Rusk County
Highway Committee
January 18, 2010

Present: H. Golat, G. DuSell, T. Costello, J. Hofacker.

Absent: R. Svoma.

Also Present: E. Wundrow, N. Mertes.

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/Hofacker motion to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

Approval of minutes – December 21, 2009.
A Hofacker/DuSell motion to approve the minutes of December 21, 2009. Motion Carried.

Public comment and/or input.
H. Golat noted that there were no members of the public present.

Sale of Firewood.
E. Wundrow reported that he has approximately 73 cords of hardwood stockpiled at the Highway Department Scott Pit.
A DuSell/Costello motion to place the wood out for bids. Motion Carried.

Committee Update: Highway Security Camera.
E. Wundrow reported that the company the Highway Department purchased the Security Camera from would like to replace the problem laptop used for the cameras with a hard drive system to correct the problem. Wundrow will continue to work with the company on this matter.

N. Mertes reported that the Personnel Committee met with the Union and the following motion regarding Highway Grievance 12/4/2009 was made in open session:
Motion by Stencil, second by Costello to allow Ken Bartels to opt out of the high deductible indemnity plan because of the unique situation and state this will be non-precedent for any and all purposes. Motion Carried.

Committee Update: Rolling 40's – Compensatory Time.
E. Wundrow explained that during the last round of Highway Union contract negotiations, compensatory time carry forward for hours earned after 12/15 was supposed to of been removed from the highway union contract and replaced with a rolling 40s letter of agreement to be reviewed/renewed at the end of each year. However, the carry forward language was never removed from the contract but the rolling 40s letter of agreement was included in the contract. Because of this the Personnel Committee made the following motion in open session:
Motion by Stencil, second by Mai that the side letter with the Highway Union regarding the rolling 40s will not be allowed until after the contract language is researched regarding the issue on comp. time earned after December 15th of the year. Motion Carried.

Highway Commissioner Report.
Highway Conference Prevailing Wage Report –
New prevailing wage laws effective January 1, 2010. If a highway project uses federal or state grant funds and the total cost of the project exceeds $25,000.00 the County must pay prevailing wage, however, if the county chooses to have their employees do the work, the labor cost would be EXEMPT from prevailing wage laws. (Moe Terence, Prevailing Wage
Investigator – State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development) There are two
distinct instances when a government entity need not pay its employees the prevailing
wage for work performed on a public works project (county highway).
1. The public works project (highway project) is not of sufficient size to require anyone on
that project to be paid the prevailing wage. The department (Workforce Development)
annually sets thresholds for the size of projects that are covered by Wisconsin’s
prevailing wage rate laws. With respect to municipal projects of all types and state
building projects the current thresholds are set at $25,000.00 total cost for a single trade
project and $221,000 total cost for a multi-trade project.
2. The government is using its own employees to work on a project that the government
entity has undertaken. If a village government is repaving a street and uses its own village
employees to do the work the village need not pay those village employees the prevailing
wages set for that project. (Robert S. Anderson, Director - Labor Standards Bureau)
Any contracted work (private contractors hired) on a highway project does have to meet
prevailing wage laws. For example, if the Highway Department purchases materials for a
project from a private vendor the Highway Department will submit a form to Workforce
Development showing the vendor name and the materials purchased. Workforce
Development will contact the vendor to make sure they have met the prevailing wage laws
on the production of the subject materials. For every contracted item on a highway
project, a form must be submitted to Workforce Development.

The Highway Department has returned to 4-day weeks.

**Highway Financial Report.**
A Costello/Hofacker motion to approve. Motion Carried.

**Highway Office Report.**
A Costello/Hofacker motion to approve. Motion Carried.

**Highway Committee – Comments**
H. Golat commended the Highway Department on the great condition of the roads during
the holiday snow storms.

**Action on monthly vouchers.**
No monthly vouchers were submitted.

**Sign pre-approved vouchers.**
Pre-approved vouchers in the amount of $389,894.17 were approved and signed by the
Highway Committee.
A Hofacker/DuSell motion to authorize the pre-approved vouchers in the amount of
$389,894.17. Motion Carried.

**Set date of next highway committee meeting.**
The next Highway Committee meeting is set for February 15, 2010 at the Rusk County
Highway Department.

**Motion to adjourn.**
A DuSell/Costello motion to adjourn. Motion Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Minutes Prepared by N. Mertes
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