

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Scott Emch, Deb Fetting, Kitzie Winters, Don Mansky, Randy Tatur, Andy Albarado

CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES--AUGUST 16, 2021

Lyle Lieftring made the motion to approve the minutes of August 16, 2021. Motion was seconded by Bob Stout. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES—SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Mike Hraban made the motion to approve the minutes of September 13, 2021. Motion was seconded by Ken Pedersen. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Mansky questioned the purpose of a budget. He stated the gas island went over and the blacktop plant is over and is now broken and in need of major repair. Kitzie stated that gas island and driveway maintenance were 2 separate projects and the gas island came in as budgeted. Budget adjustments are expected when unforeseen expenses occur.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Authorization to Purchase Lowboy. Possible Motion.

Scott Emch presented a description of a used 2012 Peterbilt lowboy/tractor found for sale online. The asking price is \$88,750. Our current lowboy/tractor is from the 1980's and is presenting problems that may not be worth repairing. Discussion was held whether a helper axle is needed as shown in the advertisement. **Lyle Lieftring made the motion to approve payment up to \$90,000 for a used lowboy/tractor. Mike Hraban seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Status of Plow Truck Purchase. Possible Motion.

Scott Emch reported that when it was approved to order a new plow truck in March, we were unable to order due to a waiting list. We are now able to order the truck; however, the price has increased by \$2,000. They estimate we will have the truck in October or November of 2022. **Lyle Lieftring made the motion to approve payment of the increased price for a new plow truck. Mike Hraban seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Approval for Policy for Sharpening Mower Blades. Possible Motion.

Scott Emch presented a policy for sharpening blades on industrial mowers. In the past, blades may have been thrown away before they were completely utilized. **Jerry Biller made the motion to approve the policy for sharpening mower blades as written. Lyle Lieftring seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Display Plaque in Honor of Michael Bigalk at Highway Department. Possible Motion.

On November 19, 2010, Michael Bigalk was killed while on duty at the Rusk County Highway Department. Board members discussed displaying a plaque at the Highway Department in his honor. **Bob Stout made the motion to display a plaque at the Rusk County Highway Department in honor of Michael Bigalk who was killed while on duty. Mike Hraban seconded the motion. Motion carried.** Deb Fetting will design a plaque and bring to the next meeting for review.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER REPORT

- **Blacktop Plant Update:**
The slat conveyor will need to be rebuilt. We are looking at replacing the chain gears, slats, roller and bottom plate. We are considering refurbishing with only 1 instead of 2 chains to save materials costs. The cranes are coming this week to lay it on the ground so it can be worked on. We are rushing to get started in the event there are problems getting parts. We can get blacktop from Chippewa County the 1st of October to complete our unfinished jobs. Randy Tatur asked if we checked with Monarch to purchase blacktop. He stated they had a plant on County Line Road South earlier this Spring and it would be much closer than trucking from Bloomer. Scott stated they usually move their plants as soon as their local work is done. He will find out more about their current locations.

- **Construction Updates:**
State Hwy. 40 is still closed for bridge replacement. The DNR bridge on CTH "M" is still closed. CTH "J" and "G" are finished. We will only do patching this year on CTH "D". We still need to pave the VMA parking lot for the City of Ladysmith.
- **Ad Hoc Committee Update:**
The Asphalt Ad Hoc Committee has reached the goals and has disbanded. A presentation was done for Town of Washington and will be scheduled over the next few months for the rest of the municipalities.
- **Safety Committee Update:**
The Safety Committee met 3 weeks ago. Minutes were presented. Discussion was held.

HIGHWAY SAFETY REPORT

The 2 newly hired employees will be scheduled for chain saw training.

HIGHWAY FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial reports were presented by Kitzie Winters. No questions.

HIGHWAY OFFICE REPORT

There is nothing new to report at this time.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE - ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF HIGHWAY INVOICES.

A motion to approve the Highway Payables as presented was made by Lyle Lieffring and seconded by Ken Pedersen. Motion carried.

SET DATE FOR NEXT HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING

The next regular Highway Committee meeting is set for October 18, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. at the Highway Department.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

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