



## MINUTES

### Eau Claire County | Committee on Highway

Thursday, October 13, 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, Judy Gatlin, Nick Smiar (ex-officio)

**Staff/Others Present:** Assistant Commissioner Brian Spilde, Operations Manager Chris Dahlby, Engineer Travis Pickering, Fiscal Associate IV Nicole Spaeth, Risk Manager Sonja Leenhouts, Fiscal Supervisor Kyle Welbes, Owner of 4-Control Lee Shambeau, Finance Director Norb Kirk

1. **Meeting called to order by Chairman Chilson at 7:30 a.m.**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Review/Approval of Past Committee Meeting Minutes (09/08/22) – Discussion/Action**
  - Supervisor Gatlin motioned to approve. Motion carried 4-0.
4. **Public Comment –None**
5. **ATV Route Application for Town of Bridge Creek – Discussion/Action**
  - Route being considered: CTH CF from Kelly Rd. to USH 12. Jon Johnson and Brian Spilde reviewed application and they are in favor of approving the application. Sheriff's Department only had a concern making sure it was clearly posted that ATVs are not allowed on USH 12 with the exception that by law ATVs are allowed to cross state highways at 90-degree angle. Will need to work with state on signage for USH 12.
  - Supervisor Gatlin motioned to approve. Motion carried 4-0.
6. **Herbicide Treatment Methods and Products – Discussion/Action**
  - Chippewa, Dunn, and St. Croix counties are doing weed spraying, which stunts grass growth and removed invasive species such as wild parsnip from ditches. This year Eau Claire County sprayed a 10-foot buffer on the east side of the county from CTH K. Spraying was not as effective on Big Bluestem grass since it grows faster and later in the season. Next year the county plans to spray west of CTH K.
  - Supervisor Gatlin motioned to continue using the herbicide and move forward with the plan to use it next season. Motion passed 4-0. Supervisor Chilson would like someone from the county to reach out to the resident that commented at the County Board meeting with concerns about weed spraying.
7. **2021 Fiscal Report – Discussion**
  - Fiscal Supervisor Kyle Welbes presented 2021 Fiscal Report.
8. **2023 Highway Department Budget – Discussion/Action**
  - Discussed 2023 budget cuts and its effect on Vehicle Registration Fee and PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating) system rating on roads.
  - Tabled discussion until Highway Committee has a more complete picture of the entire 2023 budget for the entire county.

## **9. Historical Levy Funding – Discussion**

- Reviewed levy funding history.

## **10. Dead Deer Removal – Discussion/Action**

- Tabled until next Highway Committee meeting.

## **11. Highway Report**

### **• Highway Commissioner Update – Brian Spilde**

- Supervisor Gatlin, Jon Johnson, and Brian Spilde attended the 2022 West Central District Fall Commissioners & Committee Members Meeting on October 4th where they discussed infrastructure funding that's coming out.
- Jon Johnson, Brian Spilde, and Travis Pickering will be attending the WCHA Commissioner training in La Crosse on October 19 and 20.
- Highway Department Safety Day training was on 10/11/22.

### **• Operations Update – Brian Spilde**

- All Capital Improvement Projects will be paved and finished up in the next couple weeks.
- Intersection of CTH D and USH 27 will be paved next week.
- Transitioning from summer to winter operations. Starting to get trucks ready and equipment put away.

### **• Engineering Update – Travis Pickering**

- Engineering team is continuing to work on design plans for 2023 projects and surveying is being done for 2024 projects.
- Looking at new bridge system called InQuik Bridging Systems that would make the installation process much faster and possibly have large cost savings. Looking at possible bridge replacement on CTH V next year and is working on getting the conceptual design and quote approved.
- Attended the annual conference for the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) on 10/07/22. In the 2022 Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card, the state received a C+ for bridges. In 2019, the American Road & Transportation Builders Association's (ARTBA) identified 1,955 bridges that require repair with an estimated price tag of \$1.4 billion.

## **12. Review of Payment Vouchers (09/16/22 to 10/07/22) – Discussion /Action**

- Supervisor Otto motioned to approve. Motion carried 4-0.

## **13. Future Meeting Dates/Times/Agenda Items**

- Future agenda items:
  - Efficiency metrics on new building vs. old building.
  - Agenda Item #10: Dead Deer Removal
- Next meeting: Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 7:30 a.m.

## **14. Adjourn at 9:30 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Natalie Szews*

Natalie Szews, Administrative Associate III  
Eau Claire County Highway Department

**APPROVED 11/10/22**