



# Vernon County Highway Department

602 North Main Street  
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## Highway Committee Minutes Thursday, March 14, 2019

**Members Present:** JoAnn Nickelatti, Glenda Sullivan, Michael Leis, Dave Williams, Loren Goede

**Others in attendance:** Commissioner Phil Hewitt, Roger Call, Ole Yttri, Lonnie Muller, Tim Hundt, David Abt

**1. Call to order, JoAnn Nickelatti, Chair, presiding**

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

**2. Affirmation of proper public notice of meeting**

The meeting was properly noticed.

**3. Review and approve minutes of the February 14, 2019 meeting**

Motion by Sullivan, seconded by Goede, to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

**4. Audience to visitors – Tim Hundt did a live stream of the meeting for his Facebook page.**

**5. Discussion and possible action on Work Zone Safety Week resolution**

Discussion on the upcoming construction season. Work Zone Safety Week is a statewide movement to raise awareness of the potential dangers associated with driving through road construction zones. Motion made by Leis, seconded by Williams to do a press release and a resolution by the Highway Committee for the week of April 8 through April 12, 2019 to be designated as Work Zone Awareness Week. Motion carried.

**6. Discussion and possible action on fleet pickup rentals**

Discussion on pros and cons of leasing vs buying vehicles for fleet. More information was presented to continue last months' discussion. Recommended to wait for true numbers mid-summer. No action taken.

**7. Discuss and take action on GPS locating program**

Discussion on current system from Precise. The trucks aren't reporting accurately this year. Verizon has a new program with an introductory offer that would save the county \$10 per month, per unit with an approximate up front cost of \$500. Motion made by Williams, seconded by Sullivan to try Verizon with 15 units. Motion carried.

**8. Discussion and possible action on Stepp Lawsuit**



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David Abt, Corp Counsel requested to go into closed session. Motion made by Leis, seconded by Goede to enter closed session. It was realized that closed session was not on the agenda and the board reopened. Discussion to add to next months' agenda and David Abt left the meeting. No action taken.

\*Motion made by Leis, seconded by Goede to move items 9 and 10 (Commissioner Evaluation and possible action) to last items on the agenda. Motion carried.

## **11. Review and approve vouchers for payment**

Motion by Leis, seconded by Williams, to approve the vouchers. Motion carried.

## **12. Commissioner's Report – Phil Hewitt – Non-action items**

Hewitt updated the committee on the following: pictures of construction on the new shop. The crew hopes to be done setting walls next week then structural steel and roofing so they can start working on plumbing and electrical. With good weather, they hope to be moved in by the end of September or early October. With the excess of snow and plowing, we've had an excess of break downs. May need to eliminate a couple of sections of roads that were added in recent years. Road bans are not currently on; last year they were on for a long time, so the plan is to evaluate at the end of next week. As soon as the weather and daylight allows, the staff will be switching to four 10-hour days. Hewitt will meet with the city tomorrow to discuss hooking up to the city's water & sewer and how they will handle disposing of waste water. The construction firm that will be working on WW bridge outside of Hillsboro would like to make that their first project of the year. Everyone was in agreement that the road will already be closed, so no reason to post of road bans and to do surveillance while they work to make sure they aren't damaging the road. GTA funding has decreased; discussion is going to be necessary on completing some special projects so that more funding can be received. Hewitt reported that the county radio system is very dated and that the patrolmen would prefer to use their personal cell phones for communication, but that it isn't legal to be using a handheld device while driving with a CDL. Everyone is in agreement to purchase 10 bluetooth headsets at \$40 each and see how it goes.

## **9. Highway Commissioner Performance Evaluation: The Chair may entertain a motion to enter into a closed session, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.85(1)(c).**

Motion made by Leis, seconded by Goede to enter into closed session. Motion carried.

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Sullivan to reopen. Motion carried. No action taken.

## **13. Set next meeting date**

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

## **14. Adjourn**

Motion by Sullivan, seconded by Williams, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Casey Oium – Vernon County Highway Department