



Vernon County Highway Department

1335 Railroad Avenue
Viroqua, WI 54665

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Highway Committee Minutes Thursday, November 12, 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 October 8, 2020 meeting

Motion by Sullivan, seconded by Goede, to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor.
Motion carried.

4. Audience to visitors – none.

5. Approve Composite Rate Agreement

Motion by Williams, seconded by Goede, to approve the composite rate agreement from the DOT. All in favor. Motion carried.

6. Discussion and Possible Action on Winter Budget

Hewitt stated the county needed funds to balance the budget, so he offered \$150,000 from the highway budget. They also requested an additional \$50,000. Hewitt said he will take the money from his winter maintenance budget and be more selective about sending out county trucks to plow after hours and make decisions storm-by-storm.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on RMA Approval

Motion by Leis, seconded by Williams to approve the state's RMA as presented. All in favor.
Motion carried.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Desoto Hill Land Sale

Discussed approximately 8 acres of ditch, woods, and rock that serves us no purpose. A neighbor to the property is interested in purchasing the land. Hewitt will discuss with the state to see if they will have a road plan in the future that would require them to acquire some of the property.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on CTH FF Bridge Repair

Our existing bridge- not the additional structure that is currently being constructed—will need some work done; we could pay the crew that is already there approximately \$20,000 to do the repairs now, but they aren't urgent, so we could wait and have the highway department crews do the repairs for much less. All were in agreement to wait and do the work ourselves.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Rusch Ln, Town of Stark

A landowner would like to build a road to their property; The landowner would pay the expense, and when finished, the Town of Stark would acquire the road as a "town road". The Town of Stark would like the highway department to do the work and assume liability until the project is



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finished. Hewitt will clarify with corp. counsel if this is allowed, since work for private enterprise is not allowed. Motion by Goede, seconded by Sullivan to continue with the project, pending approval from corp. counsel.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on New Box for Truck

We just rebuilt a box on a truck and spent approximately \$27,000. A new box would cost about \$29,000. We received \$30,000 from the Stepp lawsuit, so would use those funds. Motion by Williams, seconded by Sullivan to get approval from Finance to move money from our general fund account to equipment purchases to purchase a new box. All in favor. Motion carried.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Truck Attachment Proposals

Universal's proposal was for \$123,692 and Monroe's proposal was for \$125,532. Motion made by Leis, seconded by Sullivan to accept Universal's proposal. All in favor. Motion carried.

13. Review/Approve bills for payment

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Goede to pay the bills. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

- CTH FF bridge – we'll pay the bill and be reimbursed by the County Ho-Chunk funds, Land O'Lakes, and the City of Hillsboro (1/3 each).
- Attenuator – Our doesn't meet crash standards, but will suffice for DOT work for another two years. Hewitt will look into purchasing a new one.
- Hwy 35 will officially reopen tomorrow, 11/13/2020
- All hot mixing is done
- Hewitt said according to his calculations, the truck wash only costs \$1.98 for material per wash. Will continue to look into this, and determine a price for county entities, as well as private.

15. Set next meeting date

- December 10, 2020

16. Adjourn

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