Rusk County
Highway Committee
July 19, 2010


Also Present: N. Mertes, P. Montwill, Alyce Turner, Giles Turner, Everett Hedrington, James Toman, Jane Rahman, Don Rahman, James Shultz, Alan Christianson City of Ladysmith.

Call meeting to order.
Highway Chair Tom Costello called today’s meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
Chair Costello called for a moment of silence in memory of Eugene DuSell.

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

A Gierke/Svoma motion to approve the minutes of June 21, 2010. Motion Carried.

Public Comment and/or input.
No public comment.

Appearance by Arron Powers from Kenworth Trucks.
The Committee looked at a Kenworth T800 2011 Quad-Axle Truck that Arron Powers brought to the Highway Department.

Appearance by City of Ladysmith regarding request for a bike path along Highway 27 by the Highway Department.
Al Christianson, Administrator for the City of Ladysmith, presented a proposed plan for a bike path that would cross Highway 27 from O. J. Falge Park and travel south past the Highway Department along State Highway ROW. Mr. Christianson asked the Committee if they saw any problems with the City pursuing this project. The Committee asked when the construction would begin. Mr. Christianson explained that he has to contact the State for permits and possible grant funding, but if all approvals move forward on the project he would be looking at a possible 2011 construction date.
A Svoma/Gierke motion to approve the proposed bike trail. Motion Carried.

The purpose of the AVL-GPS Agreement is for the WisDOT to finance Automatic Vehicle Location – Global Positioning System (AVL-GPL) equipment, sensors, communications, and installation for Rusk County Highway Department for the purpose of research on state maintained roads. The county will also use the Maintenance Decision Support System (MDSS) provided by WisDOT.
A Gierke/Svoma motion to approve participation in the AVL-GPS program with state financing. Motion Carried.

Status of Public Access at Fish Lake.
In the mid 1980’s Rusk County Highway Department abandoned a portion of County Highway “D” in the town of Rusk, Sections 32 and 29. E. Wundrow reports via his Office Manager that it seems a portion of the abandoned CTH “D” right of way in Section 29 remains on the County books as public highway right of way. E. Wundrow asks that R. Summerfield look at this section of highway right of way in Section 29 to determine if it is in fact owned by the Highway Department or should of reverted back to the property owners as did the right of way in Section 39. R. Summerfield will research this and get back to Wundrow. The strip of right of way in question in Section 29 in the Town of Rusk
abuts Fish Lake; certain residents of the Town of Rusk question if they can use this strip of right of way to access Fish Lake if it is owned by the county. R. Summerfield will look into this also and get back to the Committee.
Several members of the public presented maps, past court decisions and legal letters regarding the abandonment of CTH “D” in the Town of Rusk along Fish Lake. The Committee reviewed the documents presented and explained they would contact each of them to let them know the results of R. Summerfield’s findings.

Open Bids for two (2) 2011 Fleet One – Ton Diesel 4WD Crew Cab Trucks.
One bid received.

Toycen of Ladysmith – 2011 Chevy Silverado 3500 Crew. $35,065.00 each

A Svoma/Gierke motion to award Toycen of Ladysmith the bid for two (2) 2011 Chevy Silverado 3500 Crew Trucks for $70,130.00. Motion Carried.

Update on sale of Highway Department Gravel Pits; Scerba Pit on CTH “E” in the Town of Washington and the Lobitz Pit on CTH “D” in the Town of Willard.
Still waiting for the land appraisals.

Recessed – 10:30 a.m.
A Svoma/Gierke motion to recess in order to attend the Funeral Service for Gene DuSell. Motion Carried.

Reconvened – 12:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION announced by Highway Chair.
Update on status of 06/08/2010 T. Riegel Highway Grievance and review correspondence from Steve Hartman.
For considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. WI Stats 19.85 (1) (c)
For considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to on such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations. WI Stats 19.85 (1) (f)

Closed Session – 12:35 p.m.

Open Session
A Svoma/Gierke motion to return to open session. Motion Carried.

Open Session – 1:45 p.m.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER REPORT.
No Report

HIGHWAY FINANCIAL REPORT.
N. Mertes reported on current cash position, accounts receivables and fund balances.
A Gierke/Svoma motion to approve financial report. Motion Carried.
HIGHWAY OFFICE REPORT.
N. Mertes reported on insurance claims, workers compensation claims, liability claims and open prevailing wage projects that Highway Crews are working on. A Gierke/Svoma motion to approve the office report. Motion Carried.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE- COMMENTS

Action on monthly vouchers. None submitted.

Sign and approve pre-approved vouchers. Pre-approved vouchers totaling $283,958.28 were reviewed and signed by the Committee. A Svoma/Gierke motion to approve the pre-approved vouchers totaling $283,958.28. Motion Carried.

Set date for next highway committee meeting. The next Highway Committee meeting is set for August 16, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Rusk County Highway Department.

Motion to adjourn. A Gierke/Svoma motion to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Highway Office Manager – Nanci A. Mertes

Distributed on 7/21/2010