

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

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

Approval of minutes – Regular Meeting from December 15, 2008 and Special Meeting of December 22, 2008.
A Costello/DuSell motion to approve minutes for December 15, 2008 and December 22, 2008. Motion Carried.

8:30 a.m. – Appearance by Barry Jenneman, or his representative, regarding access to Fish Lake from CTH “D”.
Mr. Jenneman asked the Highway Committee what sort of access is currently available from CTH “D” to Fish Lake. E. Wundrow explained there is a strip of land on CTH “D” that is highway right of way and abuts Fish Lake; he thought this land could possibly be used for public access to Fish Lake. Mr. Jenneman presented maps of the county owned right of way area at Fish Lake. H. Golat requested the subject area be surveyed to make sure it is the county's property. R. Svoma explained that he was told that the strip of land at CTH “D” that is owned by the county for right of way at Fish Lake is not wide enough for a public access. J. Hofacker explained that the issue of public access at Fish Lake was addressed years back with the Committee and the Committee directed the issue to Corporation Council. R. Summerfield explained that after researching this issue he found there is public walk-in access to Fish Lake through State of Wisconsin land. However, the State of Wisconsin will not allow the development of a boat landing on this property. R. Summerfield further explained that there is no other public access to Fish Lake from CTH “D”. The subject highway right of way along CTH “D” being discussed today is not actually owned by the county as had been thought.
A Svoma/Costello motion to postpone discussion and/or decision regarding public access at Fish Lake until next meeting. Motion Carried.

9:00 a.m. – Appearance by Corporation Council regarding the following: Eric Edming NSF update. Request by Rick Nash to purchase right of way along CTH “J”, State Statute – Authorities of the Highway Committee and Highway Commissioner.
Eric Edming NSF - R. Summerfield filed a summons and complaint in December against Eric Edming for money owed the Highway Department. E. Edming did not file an answer to the summons and complaint within the 20-day limit so a judgment is awarded to the County by default. After the judgment is recorded then R. Summerfield will seek garnishment against Eric Edming.
Request by Rick Nash regarding purchase of right of way on CTH “J” – R. Summerfield asked if the people that own land at the subject area use the county right of way as a driveway. The Highway Committee was not able to answer this question. The Committee looked at the subject right of way on CTH “J” in the plat book. R. Summerfield explained there is a very old easement along this right of way. R. Summerfield advised the Committee that if they determine they want to sell the subject right of way the Committee should create an easement for the other property owners before selling the right of way. This would resolve the issue of land locking any property owners should the right of way be sold.
A Costello/Hofacker motion to postpone the decision of selling the right of way to Rick Nash until the next Highway Committee meeting. Motion Carried.

Possible renewal of the Mining Agreement between Rusk County Highway Department and Jim Meng to be effective beginning May 2009. The Committee reviewed the current contract that will expire in May 2009. A Svoma/DuSell motion to not change anything in the current contract and to offer the contract for renewal to Jim Meng as is. Motion Carried.

CLOSED SESSION announced by Chair.
Highway Patrol Superintendent Exempt Status. 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 regarding topics of closed session.
A Costello/DuSell motion to go into open session. Motion Carried.
A Hofacker/Costello motion to invite the County Clerk and the County Auditor to the next Highway Committee meeting for a closed session regarding inter-department communication and boundaries of responsibilities. Motion Carried.

CLOSED SESSION announced by Chair.
Workmen Compensation – Review Workmen Compensation Benefits for Keith Bainter in 2008. 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 regarding topics of closed session.
A Costello/DuSell motion to return to open session. Motion Carried.
A Costello/Hofacker motion to allow Keith Bainter to use his earned sick leave in 2009 to pay the County back for 2008 overdrawn sick leave while on workmen's compensation and that this is non-precedential. Mr. Bainter shall also receive a letter from the Highway Committee and Highway Commissioner noting the various items discussed in today's closed session regarding his overdrawn sick leave, with a copy of the letter to go to the Union. Motion Carried.

Update and discussion regarding temporary adjustment of Highway Department winter hours. The temporary adjustment of the Highway Department winter hours to Monday through Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. began on January 12, 2009 and will continue until February 15, 2009. The “Letter of Agreement” can be extended by mutual agreement of Highway management and the Union. The Committee signed the “Letter of Agreement”.

Highway Commissioner Report.
The Commissioner reviewed the following items with the Committee:
Internal controls in the Highway Shop - The Commissioner explained that he is locking down inventory in the shop and that this will create accurate inventories and save the county money.
The Winter Night Watch position and state reimbursement. - The State has agreed to pay for ½ of the Winter Night Watch positions regular hours.
Current State projects being worked on. - The Department is currently working on Highway 8 brushing and cleaning.

N. Mertes reviewed the current status of the Highway Department financials.
A DuSell/Costello motion to approve the financial report. Motion Carried.

Highway Office Report.
N. Mertes reviewed workmen compensation claims, liability claims, and progress of implementation of internal controls in the office.
A Hofacker/DuSell motion to approve the office report. Motion Carried.

Sign pre-approved vouchers.
Pre-approved vouchers in the amount of $404,090.98 were signed by the Highway Committee.
A Hofacker/Swoma motion to authorize the pre-approved vouchers in the amount of $404,090.98. Motion Carried.

Set date for next highway committee meeting.
The next Highway Committee meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2009.

Motion to Adjourn.
A DuSell/Hofacker motion to adjourn. Motion Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Minutes Prepared by N. Mertes
Distributed on January 20, 2009