



Highway Committee Minutes

9:30 AM – Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Members Present: JoAnn Nickelatti, Glenda Sullivan, Mike Leis, Dave Williams

Others in attendance: Commissioner Phil Hewitt, Lonnie Muller, Mary Henry

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Affirmation of proper public notice of meeting

The meeting was properly noticed.

3. Review and approve minutes of the April 20, 2021 meeting

Motion by Leis, seconded by Sullivan, to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

4. Audience to visitors – none.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Vehicle Leases

Enterprise has demand for used vehicles and would like to rewrite our leases. We currently have 19 trucks in our fleet and would like to sell about 10 and lease 5-7 trucks. Hewitt needs to meet with Enterprise to get more information and discuss with Sue about the advantages and disadvantages of leasing a fleet. No action taken.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on Old Highway Shop – Future Sale

The committee discussed the sale of the old highway shop again. Looking at the appraised value, it doesn't make sense to sell right now. May want to have it re-appraised. No action taken.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on Cameras for Paint Crew

Hewitt would like to add cameras to all of the pavement marking equipment in case of future complaints/claims. Cameras would cost approximately \$3-4000. Motion by Leis, seconded by Williams to purchase cameras for the paint squad, including vehicles and employees. All in favor. Motion carried.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Countywide ATV/UTV Routes

The current ordinance says that the requests need to come from the towns, but there are still several towns who haven't made requests. Motion by Leis, seconded by Sullivan to amend the ATV/UTV ordinance to open all Vernon County roads for ATV/UTV use. All in favor. Motion carried.

9. Review/Approve bills for payment

Motion made by Sullivan, seconded by Williams to pay the bills. All in favor. Motion carried.

10. Commissioner's Report – Phil Hewitt – Non-action items

- a. Student summer help – Hewitt hired two student workers; one to help setting cones with the paint crew, and one to be a “gopher” and/or watch traffic.
- b. WCHA updates – Topics of current discussion include: Looking for approval to designate green lights be installed on work vehicles instead of your average amber color; including work zone training in driver's ed classes, allowing flaggers to be able to report vehicles breaking the law in work zones, 4% increase in GTA funds, buggy registrations has not passed yet, but approximately 85-90% are in favor.



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- c. Town of Clinton – The new board is interested in doing a project with the funds that the Amish community donated to the highway department. Traffic counter counted 760 cars on Irish Ridge Road on a Tuesday, and approximately 6,100 cars in a week.
- d. Fort McCoy – They are very pleased with our pavement marking work; pleased with the timeliness, the crew and their efficiency, the quality, and the cost (way under budget).
- e. Forklift – We couldn't find a forklift to buy, so we're leasing one at the old shop to unload road paint and beads. The lease cost will be deducted from the purchase price if we decide to purchase it later.
- f. Sheldon's paver – Purchased for \$13,000
- g. County P, Timber Coulee – Closed for 40 days to replace the bridge
- h. Yahara chips – Offering crushed chips for \$6/ton vs \$12/ton for man sand
- i. Mathy – Pushing up the pulverizing projects to July instead of later this fall
- j. Dirt from the new development – There is more dirt to be hauled out than the Highway Department can spare time/crews for. Hewitt will check with the grant writer to see if we can have private contractors haul for us, in exchange for some of the dirt since we aren't allowed to sell the dirt. Will advertise.

11. Set next meeting date

- June 15, 2021

12. Adjourn

Motion by Sullivan, seconded by Leis to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.