

Columbia County Highway Committee

Minutes

July 2, 2020

Present: Chair Jim Foley, Supervisors Bob Koch, Jon Plumer, JoAnn Wingers and Henry St. Maurice

Also in Attendance: Chair Vern Gove, Chris Hardy, Traci Horn, Lois Schepp, Joseph Ruff III, Tom Kratt (WisDOT), Steve Flottmeyer (WisDOT), James Nelson (Town of Scott), Jacob Curtis (von Briesen & Roper, s.c.), Rod Osterhaus, Lori Osterhaus

Chair Foley called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. The meeting was properly noticed and published.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Koch, second by Wingers, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Input

There was no visitor input.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Koch, second by Plumer, to approve the June 4, 2020 Highway Committee minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Koch, second by Wingers, to approve the June 18, 2020 Operational Planning Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Approval of Vouchers

The committee reviewed the voucher report detailing payments made from May 28, 2020 through July 1, 2020. Horn provided input regarding some of the expenses.

Motion by St. Maurice, second by Wingers, to approve the vouchers for a total of \$605,497.52. Motion carried.

Right-of-Way Tree Removals – W4822 CTH E – Rod & Lori Osterhaus

Hardy presented photos of the trees and the right-of way marked by lath. He provided background information of the Department funding and County road cycle of 52 years highlighting the current project on CTH E being the reason the trees were evaluated. Rod and Lori Osterhaus provided additional photos and noted the volume, speed, and type of traffic on the road bring safety concerns if the trees were removed. Tree health and compromises were discussed.

Motion by Plumer, second by Wingers, to remove the center tree and trim the tree on the west end and the tree on the east end at present with removal of the west end tree in five years and the east end tree in ten years. Motion carried.

Presentation by WisDOT – STH 127 Jurisdictional Transfer Proposal

WisDOT representatives Flottmeyer and Kratt discussed STH 127 usage noting it is a “minor collector” which is typically not part of the state system and noted it had been a County Road in the past. They discussed the pavement improvement project planned for the fall of 2020 noting it will extend the pavement life approximately 15 years. Wingers stated budget concerns noting Columbia County has a 52 year road cycle and the current WisDOT STH 127 project will only extend the pavement life 15 years.

CTH V Speed Zone Extension – St. Lawrence Bluff Rd. - WisDOT

Hardy presented a proposal received from Project Manager – WisDOT Major Studies, Daniel Schave, P.E. Project location maps were displayed and reviewed.

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Motion by Koch, second by St. Maurice, to move forward with drafting an ordinance amendment to move forward with extending the 35 mph speed zone. Motion carried.

County Road & Bridge Aid Petitions

The Committee reviewed a summary of the County Road Aid petitions that were received.

Municipality	Road
T. Arlington	Stevenson Dr (Termini to Pine Hollow Rd)
T. Caledonia	Old Highway U Rd (@ Shanks Rd)
T. Columbus	Columbus Rd & Hermanson Dr
T. Courtland	Fordeg Rd
T. Dekorra	Smokey Hollow Rd & Corning St
T. Fort Winnebago	Clark Rd (CTH F to Dumke Rd)
T. Fountain Prairie	Fields Rd (STH 146 to CTH CD)
T. Hampden	Old F (Bradley Rd to CTH DM)
T. Leeds	Ramsey Rd (Hopkins Rd to Kliener Rd)
T. Lewiston	Corning Rd (Muskrat Rd to Hogan Rd)
T. Lodi	Clar-Mar Dr
T. Lowville	Drake Rd (Traut Rd west 2935 ft)
T. Marcellon	Monthey Rd
T. Newport	Zeit Rd (New Haven Rd to STH 127)
T. Otsego	Berkvam Rd (1320' offset to Vangen Rd)
T. Pacific	Northstar Rd
T. Scott	Newell Rd (1960' @ north end, 700' other)
T. Springvale	Sawyer Rd (Old railroad bed to CTH P)
T. West Point	Corner Rd
T. Wyocena	W. Hill Rd (2112' west from STH 16)
V. Fall River	Swarthout Rd, Quality Ct, Steel Rd/Jennifer Ln
V. Pardeeville	Vince St & LaFollette St Crackfilling
V. Randolph	West Stroud St
V. Rio	W. Harvey St
C. Columbus	Waterloo St
C. Lodi	Pond St
C. Portage	Winnebago Ave

Motion by Plumer, second by Wingers, to approve the County Road Aid petitions as listed above. Motion carried.

WisDOT Project Status

State Highway projects were presented. Hardy noted there were no changes.

CTH Project Status

Hardy presented a summary of the projects noting the Keyscan project is now complete. The Portage AST project completion has been delayed to 11/1/2020. The CS Dome Temp. Building color was discussed and the Committee had no preference.

Award Bid - CTH CD Concrete Box Culvert

No bids were received.

2020 Capital Plan Update

Hardy provided an update on the 2020 capital improvement plan.

