
Also Present: E. Wundrow, N. Mertes.

Highway Chair H. Golat called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

A DuSell/Costello motion to approve the agenda. Motion Passed.

A Hofacker/Svoma motion to approve the following minutes: September 15, 2008. Motion Carried.

**Appearance by Richard Lindholm from Rassbach Communications regarding radio upgrade in 2009.**

Mr. Lindholm passed out a Radio Communications Proposal. Discussion followed regarding the FCC being responsible for long term frequency planning and the implementation of narrowband technology below 512 MHz, in two phases. Phase one requires that all communications devices used in the United States below 512 MHz be capable of operating on frequencies not exceeding a bandwidth of 12.5 kHz. This is commonly known as the narrowband standard. Until 2013, public safety users may continue to use 25 wide band kHz equipment. Phase 2, which becomes mandatory in 2018, would require radios capable of operating at 6.26 kHz. Both the first and second phases assume radios capable of operating in either an analog or digital mode with automatic detection and selection of the incoming signal. Currently, the alternate digital systems (MotoTRBO and FDMA 6.25 KHz do not have this capability.) Motorola’s Canopy Point-to-Multipoint solutions were discussed as one of the leaders in deployments all around the US. Also discussed was the ability of the new radios to be able to track location and speed of trucks and vehicles equipped with the radios.

Cost estimates submitted from Rassbach – #1 - $133,841.86 includes Ladysmith, Hawkins and Blue Hills repeaters, Hawkins repeater antenna and transmission line with installation, one control station for shop, sixty mobile radios, four portable radios, Motorola canopy system and Federal communications work. #2 - $66,723.22 includes Ladysmith, Hawkins and Blue Hills repeaters, Hawkins repeater antenna and transmission line plus installation, one control station for Highway Shop, three mobile radios, four portable radios, Motorola canopy system, Federal communications work. #3 - $99,796.60 includes Ladysmith and Blue Hills repeaters, one control station for Highway Shop, sixty mobile radios, four portable radios and Motorola canopy system with Federal communications work. #4 - $41,975.80 includes Ladysmith and Blue Hills repeaters, one control station for Highway Shop, three mobile radios, four portable radios, Motorola canopy system and Federal communications work.

**2009 Radio Upgrade to digital.**

A Costello/Svoma motion for the Highway Commissioner to look further into the radio upgrade and bring the information back to the Highway Committee. Motion Carried.

**Highway Department Security System Update.**

The Highway Commissioner would like to postpone this item until the next Highway Committee meeting.

A Costello/Svoma motion to postpone to the November 17, 2008 Highway Committee meeting. Motion Passed.

**Eric Edming – NSF Check.**

N. Mertes reviewed Wisconsin’s open contract laws with the Committee. E. Edming owes the Highway Department a total of $9531.88. $2108.86 is for scrape metal that was taken
from the County by E. Edming and not paid for and $7423.02 is for a NSF check that was written to the County by E. Edming for scrap metal E. Edming took from the County. A Hofacker/Costello motion to have N. Mertes pursue the E. Edming issue with Corporate Council. Motion Carried.

Discussion – full year 10 hour days.
The Highway Commissioner explained that he feels there could possibly be a considerable cost savings to the County if the Highway Department were to be on four ten hour days, twelve months a year, instead of the current 7 months a year. Burnett County, Washburn County and Taylor County are currently doing this and have reported a savings. Discussion followed.
A Hofacker/Costello motion to table the full year ten hour/four day weeks until the Highway Commissioner gathers further financial information from the Counties already doing this. Motion Carried.

Discussion – CTH “J” Railroad Crossing Maintenance (DuSell).
G. DuSell commented that he is very pleased with the maintenance repairs that Canadian National did on the railroad tracks on CTH “J”. He noted that maybe a letter should be sent to Canadian National for a job well done.

CLOSED SESSION – announced by Chair for FMLA Leave Request. For considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. WI State 19.85 (1)(c)

OPEN SESSION – possible motion regarding topics of closed session.
A Costello/Svoma motion to return to open session. Motion Passed.
A Svoma/Costello motion to have Mindy Dale review the leave request and bring back the information from Mindy Dale to the Special Highway Committee meeting to be held on Thursday October 23, 2008. Motion Carried.

Request to amend the County Ordinance for ATV Travel in order to include for ATV travel on County Highways for: Town of Thornapple – CTH “P” from the Grant/Thornapple town line to CTH “E” and CTH “E” from Hwy 8 to the Washington/Thornapple town line and CTH “A” from the Flambeau/Thornapple town line to CTH “J”. Town of Rusk – CTH “W” from Horseshoe Lake Road at the Northwest Corner of Section 9, T33N., R9W and continue 1 mile east to Horseshoe Lake Road on the east. Town of Big Falls – CTH “J” from the north-west Big Falls town line, east and then south to the intersection of CTH “J” and “I” and Town of Willard – CTH “D” from Highway 27 west to Sheep Camp Road.
A DuSell/Costello motion to approve amending the County Ordinance for ATV Travel for the Town of Thornapple as requested above, Town of Rusk as requested above, Town of Big Falls as requested above and Town of Willard as requested above and forward to County Board for final approval. Motion Carried.

Attendance at the October 23, 2008 County Highway Commissioner’s & Committee Members meeting.
A Golat/Costello motion for the Committee to attend the County Highway Commissioner’s & Committee Members meeting on October 23, 2008. Motion Carried.

Attendance at the 2009 Winter Highway Conference.
The Highway Commissioner will be attending this meeting. The Highway Committee will not be attending.
A Svoma/Costello motion to authorize the Highway Commissioner attends the 2009 Winter Highway Conference. Motion Carried.
Update on Rick Nash Right Of Way request.
Consensus of the Committee is to have N. Mertes and Corporate Council continue
gathering information regarding Rick Nash right-of-way. Motion Carried.

Update on 2009 Highway Budget.
N. Mertes passed out an updated copy of the 2009 Highway budget approved by Finance.
Discussion followed.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER REPORT
The Highway Commissioner reviewed the status of 2008 projects.
The Highway Commissioner reviewed the status of current equipment repairs.
All the blacktopping on CTH "D" East has been completed for 2008; final layer of blacktop
will be applied in 2009.
A DuSell/Costello motion to approve the Highway Commissioner Report. Motion Carried.

HIGHWAY FINANCIAL REPORT.
N. Mertes passed out copies of the highway accounts receivable report and cash balance report.
Also reviewed was the equipment fund balance.
A DuSell/Costello motion to approve the Highway Financial Report. Motion Carried.

HIGHWAY OFFICE REPORT.
N. Mertes reviewed current workers compensation claims and insurance claims with the Committee.
A Costello/Hofacker motion to approve the office report. Motion Carried.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE COMMENTS.
Discussion on CTH "A".

Action on monthly vouchers.
None submitted.

Sign pre-paid vouchers.
Pre-signed vouchers in the amount of $803,114.83 were signed by the Highway Committee.
A Hofacker/DuSell motion to approve the pre-approved vouchers in the amount of
$803,114.83. Motion Carried.

Set date for next highway committee meeting.
The next Highway Committee meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2008 at 8:30 am at
the Rusk County Highway Department.

Motion to Adjourn.
A DuSell/Svoma motion to adjourn. Motion Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes Prepared by N. Mertes
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