



# Vernon County Highway Department

1335 Railroad Avenue  
Viroqua, WI 54665

Phone 608-637-5452  
vchd@vernoncounty.org

## Highway Committee Minutes Thursday, September 10, 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 August 13, 2020 meeting**

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

**4. Audience to visitors – none.**

**5. Discussion and possible action on Highway Funding Resolution (attached)**

Discussion on the cost of road construction; it costs approximately \$250,000/mile for 3.5" hot mix. The requested funds from the resolution would be used for additional overlays; about 10 miles each year for the next 5 years. Motion by Williams, seconded by Goede to approve consultant selections as shown. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

**6. Discussion and possible purchase action on man sand proposal**

Only one company submitted proposals; The Kraemer Company gave the following prices: Screenings - \$6.00/ton from either Clockmaker (outside Westby) or Thompson (outside Hillsboro) quarries.

Man Sand - \$10.20/ton from Mollik (outside Viroqua) quarry or \$6.65/ton from Thompson (outside Hillsboro) quarry. Manufactured sand is better than screenings, with less clumping.

Motion by Goede, seconded by Sullivan to buy man sand and haul from whichever quarry is most cost-effective. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

**7. Discussion and possible action on old highway shop uses and possible sale**

Two people are potentially interested in purchasing the old highway shop. Conversations will continue, but no action taken at this time.

**8. Discussion and possible action on new job descriptions**

Personnel is beginning a new county-wide wage study and Hewitt stated now would be the time to change job descriptions at the highway department. He'd like to combine all current titles under "Highway Maintenance Worker" with four steps. Each step would have increasing pay grades that the guys could move up based on their levels of training and evaluations. Same concept for the mechanics, who would be called "technicians". Motion by Sullivan, seconded by Williams to implement new job descriptions. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

**9. Review/Approve bills for payment**



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

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

- Pulverizing is happening today, hauling gravel next week
- Fuel system should be fixed Monday, there is no longer moisture in the new shop
- Renting a roller for construction for around \$3,400-4,200 for a month
- **CTH Y East – someone sent a letter with traffic concerns**
- **Looking into recycling road signs**
- **Bridge inspections are back; 3-5 bridges had minor issues**
- **CTH BI – someone wants the 4' culvert replaced with 6' or larger; cost would be between \$50,000-70,000 and won't solve the issue; water over the road is inevitable that close to the Mississippi**
- **Portable camera for scanning tubes – Land and Water and Emergency Management would like to share the cost with the highway department. Cost is around \$13,000 and we'd use it 4-5 times a year.**

## **11. Set next meeting date**

- October 8, 2020

## **12. Adjourn**

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



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### 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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vernon County Highway Department request to raise its budget by \$1,000,000 for five years with funds coming from the Ho-Chunk Infrastructure Fund or General Fund or Vernon County Tax Levy or local lending institutions.

Recommended for consideration by the full County Board  
September 10, 2020  
Highway Committee

  
JoAnn Nickelatti, Chair

VOTE      5        0      \_\_\_\_\_  
          Yes        No        Absent/Abstain

Adopted by Vernon County Board of Supervisors  
Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Hoff, Vernon County Clerk

Date \_\_\_\_\_