



Vernon County Highway Department

602 North Main Street
PO Box 232
Viroqua, WI 54665

Phone 608-637-5452
Fax 608-637-5461
vchd@vernoncounty.org

Highway Committee Minutes Wednesday, May 8, 2019

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

Others in attendance: Commissioner Phil Hewitt, Roger Call, Lonnie Muller, Gail Muller,
Adrian Amelse

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 April 11, 2019 meeting

Motion by Sullivan, seconded by Leis, to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2019 meeting.
Motion carried.

4. Audience to visitors – N/A

5. Discussion and possible action on La Farge ATV ordinance

La Farge recently approved an ATV/UTV ordinance for the village. It has been proposed that Wisconsin Highway 82 and Highway 131 be approved as ATV/UTV routes. If the two townships and Vernon County agree and amend their ordinances to make these routes ATV/UTV routes, then the state will allow it as well. Motion by Leis, seconded by Sullivan, to approve the ATV ordinance for La Farge, as requested. Motion carried.

6. Discussion and possible action on highway funding resolution

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Sullivan, to adopt the Transportation Resolution as presented (see attached) for full County Board consideration to be sent to State Legislators for action on funding our local transportation system. Motion carried.

7. Discussion and possible action on 2019 construction

Hewitt presented projects consisting of 2.1 miles of hot mix on CTH Y West, 14 miles of chips, 1.5" overlay on Perkins Hill, and 1,000 tons of skinny mix that total approximately \$1.1 million of



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the \$1.3 million budgeted. Motion made by Williams, seconded by Sullivan, to approve the transportation projects. Motion carried.

8. Discussion and possible action on hiring patrolman for highway 14

Interviews were held last Friday and Monday. Of the 12-14 applicants, only a few were qualified. Hewitt offered the position to Dan Simonson, who accepted and will begin May 28th. Motion made by Sullivan, seconded by Williams, to hire the top candidate. Motion carried.

9. Review and approve vouchers for payment

Motion made by Leis, seconded by Williams, to pay vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

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

a. Shop update

Working on the roof of the repair shop, moving to the exterior steel and then will be able to begin the finish work.

b. Training update

- Hewitt reported that he attended an Erosion Control training in Eau Claire and is now ECIP certified and can write an Erosion Control Implementation Plan.
- In the near future it will be mandatory for flaggers on a two-lane road to be certified. Hewitt is hoping to attend a "Train the Trainer" program that will allow him to train employees, including summer help. The DOT will also require rumble strips and wants the county to purchase them through the small tools funds.
- Summer help is/was hard to find. Hewitt says he received numerous applications, but most were from 16 and 17 year olds. He asked that if unable to find "student" help, that he hire "retired" workers who have already contacted him and shown interest.
- Emergency Management came to talk about changes he'd like to see made to the existing highway building, but they are very costly. Hewitt said he's looking at just keeping the building and using it for storage. The Sheriff's department and Land & Water are interested in having heated storage for some of their equipment.

11. Set next meeting date

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

12. Adjourn

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



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Resolution # _____
Transportation Resolution

WHEREAS, Vernon County highway is responsible for 285 miles of road and 253 bridges; and
WHEREAS, Vernon County's diverse economy is dependent upon county roads and bridges; and
WHEREAS, while increases in transportation funding the last budget was appreciated, it did not address our continuing struggles to meet the basic maintenance needs in Vernon County; and
WHEREAS, levy limits do not allow Vernon County to make up for the deterioration of state funding; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors urges the Governor and Legislature to agree upon a sustainable solution that adjust our user fees and gas tax to adequately fund our transportation system. Furthermore, the County Board of Supervisors directs the County Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to our State Legislators and to Governor Tony Evers.

Recommended for consideration by the full County Board
May 8, 2019
Highway Committee


JoAnn Nickelatti, Chair

VOTE 4 0 1
Yes No ~~Absent~~/Abstain

Adopted by Vernon County Board of Supervisors
Attest:

Ron Hoff, Vernon County Clerk

Date _____