

Present: Robert Stout, Lyle Lieftring, Mike Hraban, Ken Pedersen, Jerry Biller

Absent: None

Also Present: Scott Emch, Deb Fetting, Andy Albarado, Kitzie Winters, Don Mansky, Jehiel Franzen

Call Meeting to Order.

Jerry Biller, Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes – June 21, 2021.

Lyle Lieftring made the motion to approve the minutes of June 21, 2021. Motion was seconded by Mike Hraban. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Don Mansky asked for the final costs for the blacktop project for the Highway Department driveways and parking lot, for the gas pumps, and for the blacktop plant. Kitzie Winters reported that the cost for the parking lot was \$158,067.08, the gas pumps were \$315,552.14 and the blacktop plant was \$2,002,284.85 which includes costs in 2020 and 2021. It was noted that the blacktop for the parking lot was not included in the funding request for the gas pumps. Don Mansky also reported that a large amount of concrete was dumped in the ditch on CTH "H" and would be dangerous if hit by a car. Scott Emch stated that it has been reported and the department is trying to locate a responsible party. If none is found we will remove it.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Hunting Restrictions on Mining Property. Possible Motion.

Committee members reviewed minutes from October 2018, November 2018, and December 2018. According to those minutes, the issue was to go to Corporation Counsel for a possible County resolution. It appears the issue either did not get to Corporation Counsel or the resolution was not presented to the County Board. **Lyle Lieftring moved to table the agenda item until Corporation Counsel reviewed it and takes action. Mike Hraban seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Open Asphalt Gravel Bids. Possible Motion.

Only one bid was submitted. Scott Emch opened the bid received from Haas Sons, Inc. He explained that not many companies in the area are not able to produce the by-product which we will use for our winter maintenance sand. Scott Emch stated that the quoted pricing is competitive. Their quote was:

30,000 CY of 1/2" asphalt aggregate for \$5.75

10,000 CY of 1/4" minus screened sand for \$4.25

Lyle Lieftring made the motion to accept Haas Sons, Inc. bid for asphalt gravel. Mike Hraban seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Authorization to Bid on Roller. Possible Motion.

Scott Emch reported that the Department owns 2 rollers. The one that is needed for paving broke down. We were able to rent one from Barron County and learned that they are selling one at an on-line auction and the bids close on July 26, 2021. After discussion **Mike Hraban made the motion to authorize Scott Emch to make bids on the roller with a cap of \$20,000. Ken Pedersen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Resolution for Formation of Ad Hoc Committee for Buildings Plan. Possible Motion.

A resolution for the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee for the completion of a master plan for county owned buildings was submitted to the County Board by the Rusk County Emergency Services Committee. After it is approved, they will need one member from the Highway Committee. **Jerry Biller made the motion for Mike Hraban to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee for buildings plan. Motion seconded by Bob Stout. Motion carried.**

Approval of Easement. Possible Motion.

Citizens Telephone Cooperative requested an easement on a parcel of land owned by the Rusk County Highway Department. The parcel is just off of CTH "F" & "D" by Fish Lake. They need access to bury and maintain fiber optic cable for people in that area. **Bob Stout made the motion to approve the easement as requested. Ken Pedersen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Highway Wage Adjustments. Possible Motion.

Scott Emch reported that the applicants for Highway Department positions are dwindling. Benefits are no longer better than the private sector and wages are lower. We have one Highway Worker I position open and a second one opening soon due to a retirement. Currently, we have no qualified applicants that meet the needs of the Department. We are at a point where we are forced to increase the wages to stay competitive. Mike Hraban reported that the Personnel Committee is planning an outside wage study and suggested we wait to see the results before taking any action. **Mike Hraban made the motion to run an ad for the Highway Worker I position again. Lyle Lieffring seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER REPORT

- Safety Committee Update—Scott Emch reported the safety committee has not met recently and there has been no new business.
- Ad Hoc Committee Update—The brochure is finished and copies will be sent to each Rusk County municipality. A Powerpoint presentation was reviewed and suggestions for revisions made. Next month they will work on scheduling presentations at town board meetings.
- Construction Updates—Priorities are blacktopping for the Town of Marshall and CTH “G.” The bridge on CTH “G” is completed and open. We are doing estimates for a driveway for the Ladysmith School and for the street by OJ Falge Park for the City of Ladysmith.

HIGHWAY SAFETY REPORT

Scott Emch reported the beginner chainsaw training was completed by two employees. The remaining employees will complete the refresher.

HIGHWAY FINANCIAL REPORT

Kitzie Winters summarized the financial reports.

This report includes the current status of Highway Cash, Payables, Receivables, Equipment/Blacktop Plant funds and current Year-to-Date Fund Statement.

HIGHWAY OFFICE REPORT

Kitzie Winters reported there are no new claims.

This report includes Insurance Liability Claims, Workers Compensation Claims and number of FMLA requests.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE- ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF HIGHWAY INVOICES.

A motion to approve the Highway Payables as presented was made by Mike Hraban and seconded by Bob Stout. Motion carried.

SET DATE FOR NEXT HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING.

The next regular Highway Committee meeting is set for August 16, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. at the Highway Department.

Motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lyle Lieffring. Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Deb Fetting, Highway Accountant I and distributed after approval at the August 2021 meeting.