Rusk County
Highway Committee
June 21, 2010


Absent: G. DuSell.


Call meeting to order.
Highway Chair Tom Costello called today’s meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

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.

Approval of minutes – May 17, 2010.
A Gierke/Svoma motion to approve the minutes of May 17, 2010. Motion Carried.

Public Comment and/or input.
No public comment.

Review correspondence from Michael Ostrenqa, PE Wisconsin D.O.T. regarding USH 8 ATV request.
Mike Ostrenqa from Wisconsin D.O.T. responded to the Rusk County Resolution request to allow ATV traffic on the bridge that goes over the Chippewa River on Highway 8 West. Due to safety concerns the State has denied the county’s request and asks that the County seek other alternate routes other than Highway 8 that would have a lower probability of recreational vehicle versus motor vehicle impacts.

9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. – Public Information Meeting for Improvements to CTH “G” over Skunk Creek.
Ayres Associates David H. Pantzlaff and Daniel N. Sydow conducted the public meeting on improvements to CTH “G” bridge over Skunk Creek. Sign in sheet was passed out. See attached “Public Informational Meeting” Handout. Engineering for this project has been budgeted for 2010 with construction to be budgeted in 2011. This is an 80/20 project with a total project cost of approximately $300,000.00 (not including engineering costs). The sufficiency rating for this bridge has dropped to 35 and shows that it is in dire need of rehabilitation. Project will require the purchase of some right-of-way to make required bridge corrections/improvements. Detour routes were discussed. E. Wundrow reported that he will not require a detour, he will post the road closed and allow residents to find the shortest routes to their destinations on their own. E. Wundrow will get back to Ayres Associates within the next 4 weeks regarding project start and end dates.

Highway Commissioner request to sell the following Highway Gravel Pits: Scerba Pit on CTH “E” in the Town of Washington and Lobitz Pit on CTH “D” in the Town of Willard.
E. Wundrow explained that the Scerba Pit and the Lobitz Pit have been depleted and are not needed any longer for building highways. Wundrow explained that he would like to use the money from the sale of these pits to put towards a new equipment storage building to be constructed at the Scott Pit. N. Mertes reviewed the current gravel pit fund deficit explaining that the revenue from the sale of the gravel pits will need to be returned to the gravel pits to cover the deficit. Any excess funds in the gravel pit fund can be moved when the Finance Committee and the County approve the transfer of funds. N. Mertes reported that she can schedule land appraisals and prepare a resolution for the sale and bring back to the July Highway Committee meeting.

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A Gierke/Svoma motion to begin the process of selling the two gravel pits. Motion Carried.

Review asphalt pricing county wide.
R. Svoma discussed his concerns regarding asphalt pricing and bidding monopoly created by certain asphalt companies. Discussion followed.

CLOSED SESSION announced by Highway Chair.
Review Grievance 06/08/2010 T. Riegel per Highway Union Contract Article 4 – Grievance Procedure – Step 2 “If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved, (by the Highway Commissioner) it should be reduced tow rating and submitted to the Rusk County Highway Committee within five (5) working days after receipt of the answer in the first step”

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)

A Svoma/Gierke motion to go into closed session. Roll Call: Voting Yes – Costello, Gierke, Svoma. Voting No – None. Motion Carried.

Closed Session - 10:00 a.m.

OPEN SESSION – possible motion regarding topics of closed session.
A Svoma/Gierke motion to go into open session. Motion Carried.

Open Session – 10:10 a.m.

A Svoma/Costello motion to deny the grievance and move it on to the Personnel Committee. Motion Carried.

CLOSED SESSION announced by Highway Chair.
Review Job Applications for Summer Student Employment and select for hire.

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Closed Session - 10:15 a.m.

OPEN SESSION – possible motion regarding topics of closed session.
A Svoma/Gierke motion to go into open session. Motion Carried.
Open Session – 10:55 a.m.

A Svoma/Gierke motion to hire Aaron Ewert, Casey Gudis, Shawn Harris, Trevor Stewart as 2010 Summer Student Interns with alternates as Christian Borman, Wesley Pirtle, Ross Weinert. Motion Carried.

A Gierke/Costello motion to increase the student hourly wage to $8.75 per hour. Motion passes with Svoma opposing.

CLOSED SESSION announced by Highway Chair.
Review wage adjustment/reclassification requests – Highway Staff.

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Closed Session – 11:00 a.m.

OPEN SESSION – possible motion regarding topics of closed session.
A Svoma/Gierke motion to go to open session. Motion Carried.

A Gierke/Costello motion to move the Highway personnel wage adjustment requests forward to the Personnel Committee. Motion Passed.

Open Session – 11:15 a.m.

Update on Paycard.
N. Mertes reported on the status of the new paycard and the service fees that are applied by Highway vendors.

Update on supplies ordering.
N. Mertes reported on the status of how Highway Department Shop and Building supplies are being ordered, impact of price on resale to townships and levy.

Installation of Netsys Equipment and direct connection to the courthouse.
Dean Haan reported that he will not be able to implement the Netsys Equipment and direct connection to the Courthouse from the Highway Department due to the distance between the Courthouse and the Highway Department.

Resolution – Placing Advisory Referendum Question on November Ballot.
Each Wisconsin County Highway Department will be requesting through a resolution that an advisory referendum question be placed on the November 2010 ballot – “Should the Wisconsin Constitution be amended to prohibit any further transfers or lapses from the segregated transportation fund?
A Svoma/Gierke motion to approve the resolution and move the resolution to the full County Board for approval. Motion Carried.
Request to amend the County Ordinance for ATV travel in order to include for ATV travel on County highways for: Town of Willard – CTH “D” east of Highway 27 to Rangeline Road.

A Svoma/Costello motion to approve amending the County Ordinance for ATV travel in order to include for ATV travel on County highways for: Town of Willard – CTH “D” east of Highway 27 to Rangeline Road and move to the County Board. Motion Carried.

Request to purchase two (2) 1 ton Trucks.
E. Wundrow reported that he obtained quotes for 2 new 1 ton trucks.
2011 Dodge Ram 1 ton - $46,500.00 – South Lake Motors Rice Lake
2011 Silverado Chevy 1 ton - $35,400.00 – Toycen of Ladysmith
2011 Ford Super Duty F350 - $33,400.00 – Bloomer Ford

A Svoma/Gierke motion to approve the purchase of (2) 1 ton trucks from Toycen if they can come within the low bid by 5% per the Rusk County Financial Procedures Manuel, cost of the 2 trucks not to exceed $70,956.32. Motion Carried.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER REPORT.
E. Wundrow reported that three Highway Department security cameras are up and running. Security camera #4 is currently being installed.
Truck #4 has been placed out of service.

HIGHWAY FINANCIAL REPORT.
N. Mertes reported on current Highway 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 Costello/Svoma motion to approve the office report. Motion Carried.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE - COMMENTS
T. Costello reported that Highway Committee meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m.

Action on monthly vouchers.
None submitted.

Sign and approve pre-approved vouchers.
Pre-approved vouchers totaling $266,320.81 were reviewed, signed and approved by the Committee.
A Svoma/Gierke motion to approve the vouchers totaling $266,320.81. Motion Carried.

Set date for next highway committee meeting.
The next Highway Committee meeting is set for July 19, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Rusk County Highway Department.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Highway Office Manager – Nanci A. Mertes
Distributed on 6/22/2010