

**Regular Meeting
Highway Committee
November 9th, 2015**

Members Present: Larry Neuens, Jeanette Bomberg, John Halada, and Larry Dzekute.

Members Absent: Gary Steber - excused

Others Present: Jeff Hess – WisDOT, Jeff DeMuri and Tiffany White

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Neuens.

Approval and/or revisions to current agenda: Due to Jeff Hess being in attendance from Rhinelander for item 6-A on the agenda, Vice-Chairman Neuens suggested an amendment to the agenda of moving item 6-A before 5-A so that he could leave if desired. A motion was made by Halada, seconded by Dzekute, and voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve the amended agenda.

Approval of Minutes: It was then moved by Dzekute, seconded by Halada, and voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve the minutes of the October 12th Highway Committee meeting, as printed.

Signing of the RMA: Jeff Hess from WisDOT was present to review and get signatures on the state RMAs for 2016. He wished to thank the county and the crew for their work on the state highways. The 2016 maintenance contract with the DOT is for \$492,000, which is a small decrease from 2015.

Neuens spoke to Hess about an inventory of invasive species along the Florence county highways and state highways that was done by some part-time highway employees during the summer 2010. DeMuri clarified that it would be beneficial to do another inventory to see what the spread of invasive plants has been since 2010 and asked Hess if WisDOT would have any funding available to contribute to the project. Hess said he would take it back to WisDOT and then would communicate back through DeMuri.

DeMuri also asked Hess to pass along a recommendation that WisDOT not cut any budget for the maintenance of USH 2. It is scheduled to be worked on in 2018 and since the road was opened to MI logging trucks with GVW of 164,000 lbs it has had significant wear.

Old Business

Highway Office Improvements: DeMuri said that the work on the floor is scheduled for the week of Nov. 30-Dec. 4. He had to have Nsight come in to rewire a few things in the front office, so the layout can be changed to allow the office manager to face the front door. Also, the cabinets and countertops have been ordered.

New Business

Winter Highway Conference: The Winter Highway Conference will be held at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells from Jan. 18-Jan. 20, 2016. DeMuri said if anyone is interested in attending they will need to let him know as the deadline for registration is December 12th.

Snowmobile Snowcross: DeMuri said the Highway Dept. will again help with the set-up and takedown for the Snowcross tournament at Keyes Peak, providing some labor and equipment. The snowcross will probably be moved from Sunday to Saturday this year, as it is expected to draw more of a crowd than the hill climb does.

Commissioner's Report: DeMuri said that he has been working on several county projects and is planning to get as much state work done as possible in the coming weeks. The trucks all have the underbody work done, there are a few more items to do before they are completely winterized, but he is waiting to do those until there is actual snow on the horizon. On October 21st Neuens accompanied DeMuri for the PASER rating. In general, the roads appear in decent shape, a seal coat on CTH B is planned and CTH N thru Aurora is looking rougher than the last time the PASER rating was done. Neuens commented that he enjoyed the PASER rating and also had a tour of the facilities, specifically the new cold storage building and the planned site for the state salt shed.

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Distribute monthly financial statements: The monthly financial report was presented by White. Upon review, it was moved by Halada, seconded by Dzekute and voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve the report as presented.

Present bills: The current monthly bills were presented to the Committee for their review. DeMuri explained the large bills to the Committee. After review and discussion of the bills, it was moved by Dzekute, seconded by Halada and voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve payment of the bills not to exceed \$94,242.76.

Committee Members comments, concerns and future agenda items: Neuens commented that at the ANSWERS meeting, invasive plant species were brought up. It seems like there are a lot of groups involved, but those various groups need to work better together to make progress.

Adjourn to next regular meeting: There being no further business, it was moved by Bomberg, seconded by Dzekute and voted four (4) to zero (0) to adjourn to December 14th, 2015 for the next regular highway meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany White,
Office Manager