



MINUTES

Eau Claire County | Committee on Highway

Thursday, May 11, 2023 | 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, Mark Beckfield, Nick Smiar (ex-officio)

Staff/Others Present: Assistant Commissioner Brian Spilde, Engineer Travis Pickering, Administrative Associate III Natalie Szews, Risk Manager Sonja Leenhouts, Corporation Counsel Sharon McIlquham, Human Resources Director Angela Eckman

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Chilson at 7:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call

3. Review/Approval of Past Committee Meeting Minutes (04/13/23) – Discussion/Action

- Supervisor Beckfield moved to approve. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Review/Approval of Past Joint Committee Meeting Minutes (04/13/23) – Discussion/Action

- Supervisor Hoekstra asked if there was a sunset provision for the Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF) when it was originally passed. A sunset provision was discussed but was not made a part of the VRF resolution.
- Supervisor Gatlin moved to approve. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Public Comment – None

6. Highway Setback Special Exemption on County Highway ND – Discussion/Action

- Commissioner Johnson spoke on Dennis Kinderman's request for a highway setback special exemption on CTH ND on Lake Eau Claire.
- Reviewed County Code for highway setbacks. Previously there were no highway setbacks in unzoned townships, and the County Code was updated so the highway setback would be 83- feet from centerline or 50- feet from the highway right-of-way. This setback distance works for larger lots, but it's prohibitive for building on smaller lots.
- Commissioner Johnson would like to eventually get the County Code updated so the highway setback in unzoned townships is 63- feet from centerline or 30- feet from the highway right-of-way or could add in a lot size to code.
- Supervisor Gatlin moved to approve the highway setback special exemption on County Highway ND. Motion moved 4-0.

7. Road Tour Date – Discussion/Action

- Discussed date options for Road Tour.
- Can look at active construction projects, projects that are completed, and projects that haven't been done yet. The Highway Committee would like to see the InQuik Bridge replacement project on CTH V, which would be taking place later in July or early August.

- Will look at potential dates in July and bring proposal back to the Committee. Tabled until future meeting.

8. Collaboration between County and City – Discussion

- Commissioner Johnson reviewed project collaboration throughout the County.
 - i. CTH T corridor
 - ii. Folsom Street
 - iii. State Street
 - iv. TAP grant application for project along McKinley Ave.
 - v. Reviewed sewer/water extension plans for City of Altoona. Water tower being built off CTH SS and working on design for CTH SS.
 - vi. State is working on corridor study for USH 12
 - vii. Intergovernmental agreements and statutes are put in place to clarify who's responsible for road maintenance.

9. Highway Report

• Highway Commissioner Update – Jon Johnson

- i. State and Federal Funding Update
 1. Applying for federal grant for corridor system with Facilities, Parks & Forest, and Planning & Development with Chippewa County for next year.
 2. Federal grant for Safe Streets 4 All with St. Croix County is moving forward.
 3. Will be applying jointly with St. Croix County for federal funding opportunities for implementation grants for traffic intersections.
 4. The Congressional Delegation Program picked the project on County Highway T for federal funding earmarking, so this will go to House and Senate Appropriations Committees for final approval. Could get \$25 million for the project but will need to get design to at least 30%. Also applied for Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) grant for railroad grade separation on CTH T to help cover costs on the project.
 5. In June, TAP grant application program for State St. roundabout at the end of CTH F and S.
 6. Working with Village of Fall Creek Parks Department system on CTH K trail project.
 7. Bridge applications will be coming out in June and road project applications will be in the fall.
- ii. Permitting and Project Coordination with Municipalities
 1. Been a challenge trying to keep up on all the new developments.
 2. City of Altoona forgot to get access permit on CTH SS for development.
 3. Village of Fall Creek started building and putting accesses in on CTH AF development that they don't have permits for yet. Will be meeting with Village of Fall Creek for jurisdictional transfer since the County can't accommodate the density of access points on a county road.
 4. Will be reaching out to municipalities so they understand that they need to contact the county before starting projects off county highways since county roads are under County jurisdiction.

• Operations Update – Brian Spilde

- i. State Maintenance
 1. Starting urban mowing on state highways.

2. Working on cleaning and spraying.
3. Sign Shop is working on a traffic maintenance agreement with the DOT for Hwy 53 bypass corridor.

ii. County Maintenance

1. Herbicide spraying on west half of the county from CTH K.
2. Crack filling and spray patching roads that will be chip sealed this year. Contracted to do crack filling and spray patching for about 7 miles of road for the Town of Union. Fahrner Asphalt will be moving onto chip sealing next week in the Town of Union, and then will be doing about 29 miles of chip sealing on county roads in the first part of June.
3. Getting ready for paver patching in the upcoming weeks.

iii. CIP

1. Working on grinding and paving CTH NN, and then moving onto CTH O.
2. Contracted work – Monarch will be grinding and paving CTH RR by Fairchild and CTH FW will be started at the end of this week or beginning of next week. CTH RR and CTH FW should be completed in the first or second week of June.
3. Working with DOT to carryover funds from CTH G project last year to CTH II project, which would be for around \$90,000.

• **Engineering Update – Travis Pickering**

- i. CTH II and CTH I should be ready for bids soon.
- ii. CTH RR and FW are contracted out.
- iii. Utility and access permits have been steady.
- iv. Site visits on CTH NN and CTH RR for construction issues that have come up. Also discovered some driveway access issues on CTH RR.
- v. Lori and Travis have been doing site visits to review final plan sets for future projects.
- vi. InQuik bridge on CTH V is in the process of being constructed at their facility. Travis is working with Ayres to review preliminary plans for the project so a bid can go out soon for pile driving for the project.
- vii. Ben is working on surveying 2024 projects.
- viii. CTH CC project - Working with Ayres on an analysis of multiple culvert replacement options for the Sherman Creek crossing.
- ix. In process of scheduling more Geotech for CTH SS and CTH K in preparation of redoing roads in the future.
- x. All contracts have been approved for the three bridge replacement projects on CTH D, CTH F, and Gravel Pit Road.
- xi. Discussed getting the County certified for local program projects with state and federal funding, which would save money and time.

10. Review of Payment Vouchers (04/14/23 to 05/05/23) – Discussion /Action

- Supervisor Gatlin moved to approve the reviewal. Motion carried 4-0.

11. Future Meeting Dates/Times/Agenda Items

- Future agenda items:

i. Determine Road Tour date.

- Next meeting: Thursday, June 8 at 7:30 a.m. at Altoona facility

12. Adjourn at 8:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Szews

Natalie Szews, Administrative Associate III
Eau Claire County Highway Department

APPROVED 07/13/23