



MINUTES

Eau Claire County | Committee on Highway

Thursday, December 14, 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 Larry Hoekstra, Dane Zook, Mark Beckfield

Staff/Others Present: Highway Commissioner Jon Johnson, Assistant Commissioner Brian Spilde, Engineer Travis Pickering, Administrative Associate III Natalie Szews, Corporation Counsel Sharon McIlquham, Risk Manager Sonja Leenhouts

1. **Meeting called to order by Chairman Chilson at 7:30 a.m.**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Review/Approval of Past Committee Meeting Minutes (11/09/23) – Discussion/Action**
 - Supervisor Hoekstra made a motion to approve. Motion carried 4-0.
4. **Public Comment**
 - Charlene Lynum, Kim Lynum, Ray Sedahl, Karen Nelson, and Todd Nelson were in attendance to make comments regarding the Whitetail Woods Development during the Highway Commissioner Update.
5. **Election of Vice-Chair – Discussion/Action**
 - Supervisor Zook nominated Supervisor Hoekstra for Vice-Chair. Motion carried 4-0.
6. **2024 Capital Improvement Projects – Discussion/Action**
 - Engineer Travis Pickering reviewed planned 2024 Capital Improvement projects.
 - Will be working with the City of Eau Claire on CTH F (State St.) and CTH CC (Folsom St).
 - CTH K bridge will be next InQuik bridge project.
 - May get tribal funding for bridge replacement on CTH H, which would also be an InQuik bridge project.
 - Large culvert replacements on CTH Z and CTH R.
 - Commissioner Jon Johnson gave an update on CTH SS and CTH F projects.
 - CTH SS project was submitted to the budget for a different section of CTH SS. Now that the project has been moved to the other side of CTH SS due to the housing development that could be put in, the scope and cost of the project has changed. Working with the Finance Department on resolutions for how to handle changes in capital for project scoping.
 - CTH F project came in over budget and trying to get additional funds.
 - Corp Counsel will look into how the Highway Department should handle scope and cost changes for projects that have already been approved in the budget.

- No action taken.

7. Highway Report

• Highway Commissioner Update – Jon Johnson

– WCHA Activities

- WCHA has hired a new Deputy Director Todd Every.
- Jon will be done with the WCHA Executive Committee in January and will move into a mentor role for newer members.
- Testified in Madison on a bill for driver's education in work zones.
- Will be testifying on a bill for cameras in work zones.
- On CTH T there was a work zone accident where a car stopped for a flagger was rear-ended.
- Winter Road School will be in January at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

– Whitetail Woods Development Traffic Study Update

- The traffic study was started, and Jon went over the schedule. Will need more information from the developer and site designer on the type of development and density, otherwise the traffic study will be delayed.
- The traffic study will include the Bartlett Crossing development on CTH KB.
- The Highway Committee only has authority over the traffic impact of the development.

• Operations Update – Brian Spilde

- Doing a lot of maintenance brushing in Town of Seymour area.
- Done with all Capital Improvement Project (CIP) brushing except on CTH F and CTH CC.
- Brushing on Highway 93 from Lowes Creek to County line.
- A lot of training on winter maintenance due to the number of new hires.
- Four new hires in the last month and a half and will be sending out a job offer today for the last Heavy Equipment Operator.
- One Heavy Equipment Operator position was retitled to a Mechanic position, and the Mechanic job listing has been posted.
- The year-end inventory count should be done next week.

• Engineering Update – Travis Pickering

- Had three interviews for Engineering Technician position. Will hopefully have someone hired in January.
- Will be executing contract with InQuik for CTH K bridge project for 2024.
- Finalizing design with Ayres for CTH D bridge.
- Working on pavement designs for 2024 projects.
- Working with Surveyor on Geotech needs for 2024 and 2025 projects.
- DOT recommended a 20-ton weight limit on the bridge on CTH K over Branch of Otter Creek which will be replaced in 2026.
- The state is looking at approving funding soon for large structures (6 to 20 feet in length or diameter) to have additional inspections done along with bridge structures.
- Will be taking a certified bridge inspector training course in first week of January.

– InQuik bridge saved about \$60,000. It's expected that there will be additional cost and time savings for future InQuik bridges.

8. Review of Payment Vouchers (11/03/23 to 12/01/23) – Discussion /Action

- Supervisor Hoekstra made a motion to approve. Motion carried 4-0.

9. Future Meeting Dates/Times/Agenda Items

- Future agenda items:
 - Update on ATV/UTV routes.
- Next meeting: Thursday, January 11 at 7:30 a.m.

10. Adjourn at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Szews

Natalie Szews, Administrative Associate III
Eau Claire County Highway Department

APPROVED 01/11/24