



Vernon County Highway Department

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Highway Committee Minutes Thursday, November 14, 2019

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

Others in attendance: Commissioner Phil Hewitt, Roger Call, Kelly & Tim Servais, Lawyer Pat Houlihan, tenants Kathy & Larry, Nikki Swayne

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 October 10, 2019 meeting

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

4. Audience to visitors – none.

5. CTH B Driveway discussion with owners & lawyers

Tim & Kelly Servais attended the meeting with their lawyer, Pat Houlihan, and tenants Kathy & Larry to discuss all of the unfortunate events that have occurred due to their driveway washing out. Both parties discussed possible solutions to the washouts.

6. Discussion and possible action on CTH B driveway

The Chair may entertain a motion to enter into a closed session, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(g), “Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

a. Roll call vote on the above motion, and if approved, enter into closed session.

Sullivan made a motion to go into closed session to discuss with corp counsel. Seconded by Williams, roll call vote 5 “yes”, 0 “no”, motion carried.

b. Reconvene in open session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 19.85 (2). Roll call vote if motion is not unanimous.

Motion made by Sullivan to exit closed session, seconded by Goede. Motion carried.

c. Action may be taken on item discussed in closed session.

Motion made by Williams to take no action on the CTH B driveway as discussed. Nikki will send a letter to the party’s lawyer. Seconded by Goede. Motion carried.

7. Discussion and possible action on rent of highway buildings

Nikki drew up rental agreements for the highway buildings that aren’t being used, particularly the old salt sheds by the radio station. Rent will be according to the suggested rate on the USDA website, \$1,000 per year.

8. Discussion and possible action on winter maintenance policy.



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Hewitt stated that instead of plowing and salting during every storm, the county will go out and sand hills and corners. State road winter maintenance will remain the same.

9. Discussion and possible action on budget priority.

\$200,000 was removed from next year's budget, so the county won't do seal coating next year. Hewitt is going to apply for the state's 90/10 grant for the Timber Coulee project.

10. Discussion and possible action on ATV/UTV route request(s)

The Town of Union would like to proceed with adding routes in their township but will need to send proper documentation for next month's meeting. Leis stated that, from the Sherriff Department perspective, all of the villages, cities, and towns should have the same stipulations as far as what hours they may operate. There is too much confusion right now with who may be breaking the rules because the rules are different in each municipality.

11. Discussion and possible action on transfer of funds for purchase of equipment.

Hewitt found a loader that is coming off of rental with approximately 700 hours for \$130,000. After some discussion, Hewitt decided that we shouldn't purchase the equipment at this time due to the budget already being tight.

12. Review and approve Annual Election to use Composite Rates for Winter Maintenance Equipment.

Instead of billing for the truck, plow, wing, sander, etc. separately, this election would allow for us to bill a composite rate for plowing that includes all of the attachments. Motion made by Goede, seconded by Williams to approve the use of composite rates for winter maintenance equipment. Motion carried.

13. Review and approve vouchers for payment.

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

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

- Shop update – the city water should be done today, testing will still need to be done next week. The generator has not been delivered yet and are not allowed to take occupancy before the generator is installed. Hewitt said someone is working on filing an exemption so that we could take occupancy before that is installed. Hewitt said the flooring is lost somewhere in South Carolina and currently looking at possible move in date of the second week in December.
- LTE employees – Looking at possibly hiring some LTE employees next year to help with cleaning, mowing, etc.
- Safety training – November 20th the guys will be doing winter maintenance training at the Erlandson building. Training will be approximately five hours plus an hour to take an exam. The cost is approximately \$3,000.
December 10th the guys will be doing chainsaw training

15. Set next meeting date

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

16. Adjourn

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