

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

Absent: Lyle Lieffring

Also Present: Scott Emch, Deb Fetting, Andy Albarado, Jehiel Franzen

Call Meeting to Order.

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

Approval of Minutes – July 19, 2021.

Mike Hraban made the motion to approve the minutes of July 19, 2021. Motion was seconded by Bob Stout. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Jehiel Franzen asked about the hunting issue with the Highway Department property adjoining the Scott pit. Scott Emch stated that we are waiting for advisement from Rusk County Corporation Counsel.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Approval of Company for Testing Blacktop Plant Emissions. Possible Motion.

Scott Emch presented a service agreement with American Engineering Testing, Inc. to complete emissions testing at the blacktop plant to meet DNR regulations. The test is scheduled for July 20th pending committee approval. **Bob Stout made the motion to accept the service agreement with American Engineering Testing, Inc. to complete emissions testing at the blacktop plant. Ken Pedersen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Highway Wage Adjustments. Possible Motion.

Scott Emch reported that the road construction industry has surpassed Rusk County's wages and benefits which causes difficulty in getting qualified people to apply for positions with the Highway Department. We advertised twice for 2 weeks for a Highway Worker I position and received 7 applications in comparison to 5 years ago when we received 30-40 applications. There is also a gap between wages of our mechanics and others in that same field. Especially since our mechanics provide their own tools that run into several thousands of dollars. With understanding that the Personnel Committee has tough decisions to make regarding wage increases across the board, Scott asked that the Highway Committee look at making a respectful recommendation to the Personnel Committee, putting mechanics in a separate classification from the Highway Workers, and increasing their wages by \$2.00 per hour for providing their own tools. After much discussion **Jerry Biller made the motion that the Highway Committee make a recommendation to the Personnel Committee that they approve a market adjustment raise for all of Highway Department crew and a \$2.00 an hour raise for the mechanics. Ken Pedersen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER REPORT

- Safety Committee Update—Committee will meet before next Highway Committee meeting.
- Ad Hoc Committee Update—The Powerpoint presentation is finished. We are ready to start scheduling meetings with townships and villages.
- Construction Updates—Finished CTH G, starting patching on CTH J, "G" bridge is open, "B" bridge is still closed
- Roller Update—Final bid was \$14,250, total after commission was \$15,532.50. Staff like it, very nice piece of equipment.

HIGHWAY SAFETY REPORT

As earlier noted a compliance test is scheduled for the DNR

HIGHWAY FINANCIAL REPORT

Committee members reviewed reports. No questions.

This report included financial status of Highway Department cash, payables, receivables, equipment fund and blacktop plant fund).

HIGHWAY OFFICE REPORT

Committee members reviewed report. No questions.

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

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE- ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Stout mentioned that he would like to see something at the Highway Department in memory of Michael Bigalk who worked for us and was killed on the job. It was decided we will put the item on the next agenda.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF HIGHWAY INVOICES.

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

SET DATE FOR NEXT HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING.

The next regular Highway Committee meeting is set for September 20, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. at the Highway Department.

Motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ken Pedersen. Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

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