

Present: Robert Stout, Mike Hraban (by phone), Ken Pedersen, Lyle Lieftring, Jerry Biller

Absent:

Also Present: Scott Emch, Deb Fetting, Skye Schulke, Don Mansky

CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

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

CORRECTED HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 22, 2021

The wrong total for the approved purchase of a truck was recorded in the March 2021 minutes. **Lyle Lieftring made the motion to approve the March 22, 2021 minutes as corrected. Ken Pedersen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES—JANUARY 17, 2022

**Bob Stout made the motion to approve the minutes of January 17, 2022. Motion was seconded by Ken Pedersen. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Open Bids for Polymer Sealcoating. Possible Motion.

Two bids were received. Norcon Corporation bid \$223,411.60 and Fahrner Asphalt Sealers bid \$214,176. The contract will be adjusted to meet LRIP requirements in contributing 50% of the total cost of the project. **Lyle Lieftring made the motion to accept the bid from Fahrner Asphalt Sealers with contract modifications to meet the LRIP requirements. Ken Pedersen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Approval to Run Ads for Culverts, Hay, Crushing & Oil Bids. Possible Motion.

**Bob Stout made the motion to approve advertising for bids for culverts, hay, crushing and oil. Lyle Lieftring seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Approval to Replace Washer and Dryer. Possible Motion.

Discussion was held on the need to replace the washer in the shop and purchase a dryer. The cost will be approximately \$1200 for the set. **Bob Stout made the motion to approve the purchase of a washer and dryer for approximately \$1200. Lyle Lieftring seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Asphalt Plant Training—3 Employees. Possible Motion.

Discussion was held on the need for the asphalt plant employees to attend, by virtual learning, a 6-day course on plant operations. **Ken Pedersen made the motion to approve \$1590 per person for 3 employees to enroll in a virtual learning course on plant operations. Bob Stout seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Authorization to Hire Highway Worker I. Possible Motion.

Scott Emch reported that a crew member resigned last week and asked for approval to hire a replacement. **Lyle Lieftring made the motion to approve submitting a request to the Personnel Committee for approval to hire a Highway Worker I to replace the crew member who recently resigned. Mike Hraban seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Discuss CDL Training Provisions. Possible Motion.

In order to obtain a CDL, drivers are required to attend a school. Hiring a person without a CDL is going to be an issue because the cost of the training through a school is \$5,000 to \$6,000. Committee members discussed possibly sending a Rusk County employee to school to teach on-site. Committee members want more research on this topic. Before the next meeting Scott Emch will look into instructor training and check with other counties to see what they are doing. **Tabled until next meeting.**

Authorization to Hire Seasonal Worker (with CDL). Possible Motion.

Scott Emch requested approval to hire a seasonal worker (with CDL) in addition to the one we currently have. **Lyle Lieffring made the motion to approve submitting a request to the Personnel Committee for approval to hire a Seasonal Worker (with CDL). Ken Pedersen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Authorization to Hire Temporary Summer Help. Possible Motion.

Scott Emch requested approval to hire up to 3 people for Temporary Summer Help. **Bob Stout made the motion to approve submitting a request to the Personnel Committee for approval to hire up to 3 people for Temporary Summer Help. Lyle Lieffring seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Authorization for New Summer Help Wage. Possible Motion.

Discussion was held in regard to increasing the Summer Help wage. It is currently \$12.50 per hour. **Lyle Lieffring made the motion to approve increasing the Summer Help Wage to \$15.00 per hour which is consistent with the Personnel Committee's recent approval for other Rusk County summer employees. Bob Stout seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Approve Agreement with the State for Crack Sealing Hwy. 40. Possible Motion.

Scott Emch presented an Agreement for Performance with the WI DOT. The agreement is for Rusk County Highway to crack seal STH 40 from USH 8 to CTH A. **Bob Stout made the motion to approve and sign the Agreement for Performance with the WI DOT for crack sealing STH 40 from USH 8 to CTH A. Lyle Lieffring seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Road Agreement with Four Mile LLP. Possible Motion.

Four Mile LLP is looking at building a hog farm operation in the Town of Marshall on CTH G. They wish to contribute \$45,000 by annual payment of \$2769.75 for 25 years toward maintaining construction of that stretch of CTH G. The stretch is approximately 4330 feet and Four Mile would run loaded feed trucks, equipment, livestock, etc. 365 days a year including during road bans. The contract was given to Rich Summerfield, Corporation Counsel for review. **Bob Stout made the motion to approve signing the agreement with Four Mile, LLP pending any changes made by Rich Summerfield. Ken Pedersen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

BIL Funding—New Projects. Possible Motion.

Scott Emch explained that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is a program that provides 80% funding for construction projects. We need to get projects ready for this. Projects he can think of is CTH M and 4 or 5 off-system bridges. Scott wants to put together some RFP to get some proposals. **Mike Hraban made the motion to approve Scott Emch getting proposals for construction projects that would meet the criteria for the BIL funding. Bob Stout seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Beaver Contract. Possible Motion.

The USDA sent a Cooperative Service Agreement (CSA) for beaver damage management. The annual cost is \$10,800 and will be billed quarterly. **Lyle Lieffring made the motion to approve signing the CSA for beaver damage management with the USDA. Ken Pedersen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Utility Accommodation Policy. Possible Motion.

Scott Emch reported that the Wisconsin Counties Highway Association (WCHA) has been working to get all the counties to use a standardized utility policy in permitting utility companies to work within the highway right-of-way. He recommended that we adopt and use this policy. **Lyle Lieffring made the motion to adopt the WCHA standardized utility policy as written. Bob Stout seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER REPORT

Scott Emch reported that he will not be available for a committee meeting in the month of March. No other business at this time.

HIGHWAY SAFETY REPORT

Scott reported that the safety committee met last week. It was decided to alternate one member of the committee by replacing with crew members in alphabetical order. A flagging training is being planned. Andy Albarado is working with a person to provide a standard county safety policy. That person will be touring the building and looking at current policies.

HIGHWAY FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial reports were presented by Skye Schuelke. No questions were asked.

HIGHWAY OFFICE REPORT

The Highway Office report was presented by Skye Schuelke. No questions.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE - ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF HIGHWAY INVOICES.

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

SET DATE FOR NEXT HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING

The next regular Highway Committee meeting is set for April 18, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. at the Highway Department.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**A motion to adjourn was made by Lyle Lieftring. Motion Carried.**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Deb Fetting, Finance Accountant I and distributed after approval at the April 2022 meeting.