



MINUTES

Eau Claire County | Committee on Highway

Thursday, September 14, 2023 | 7:30 a.m.

**Eau Claire County Highway Department – 5061 US Hwy 53, Room 103, Eau Claire, WI
WebEx Virtual Teleconference**

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

Staff/Others Present: Assistant Commissioner Brian Spilde, Engineer Travis Pickering, Administrative Associate III Natalie Szews, Risk Manager Sonja Leenhouts, Fiscal Supervisor Kyle Welbes, Corporation Counsel Sharon McIlquham

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

2. Roll Call and Confirmation of Meeting Notice

3. Review/Approval of Past Highway Committee Meeting Minutes (08/10/23) – Discussion/Action

- Supervisor Hoekstra made a motion to approve. Motion carried 3-0.

4. Review/Approval of Past Joint Committee Meeting Minutes (08/10/23) – Discussion/Action

- Supervisor Hoekstra made a motion to approve. Motion carried 3-0.

5. Public Comment –None

6. Property Development Access and Traffic Impact Analysis – Discussion

- Discussed the increase of developments throughout the County and traffic management.
- The Highway Department handles access to county highways and works with state access coordinators on state highway access. Town roads are town jurisdiction.
- Reviewed future developments on CTH I and USH 53.
- Discussed access and traffic concerns with proposed housing development on CTH 55. Nearby residents are concerned with the recent annexation from the Town of Washington to the City of Altoona and the proposed density of the housing development.

7. Highway Report

• Highway Commissioner Update – Jon Johnson

i. Grants

- Applying for several grants next month.
- Will be sponsoring the replacement of a bridge with the Town of Lincoln.
- \$9.1 million has been earmarked for CTH T project and working with stakeholder groups for the design of CTH T. Would need \$250,000 for design. Looking at doing a phase approach starting at Chippewa County.

ii. ATV/UTVs

- Towns would like to meet with ATV clubs to come up with a streamlined way of approving what roads can be ATV routes.
- Next town meeting is October 30 at the Highway Department.

iii. WCHA Updates

- Past WCHA president will be done in January.
- Hiring a deputy director for WCHA. Interviews will be in Eau Claire.
- Hired an executive director and will be moving away from having a contracted person.

iv. Legislative Updates

- Bill to have green lights on utility company vehicles.
- Bill to make open containers on ATV/UTVs illegal.
- Change in defining anything with cattails as a wetland.
- Federal bill being worked on to change definition of a rural area from 200,000 to 20,000 population for grants in rural areas. This would allow more grant money to be dedicated to smaller communities.

• Operations Update – Brian Spilde

- i. Management team working on standard operating procedures for new facility.
- ii. Officially all moved into new facility.
- iii. Four vacancies for heavy equipment operators.
- iv. There is a lot of training coming up. Had OSHA training yesterday for staff, and snow fighter simulator training is at the end of September. Field staff training and new scale training in October.
- v. All capital improvement projects are completed and just need line striping done.
- vi. All contractor projects are completed except for CTH M.
- vii. CTH V InQuik bridge will be done in the next couple weeks.
- viii. Township work in Brunswick, Bridge Creek, and Pleasant Valley.
- ix. Have rut paving, paver patching, and culverts to fix on county roads before winter.
- x. Traffic maintenance agreement on USH 53 is done. Working on concrete buckle repairs, pavement patching, and getting salt for the winter.
- xi. The shop is fully open and getting trucks ready for winter.
- xii. Discussed mowing and weed spraying program. Constantly reviewing mowing process.
- xiii. Discussed deer pick-up issues on state highways. The state is developing a new reporting process for deer pick-up by contractors.

• Engineering Update – Travis Pickering

- i. Selected design consultants for CTH K and CTH VV bridge projects.
- ii. CTH MM and AF bridges will be getting design consultants next year.
- iii. Was onsite at CTH V InQuik bridge project.
- iv. Reviewed projects going through 2029 for CIP Story Map.
- v. CTH F project is complete.
- vi. In process of doing PASER ratings and hoping to have them done by the end of the month/early October.

- vii. Working on traffic counts and speed study for next year's projects.
- viii. Potential culvert replacement for the Town of Drammen.
- ix. One bridge in the Town of Lincoln is eligible for a grant. County will be sponsoring, and the application is due at the end of October.
- x. Working on preliminary designs for next year's road projects.

8. Review of Payment Vouchers (08/11/23 to 09/01/23) – Discussion/Action

- Supervisor Beckfield made a motion to approve. Motion carried 3-0.

9. Future Meeting Dates/Times/Agenda Items

- Future agenda items:
 - i. Show video of CTH V InQuik bridge project at future committee meeting.
- Next meeting: Thursday, October 12 at 7:30 a.m.

10. Adjourn at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Szews

Natalie Szews, Administrative Associate III
Eau Claire County Highway Department

APPROVED 10/12/23