



# Vernon County Highway Department

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## Highway Committee Minutes Thursday, September 12, 2019

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

**Others in attendance:** Commissioner Phil Hewitt, Lonnie Muller

**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 August 8, 2019 meeting**

Motion by Leis, seconded by Williams, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**4. Audience to visitors – none.**

**5. Discuss and possible action on Enterprise fleet rental/purchase**

Discussion on leasing costing the county more than purchasing with a government discount.

Hewitt spoke with Spanky at Sleepy Hollow and can purchase two  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton, regular cab, 8 foot bed pickup trucks for the supervisors for \$29,244 each, after a \$9,000 government discount. Spanky offered \$28,000 for trade-in on two of our current trucks. The decision was made to try to sell the vehicles and if unsuccessful, trade them in. Hewitt stated he didn't have a need for a pickup truck and perhaps next fall would look into purchasing an SUV for himself. Motion made by Sullivan, seconded by Goede to purchase two new vehicles, not lease, and to do it through Sleepy Hollow instead of Enterprise. Motion carried.

**6. Discuss and possible action on ATV/UTV ordinance for Town of Harmony**

The Town of Harmony would like to open a portion of STH 56 for ATV/UTV routes. Motion made by Sullivan, seconded by Leis to allow their request, as long as the state agrees. Motion carried.

**7. Discuss and possible action on ATV/UTV routes for Town of Webster**

The Town of Webster would like to open select sections of STH 82 for better access of their ATV/UTV routes. Motion made by Williams, seconded by Goede to approve their request, as long as the state agrees. Motion carried.

**8. Discuss and possible action to move CTH B driveway request**

The new landowner contacted Hewitt again about wanting the county to put in a new driveway. Hewitt explained that it is not our responsibility and that his driveway is on the county right of way. Hewitt offered to remove existing guardrail to open an approach, but nothing more. He insists that the county should be responsible the whole new driveway. Motion made by Williams,



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seconded by Goede to deny the landowner's request for any driveway assistance from the county and further matters should involve corp. counsel. Motion carried.

## **9. Discuss and possible action on purchase of new mower for new highway shop**

Hewitt would like to purchase a new commercial mower and split the cost between Vernon Manor, Buildings & Facilities, and the Highway departments. Motion made by Goede, seconded by Williams to do a shared purchase of a mower with Vernon Manor and Buildings & Facilities.

## **10. Discuss and possible action on funding resolution**

Hewitt presented a resolution for the county board for \$500,000 for five years. Motion made by Sullivan, seconded by Williams. Five votes in favor, zero against. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Leis, seconded by Sullivan to pay vouchers as presented.

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

- Verizon Fleet has offered a September promo for free equipment to try. Hewitt stated we have enough equipment on our trucks currently and will see how the services pan out this winter on the current equipment.
- Hewitt attended budget hearings. He is expecting to streamline operations at the new shop by reducing one position eventually when an employee retires. He stated there will potentially be three retirements in the next year or so and he would entertain not replacing one of those positions.
- A \$75 million grant was released by Governor Evers last week. \$30 million will be awarded to counties in Wisconsin through a competitive application process, which are due in December.
- Hewitt purchased a \$40,000 backhoe/loader with funds from used equipment sales.
- Hewitt received a phone complaint about horse poop on the roads.
- Hewitt received the "ok" from Personnel to enforce safety card usage with the highway employees. Each employee is required to fill out a safety sheet daily. Consequences for not being able to provide the sheets if asked, are: 1) warning, 2) sent home without pay, 3) up to three days off without pay, and 4) further discipline, including termination. Hewitt stated that the county's "Standards of Excellence" aren't all being followed at the highway department so will have Serena come in next Tuesday at 8:45 for a 15 minute meeting on the level of expectations. Committee members are invited and the meeting will be posted.
- Mobil gas station has expressed interest in purchasing the lot between the highway shop and the current property.
- Hewitt stated that, contrary to rumors, the new highway shop is currently only \$2,771 over budget as of today. There is a 2-4 week delay that moves our anticipated date for water to November 8<sup>th</sup>. A water leak caused water behind sheet rock that needs to be replaced. Tuesday is expected to be the final inside concrete pour.
- Hewitt said the EDA grant that was submitted hasn't been reviewed yet. Apparently the reviewer has been out on leave for six weeks and so it has just sat. This puts things further behind and it looks like the first possible date for city water hookup would be November 19<sup>th</sup>.



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

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

## **14. Adjourn**

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