

**NOT COMMITTEE APPROVED**

Present: Karl Fisher, Arian Knops, Roger Gierke, Jerry Biller.

Absent: Jim Platteter.

Also Present: Scott Emch, Nanci Mertes, Don Mansky, Robert DeVoe.

**Call Meeting to Order.**

Chair Karl Fisher called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes – December 18, 2017.**

**A Knops/Gierke motion to approve the minutes of December 18, 2017. Motion Carried.**

**Public Comment.**

Don Mansky reported that the Highway agendas are not being added to the County web site all the time and Highway Committee minutes are taking too long to be logged onto the web site. He would like to see this corrected.

**Approve USDA contract for Beaver control.**

The Committee reviewed the contract from USDA to participate in USDA-APHIS-WS beaver damage management program. Cost will be \$6980.00 for the year.

**A Knops/Gierke motion to approve the USDA contract. Motion Carried.**

**Mining Agreement – James Meng and Rusk County Highway Department.**

The Highway Commissioner reported he will need to extend the current lease between Rusk County Highway Department and James Meng gravel pit. Cost to extend the lease for an additional year will be \$500.00.

**A Gierke/Knops motion to approve extending the lease between Rusk County Highway Department and James Meng for 1 year at a cost of \$500.00. Motion Carried.**

**Update on Winter Night Watch position.**

The Highway Commissioner updated the Committee on the Winter Night Watch position. Because the position is working out so well the Commissioner would like to put a second Winter Night Watch person on. The Winter Night Watch position is a temporary position that exists only during the winter months with a shift change (4:30 pm to 2:30am) for a current employee and a temporary \$1.00 hour increase during the months worked at the Night Watch position.

**A Knops/Gierke motion to pursue the possibility of bringing a second Winter Night Watch person on with the Personnel Committee. Motion Carried.**

**Discussion regarding policy for plowing of Boat Landings.**

Currently the Highway Department does not have a policy in place for plowing boat landings. Chair Fisher explained boat landings are the jurisdiction of the Forestry Department. Robert DeVoe from the Town of Big Bend reported that there are 5 different boat landings in the Town of Big Bend and the lakes that the boat landings are on get used just as much in the winter months as in the other months however, the winter months create problems with access. Discussion followed on how to move forward to create a snow plow policy for County Boat Landings. The Highway Committee would like to meet with the Forestry Committee to pursue the possibility of creating a snow plowing policy for County Boat landings.

**HIGHWAY SAFETY REPORT**

Weekly safety reports continue. MSHA refresher training will be held on March 13, 14, and 15 of this year.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER REPORT

The new Skid steer will be delivered next week. A County plow truck had a tire blow out on 1/3/2018 which caused the truck to leave the road and roll onto its side. Truck was not totaled and is currently being repaired.

HIGHWAY FINANCIAL REPORT.

This report includes the current status of Highway Cash, Payables, Receivables, Equipment/Blacktop Plant funds and current Year-to-Date Fund Statement. No questions.

HIGHWAY OFFICE REPORT.

This report includes the status of worker compensation claims, liability insurance, office personnel activity, crew updates, retirements, unemployment claims and number of Highway FMLA requests. No questions.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE- ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

Approve payment of bills.

**A Knops/Gierke motion to approve the Highway Payables and the Highway Crew and Administration payrolls as presented. Motion Carried.**

Set date for next highway committee meeting.

**The next regular Highway Committee meeting is set for February 19, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the Rusk County Highway Department.**

Motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned by consensus of the Committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Nanci Mertes, Highway Financial Administrator and distributed on January 31, 2018