Change in Capital Outlay Request - Trailers

Hardy explained two trailers need to be replaced; one has a broken frame and one was stolen in the fall of 2019. One trailer would be purchased with the leftover funds from the single axle plow trucks. The other trailer would be purchased with funds from the Wyocena Storm Pond Discharge Project.

Motion by Wingers, second by Koch, to approve using \$8,940 leftover from the single axle plow trucks to purchase a trailer. Motion carried.

Motion by Wingers, second by St. Maurice to approve using \$8,940 of the funds for the Wyocena Storm Pond Drainage Project to purchase a trailer. Motion carried.

June Auction

Hardy presented a list of used posts to be auctioned on Wisconsin Surplus.

Motion by Koch, second by Wingers, to approve the used posts be auctioned on Wisconsin Surplus. Motion carried.

ATC Culvert Donation

Hardy presented a Damage Release Form received from ATC (American Transmission Company LLC). A culvert was damaged when ATC performed transmission work on a parcel owned by Columbia County with Tax ID 11020-963. In lieu of a monetary damage payment, ATC will provide the culvert, apron, and end caps for the culvert repair at no cost and the Columbia County Highway Department will do the repair work.

Motion by Koch, second by St. Maurice, to accept the ATC donation of a culvert, apron and end caps necessary for the Columbia County Highway Department to repair the damaged culvert. Motion carried.

Amend #1 STP Three Party Design Contract – Railroad Bridges (CTH A, Sterk Rd., Inglehart Rd.)

Hardy presented the amendment explaining there has been a change in standards since receiving the signed SMA and the pier type now needs to be a hammerhead pier. This increases the cost of the pier. The budget will not increase. The amendment is a change in contract not a change in budget.

Motion by Wingers, second by Plumer, to approve Contract Amendment #1. Motion carried.

Memo of Understanding CTH CS and North St. – Village of Poynette

Hardy presented a Memo of Understanding detailing improvements to be completed at the intersection of CTH CS and North St. in the Village of Poynette. A map showing signage, crosswalk, and stop line painting was displayed. The work to be performed is in the right-of-way making the agreement necessary. All improvements now and in the future will be at the cost of the Village of Poynette.

Motion by St. Maurice, second by Wingers, to approve the Memo of Understanding CTH CS and North St. with the Village of Poynette as written and presented by Chris Hardy, PE Commissioner. Motion carried.

Position Request: Highway Maintenance Worker to Patrolman

Hardy proposed increasing Highway Maintenance Worker one grade on the pay scale from Grade F to Grade G. This change would result in an estimated increase of \$15,860. About one third (1/3) of the increase is for state and town work with the remaining two thirds (2/3) of the increase for county work.

Motion by Plumer, second by Wingers, to forward the pay scale grade change to the Human Resources Committee. Motion carried.

Vacant Position Update

Hardy provided an update on filling vacant positions.

Safety Items/Worker's Compensation Claims

One worker's compensation claim was reported and discussed.

Town of Caledonia Write-Off Request

Hardy explained the Town of Caledonia disputes work performed and material used in 2019. The charges total \$2,557.46 and are detailed on three invoices listed on the statements sent each month. Patrol Superintendent, Bill Statz, attended multiple Town meetings to discuss the charges and no agreement has been reached.

Motion by Koch to deny Town of Caledonia Write-Off Request. Motion failed.

Motion by St. Maurice, second by Wingers, to send a letter drafted by Corporation Counsel to the Town of Caledonia requesting they attend the next Highway Committee meeting and bring information to discuss the disputed charges. Motion carried.

Accounting Review

May financial statements were presented.

WisDOT STH 127 Jurisdictional Transfer Proposal

There was no discussion.

Highway and Transportation Department Management

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Koch, second by St. Maurice, to go into closed session at 9:07 a.m. pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(c), Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, and pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(f), Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations [Highway and Transportation Department Management]. If the Committee goes into closed session, it will return to open session. The Committee may address such other matters that are authorized by law.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: 5, as follows: Plumer, Koch, St. Maurice, Wingers, and Foley.

Noes: 0

Chair Gove, Joseph Ruff III and Jacob Curtis were present in closed session.

OPEN SESSION

Motion by Koch, second by St. Maurice, the Committee reconvened in open session at 9:47 a.m. Motion unanimously carried.

No action was taken in closed session.

Chairman's Communications

There were no communications from the Chairman.

Commissioner's Communications

Hardy provided a handout detailing his external communications over the previous month. A letter received from ATC regarding the removal of trees within the right-of way was presented. The status of DNR permits for various projects was discussed.

WCHA Summer Road School Conference

The 2020 Summer Road School Conference itinerary was discussed noting that due to COVID 19 we need to confirm the conference will be held. Koch, St. Maurice, Plumer, and Foley will attend.

Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be August 6, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

Motion made by Wingers, second by Koch, to adjourn at 10:35 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:



Henry St. Maurice, Secretary



Traci Horn, Recording Secretary

cc: Highway Committee
County Board Chair Gove
County Board Vice Chair Foley
County Board 2nd Vice Chair Koch

Joseph Ruf, III
Susan Fisher
Internet
Susan M. Moll
Chris Hardy