



Vernon County Highway Department

1335 Railroad Avenue
Viroqua, WI 54665

Phone 608-637-5452
vchd@vernoncounty.org

Highway Committee Minutes Thursday, October 8, 2020

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

Others in attendance: Commissioner Phil Hewitt, Lonnie Muller

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 September 10, 2020 meeting

Motion by Sullivan, seconded by Goede, to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

4. Audience to visitors – none.

5. Discuss and Approve Plow/Wing/Sander Proposals

Hewitt requested postponing until next month to get solid specs. Motion by Leis, seconded by Williams to postpone proposals until next month. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Discussion and Possible Purchase of Attenuator

Federal guidelines will require the use of an attenuator for mowing on state highways. An attenuator is essentially a “crash truck” that absorbs the energy in a crash. Cost is approximately \$35-40,000. Hewitt will look into this further.

7. Discuss and Amend Highway Resolution (attached)

Discussion on wording of the previous resolution. A local lending institution has offered 0.9% interest. The loan would be paid over ten years. Motion by Leis, seconded by Williams to approve the amended Highway Funding Resolution. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Sale of Highway Properties

Discussed again that it isn't in the best interest to sell the old highway building anytime soon. The earliest scenario to consider would be selling part of the vacant lot in the spring.

9. Review/Approve bills for payment

Motion made by Sullivan, seconded by Goede to pay the bills. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

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

- Shared intern with Land & Water
- Standard Bridge Design pilot program – a design would be developed for your basic bridge, and then that design would be given to the counties and the county would work with their bridge consultant to utilize the design in projects, eliminating the need to start from scratch with each bridge replacement. Hewitt is planning to be a part of the pilot program with the Old Line Road bridge.



Vernon County Highway Department

1335 Railroad Avenue
Viroqua, WI 54665

Phone 608-637-5452
vchd@vernoncounty.org

- CTH FF bridge moving on schedule; Hewitt wanted confirmation from the committee that the agreement was that Vernon County would help fund the bridge (not the Highway Dept.) and Land O'Lakes and the City of Hillsboro should pay the Highway Department, who will in turn pay the bill.
- HRRRP Program is a safety program that Hewitt opted out of. He said his past experience is that there always ends up being more stipulations that need to be met for rumble strips and signage, and there isn't extra funds for more restoration on the project that was being considered.
- Some of the Amish community are considering a voluntary donation of \$25/buggy for damages to the roads. No further action has taken place yet, but Hewitt will discuss what that might look like in other counties, as well as how it may affect townships and/or villages as well.
- The MLS program turned into CHI-D; Vernon County still wasn't awarded any of the funds.
- Hewitt updated the committee that the policy at the highway department is to quarantine for a 72-hour incubation period if someone has come into contact with a known-positive case of COVID-19.
- Hewitt is planning a hunting trip to Idaho towards the end of October and has 72 hours built in to his planned absence, and will take extra precautions when he returns to the office.

11. Set next meeting date

- November 12, 2020

12. Adjourn

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



Vernon County Highway Department

1335 Railroad Avenue
Viroqua, WI 54665

Phone 608-637-5452
vchd@vernoncounty.org

Highway Funding Resolution

WHEREAS, Transportation funding continues to decrease; and

WHEREAS, the increasing cost of material and equipment has hampered the highway department's ability to maintain Vernon County's infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Vernon County highways have sustained \$1,000,000 in flood damage the last three years; and

WHEREAS, General Transportation Aids and other funding sources have failed to keep pace; and

WHEREAS, Vernon County Highway Department requests the borrowing of \$5 million with a ten year amortization; and

WHEREAS, \$5 million will be added to the Vernon County tax levy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Vernon County Highway Department will use additional borrowed funds with first draw taking place in 2021 and second draw taking place in 2022, with balance of funds to be placed in Highway Infrastructure account to be used within five years to enhance Vernon County Highway Department infrastructure.

Recommended for consideration by the full County Board
October 8, 2020
Highway Committee


JoAnn Nickelatti, Chair

VOTE 5 0
 Yes No Absent/Abstain

Adopted by Vernon County Board of Supervisors
Attest:

_____ Date _____
Ron Hoff, Vernon County Clerk