Rusk County
Highway Committee                                             September 15, 2008


Also Present:  E. Wundrow, N. Mertes, P. Haas, R. Nash.

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

Approval of the agenda.
A DuSell/Hofacker motion to approve the agenda and move any agenda items as needed. Motion Carried.

Approval of minutes.
A Costello/Hofacker motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting from August 18, 2008 and the special meeting from August 28, 2008. Motion Carried.

Appearance by Rusk County Corporate Council Rich Summerfield to discuss statutory authority of the Highway Commissioner and Highway Committee.
Corporate Council reviewed state statutes with the Committee.

Update from Rusk County Corporate Council regarding correspondence with Railroad Company regarding repairs on the tracks located on CTH “J”.
Corporate Council said that he will be mailing a letter this week to Canadian National Railroad regarding the railroad crossing on CTH “J”. He will forward a copy of this letter to the Highway Committee.

Appearance by Phil Haas regarding possibility of the County contracting with Haas to produce certain materials for the Highway Department.
The Highway Commissioner explained that he would like to purchase blacktop chips and sand for the County inventories. P. Haas reviewed what his costs would be right now for pulling pit-run gravel from the County Pit and crushing the pit-run, washing the gravel, and then placing the finished materials, sand, chips, and ¾ rock, into separate inventory piles for the County for a cost of $3.83 per ton. Should the County not have any use for the ¾ inch rock, Haas would buy the rock back from the County at $4.49 per ton. H. Golat explained that the crushing of the County pit-run would have to go through the bid process.
P. Haas submitted a letter to the Highway Committee stating confirmation of a verbal agreement between P. Haas and the Highway Department to eliminate the 50’ setbacks between Haas and County properties, enabling both parties to dig gravel up to each other’s property lines, and asked that the letter be signed by the Highway Commissioner. N. Mertes will have Corporate Council review the letter.

Selection of Security System for the Highway Department.
The Highway Commissioner and Andy Albarado will be looking at a security system in Rice Lake some time before the next meeting.
A Costello/Svoma motion to postpone this item until the next regular Highway Committee meeting. Motion Carried.

Discussion on the State Discretionary Maintenance Agreement #0054-83-81.
The Highway Commissioner explained that the state canceled Rusk Counties Discretionary Maintenance Agreement project #0054-83-81 that would replace the culvert on Highway 40 south (Bruce Creek). The state is looking at taking funding from Rusk Counties Routine Maintenance Agreement fund instead, in order to replace the Highway 40 culvert. Approximate cost to the state to replace the Highway 40 culvert (Bruce Creek) is $65,000.00.
Discuss status of maintenance on CTH “M” in the Village of Hawkins.
The Highway Commissioner explained that because the Highway Department does not have their own pulverizer any longer scheduling projects becomes more difficult.

Authorization to solicit for Engineers for the Skunk Creek Bridge on CTH “G” south of Conrath.
The County will begin engineering of the Skunk Creek Bridge on CTH “G” in 2009.
A Costello/Svoma motion to authorize the Highway Commissioner to solicit for Engineers for the Skunk Creek Bridge project on CTH “G”. Motion Carried.

Approval to purchase component for copy machine to allow for scanning capabilities.
A Costello/Hofacker motion to purchase the component for the copy machine to allow for scanning capabilities, not to exceed $2400.00. Motion Carried.

CLOSED SESSION announced by Chair.
A Hofacker/Svoma motion to go into closed session.
FMLA Leave Requests
For considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, WI Stats 19.85 (1)(c)

OPEN SESSION - possible motion on topic of closed session.
A Svoma/Costello motion to go into open session. Motion Carried.
A DuSell/Costello motion to grant the FMLA leave request. Motion Carried.

Amend request by Town of Dewey for ATV travel on CTH “I” to read as “CTH “I” north of Tony from Deertail Road north to Mae West Road” and request to amend the County Ordinance for ATV travel to include the amended route for Town of Dewey.
N. Mertes reviewed the request from the Town of Dewey to amend the language of their ATV route on CTH “I”.
A DuSell/Costello motion to approve the amended route on CTH “I” in the Town of Dewey and to move to the County Board for final approval. Motion Carried.

Highway Commissioner Report
The Highway Commissioner reviewed the project schedule for the remaining construction season.
New Tri-Axle Trucks will be delivered on November 1st 2008. Currently the trucks have been shipped to Universal Truck Company where they will be set up with dump box and winter equipment attachments.
A DuSell/Costello motion to approve the Highway Commissioner report. Motion Carried.

Highway Financial Report. (This report will include financial status of Highway Department cash – payables – receivables – equipment and blacktop plant funds and current balance in the J/T Transfer fund.)
N. Mertes reviewed the Highway Financial Report with the Committee.
A Hofacker/Costello motion to approve the Highway Financial Report. Motion Carried.

Highway Office Report. (This report includes insurance, workers compensation claims, and upcoming retirements.)
N. Mertes reviewed Highway insurance, workers compensation claims and upcoming retirements with the Highway Committee.
A DuSell/Costello motion to approve the Highway Office report. Motion Carried.
Highway Committee – Comments
J. Hofacker spoke with the Highway Commissioner regarding the use of the Highway Building during recycling days each year. Discussion followed.

Action on monthly vouchers.
None submitted.

Sign pre-approved vouchers.
Pre-approved vouchers for the amount of $662,986.24 were submitted to the Committee for signatures.
A Costello/Svoma motion to approve the pre-approved vouchers for the amount of $662,986.24. Motion Carried.

Set date for next Highway Committee meeting.
Next regular Highway Committee meeting is set for October 20, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. at the Rusk County Highway Department.

Motion to Adjourn.
A Hofacker/DuSell motion to adjourn. Motion Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by N. Mertes
Distributed on September 16, 2008