



MINUTES

Eau Claire County | Committee on Highway

Thursday, October 12, 2023 | 7:30 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting

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: Highway Commissioner Jon Johnson, Engineer Travis Pickering, Administrative Associate III Natalie Szews, Risk Manager Sonja Leenhouts, Fiscal Supervisor Kyle Welbes, Supervisor Dane Zook

1. **Meeting called to order by Chairman Chilson at 7:30 a.m.**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Review/Approval of Past Committee Meeting Minutes (09/14/23) – Discussion/Action**
 - Supervisor Beckfield made a motion to approve. Motion carried 3-0.
4. **Public Comment**
 - Oral public comments were made regarding concerns with Whitetail Woods Development on CTH SS/Nine Mile Creek Road by: Bob Wilcox, Kim Lynum, Charlene Lynum, Kim Kaio, Matthew Miller, Roberta Gilman, Chris Sarnski, Karen Nelson, Nick Duffenbach, Charlene Merkel, Brad Merkel, Todd Nelson, Cathy Carsen, Ray Sedahl, and Jim Larsen.
5. **Whitetail Woods Development on CTH SS/Nine Mile Creek Rd.– Discussion/Action**
 - Discussed density and traffic concerns of proposed Whitetail Woods Development. Jon Johnson met with City of Altoona Administrator Mike Golat and Mayor Brendan Pratt to discuss Whitetail Woods Development on CTH SS and access on county roads. The project is delayed right now due to ordinance issues. The City of Altoona is aware of concerns with density and traffic, and they will need to be worked out depending on what their traffic study states.
 - The Highway Department will have their own traffic impact analysis done by Westbrook Engineering for a better understanding of the impacts and traffic volumes of the proposed development. Jon will share the proposal and cost with the Highway Committee.
 - Supervisor Chilson made a motion to advise the Highway Commissioner to not enter into an access agreement with the City of Altoona until the traffic impact study is done, and meaningful conversations can be had with the City of Altoona regarding access concerns and who is responsible for paying for any road improvements that are needed. Motion carried 3-0.
6. **Driveway Access Policy Change – Discussion/Action**

- Jon Johnson discussed the access width for a church being built at CTH II and Highway 93 where the property is zoned Residential but has a Conditional Use Permit. Since the County Code has updated residential driveway widths from 20 to 24 feet, a new policy would not need to be drafted to allow wider access for the church.
- The Highway Department driveway access permit form will need to be updated.
- No action taken.

7. Employee Policy for Random Truck Speed Checks – Discussion/Action

- Jon Johnson discussed creating a policy for random truck speed checks as a part of the random drug tests which would be done through GPS.
- Received complaints from employees and the public about truck speeds, and an employee was found to be speeding.
- Draft policy will be presented at a future committee meeting.
- No action taken.

8. Highway Report

• Highway Commissioner Update – Jon Johnson

– CTH T Corridor Project Intergovernmental Agreements

- Jon discussed CTH T Corridor Project.
- If the City of Eau Claire doesn't commit to the project, there will be a problem moving forward with the project.

– Staffing

- Trying to fill five operator positions.
- Engineering Technician Lori Engen resigned.
- There is an increased cost to outsource and there were quality issues with contractors. Will have to contract work to get projects done due to contracts and deadlines, which will impact the budget.
- Can discuss the impact staffing will have on the budget and department at the next meeting.
- Had wage study meetings with employees.
- Reduction in plowing this winter due to staffing.
- Cutting back on projects next year to focus on hiring and training.

– Discussed CTH SS road condition and City of Altoona's plans for development in the area.

– ATV/UTV

- Towns meetings on October 30 to get some feedback regarding ATVs.
- Towns won't make any decisions until after the new year.
- Need a comprehensive policy on ATV routes on county roads.

• Operations Update – Jon Johnson

- There has been a lot of staff training recently with new and old staff.
- Guardrail repairs and starting to get trucks ready for winter.
- Spending more time meeting and engaging with employees.

• Engineering Update – Travis Pickering

- Lori Engen’s resignation.
- County Code updated for driveway widths.
- Survey for 2024 projects is almost complete. Working on as-built plans for 2023 projects to see if there are things that could be done better.
- Paser ratings are 80% completed. Will be updating WISLR program for DOT to get an average PASER rating.
- Working with NPO on CIP story map for website for projects from 2023 through 2029.
- Reviewing CTH K and VV bridge draft contracts for design consultants.
- A bridge in the Town of Lincoln is eligible for replacement funding. Travis will be submitting an application to sponsor the project.
- CTH M was recently finished and looked good overall. The road is already damaged by horseshoes so it may need to be chip sealed next year.
- Would like to have townships and Sheriff Riewestahl at the next Highway Committee meeting to discuss horseshoe damage on roads and options to help prevent damage to county roads.
- Working on pavement designs for next year’s projects on CTH AF and CTH N.
- InQuik has asked the Highway Committee to join them at the 2024 WCHA Winter Road School at the end of January.

9. Review of Payment Vouchers (09/15/23 to 09/29/23) – Discussion /Action

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

10. Future Meeting Dates/Times/Agenda Items

- Future agenda items:
 - Wrap-up of budget on Monday and Wednesday. Please bring any amendments.
 - Damage on roads due to horseshoes and invite Townships and Sheriff.
 - Operational analysis.
 - Election of Vice-Chair.
 - Setback grants.
 - Additional funding request for CTH T project.
- Next meeting: Thursday, November 9 at 7:30 a.m.

11. Adjourn at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Szews

Natalie Szews, Administrative Associate III
Eau Claire County Highway Department

APPROVED 11/09/23