Agenda Items

- Next meeting: Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 7:30 a.m.

13. Adjourn at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Szews

Natalie Szews, Administrative Associate III
Eau Claire County Highway Department

APPROVED 10/13/22