



Vernon County Highway Department

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Highway Committee Minutes Thursday, February 13, 2020

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

Others in attendance: Commissioner Phil Hewitt, Roger Call, Gail & Lonnie Muller, Ole Yttri, 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 January 9, 2020 meeting

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

4. Audience to visitors – none.

5. Discussion and possible action on Stepp Manufacturing Litigation

- The Chair will entertain a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 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. Enter into closed session, if motion is made and passed. (Roll call vote if not unanimous.) Motion made by Leis, seconded by Goede to enter closed session. Motion carried.
- Reconvene in open session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(2). (Roll call vote if not unanimous.) Motion made by Leis, seconded by Williams to re-enter open session. Motion carried.
- May act on item discussed in closed session. Motion made by Goede, Seconded by Leis to accept mediation settlement agreement as presented. Motion carried.

6. Discussion and possible action on Proposals for Bridge Manager

Jewell was the only firm that submitted a proposal. Several others responded but said they didn't have either the time or the available staff to take on the project. Motion made by Williams, seconded by Goede to accept Jewel's proposal for bridge manager. Motion carried.

7. Discussion and possible action on Culvert Bids

Metal Culverts Inc. and Contech Engineered Solutions submitted bids for culverts. A table was prepared using culvert usage in 2019 and comparison made based off the that usage and the bid prices submitted by each company. Contech's pricing came to a total of \$149,803 (based off last years usage), and Metal Culverts totaled \$133,390.68. Motion made by Leis, seconded by Williams to accept Metal Culvert Inc's bid. Motion carried.

8. Discussion and possible action on ATV/UTV Routes



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- The Town of Union passed an ordinance in their township allowing ATV/UTVs and would like county roads in the township to be included. Hewitt said he didn't have a problem with that, but stated they needed to submit which county roads that would consist of.
- The Town of Whitestown has already passed their ordinance and received permission to travel on county roads within their township as well, but would like to submit a request to the state DOT to also include parts of State Highway 131, from Dutch Hollow Road, north across the highway bridge, to County Highway P, and from Heisel Road, south to the Stark Town Line. Hewitt didn't see a problem with this and the request will be sent on to Bob Fascick at the DOT.
- Motion made by Goede, seconded by Williams to approve the ATV/UTV requests. Motion carried.

9. Discussion and possible action on RTA Resolution

A county board member sent the resolution for discussion of Regional Transit Authorities, however, no one was sure how it would effect Vernon County, so the committee decided to postpone the discussion until next month, hoping to have more information then. Motion made by Leis, seconded by Williams to postpone until next month. Motion carried.

10. Discussion and possible action on Merging/Reclassifying Shop Clerk & Parts Manager Positions

- The Chair may entertain a motion to enter into closed session:
19.85(1)(c) (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Motion made by Williams, seconded by Leis to enter into closed session. Motion carried.
- Reconvene in open session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(2). (Roll call vote if not unanimous.) Motion by Goede, seconded by Leis to re-enter open session. Motion carried.
- May act on item discussed in closed session. No action taken.

11. Discussion and possible action on Purchasing 90 Ton Iron Worker

Global Products has a 90 ton iron worker in storage that can press to cut iron, punch holes, etc. for fabricating. They are asking \$10,000 for it, but negotiations would be done to aim for \$7,500.

12. Review and approve vouchers for payment.

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

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

- Hwy shop – the truck wash is operational, but waiting on a part. Hewitt would like to open the wash up to other departments/municipalities to use once he determines the cost per wash.
- Grant update – Hewitt reported that, unofficially, he won't be receiving the \$2 million MLS grant he applied for.
- Fuel – do we want to contract fuel bids and stop using Kwik Trip? Checking into it a little further.
- Highway 35 will be closed to replace some bridges, work expected to be completed around October.
- Leasing – none of the other departments are interested in a vehicle lease program right now. Hewitt reported that, after checking into it more, the Durango that he was going to



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lease was a V6 and he would like a V8 with a towing package, which puts it at a higher price, and adds leather seats. Hewitt is looking at leasing two trucks for the supervisors to drive, and passing the two new trucks just purchased, down to the crew. The cost for the Durango plus two trucks would be about \$25,000 per year.

- Personnel and Diane McGinnis are interested in segregated file storage in the old highway office.

14. Set next meeting date

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

15. Adjourn

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