

# Highway/Landfill Committee Minutes

October 21, 2015

The Highway Committee meeting was called to order at 8:45 AM by Chairman Larry Kirchman. Members present included: Larry Kirchman, Bruce Heidmann, Gary Paape, Tom Romdenne, and John Mastalir. Also present was Highway Commissioner Todd Every, Landfill Facility Manager Mike Paral, and Recording Secretary Jenny Salentine. Guests at today's meeting included: County Board Supervisor Pat Benes.

Adoption of Agenda: Bruce Heidmann made a motion to adopt today's Agenda. Second by Tom Romdenne. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Bruce Heidmann made a motion to approve the Highway Committee Minutes from their October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Second by Tom Romdenne. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: None

## Reports:

Mike Paral, Landfill Facility Manager had the following to report:

- ❖ We have been hauling out leachate ~ about 1 load each day. With the Highway Department workload, they are not able to send an employee to haul leachate at this time.
- ❖ #963 dozer is back from getting the planetary drives repaired
- ❖ We've begun taking down the old barn building ~ all barn boards are off
- ❖ We are now taking a paper fiber product from GB Packaging. We are able to use this as ADC (Alternate Daily Cover).

Commissioner Todd Every had the following to report:

- ❖ Hand-Outs: Landfill Account Aging Report ~ Receivables (effective 10/18/15)
- ❖ Highway Dept Updates Include:
  - Continuing the work on the STH "54" PBM Crack filling project (Luxemburg-Algoma)
  - Center Line and Fog Line painting has been completed
- ❖ Commissioner Every also presented a Preliminary Budget for the Roads & Bridges Fund

Discuss Kewaunee County/Brown County/Fox River Fiber MOU: A copy of the draft MOU was provided to all committee members. The agreement would be between Kewaunee County, Fox River Fiber, and Brown County. The Paper Sludge product will be used as ADC. We are currently on hold before proceeding, negotiations are on-going. No Action Taken.

Discuss Alternative Funding Options for Highway Department Operations: The Committee discussed the possibility of the County implementing a wheel tax (municipal vehicle registration fee). Kewaunee County has approximately 18,565 vehicles. Examples could be a \$10 wheel tax which would generate \$185,650.00 in revenue, \$20 wheel tax would generate \$371,300.00, and a \$25 wheel tax would generate \$464,125.00. A "frequently asked questions" fact sheet was shared with the committee.

Highway Dept. Equipment Inventory Review: No new information at this time.

Discuss Use of Commissioner Vehicle during winter months: Similar to the 2014/2015 Winter Season, Commissioner Every is requesting permission to take the commissioner's vehicle out of the county at night during the winter months in order to use the vehicle to patrol roads and respond as needed in a timely efficient manner. Approval was given to Commissioner Every to take the commissioner's vehicle out of the county during the months of December 2014 thru March 2015.

Commissioner Every is requesting to add November & April to the authorized months this winter season.

The following motion was made by John Mastalir: The Highway & Solid Waste Committee recommends the Personnel, Advisory, and Legislative Committee approves Commissioner Every's request to take the Commissioner's Vehicle out of the County during the winter months (November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 thru April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016). The Commissioner will reimburse the County \$3.00 per day for said use. The Commissioner will also be required to submit a log at the end of the season tracking the use of the vehicle. Second by Tom Romdenne. Motion carried 4-1 with Kirchman voting no.

Approve & Sign Vouchers: Highway Vouchers paid by check: \$27,870.59. Highway Vouchers paid by credit card: \$12,441.68. Motion to approve vouchers as presented made by Gary Paape. Second by John Mastalir. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Travel Requests: WCHA Winter Highway Conference ~ January 18 -20, 2016 in Wisconsin Dells. Motion to approve this travel request for the Highway Commissioner plus any interested Highway Committee Members made by Bruce Heidmann. Second by Tom Romdenne. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Any other business as allowed by law: None

Next Meeting Dates:

- ❖ Wed., November 18<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45 AM
- ❖ Thurs., December 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 8:45 AM
- ❖ Wed., December 16<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45 AM

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn today's meeting by Bruce Heidmann. Second by Gary Paape. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Jenny Salentire, Recording Secretary

# Highway/Landfill Committee Minutes

October 8, 2015

The Highway Committee meeting was called to order at 8:45 AM by Chairman Larry Kirchman. Members present included: Larry Kirchman, Bruce Heidmann, Gary Paape, Tom Romdenne, and John Mastalir. Also present was Highway Commissioner Todd Every, Office Manager Mary O'Leary, Patrol Superintendent Joe Dax, and Recording Secretary Jenny Salentine. Guests at today's meeting included: County Board Chairman Ron Heuer and County Board Supervisors Pat Benes & Lee Luft.

Adoption of Agenda: Bruce Heidmann made a motion to adopt today's Agenda. Second by Gary Paape. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Bruce Heidmann made a motion to approve the Highway Committee Minutes from their September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Second by Gary Paape. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: None

## Reports:

Mary O'Leary, Office Manager had the following to report:

- ❖ Hand-Outs: Roads & Bridges Budget Report January 1<sup>st</sup> thru September 19<sup>th</sup>. The account totals reflect the completed construction projects of paving & shouldering on CTH "AB" & CTH "C"

Joe Dax, Patrol Superintendent had the following to report:

- ❖ State Work:
  - Grinding (KCHD), Milling (NE Asphalt) & Paving Patches
  - Guardrail on STH "54" & Heritage Rd. has been replaced/repared from an accident
  - Repaired Side Walk Approaches to STH "42" bridge in Kewaunee
  - Additional Ditching Jobs to be completed on STH 29 and STH 42
- ❖ County Work:
  - Wedge and paved CTH "SS" from STH S to the county line
  - Paved surface mat on CTH "G" from CTH "B" to Elm Road
  - CTH "AB" and CTH "C" are complete
  - Paved some patches on CTH "V" & CTH "S"
- ❖ Town Work
  - West Kewaunee Town ~Paved Church Road from STH 29 to Krok Road
  - Ahnapee Town ~ Culverts replaced on Washington Road and Kennedy Road
  - Luxemburg Town ~ shouldering portions of Rockledge Rd. & Church Rd.
- ❖ Grass cutting:
  - Town of Red River ~ "Fence to Fence" Cutting Completed
  - Town of Montpelier ~ "Fence to Fence" to be completed later this week
  - Town of Lincoln ~ "Fence to Fence" to be completed later this week
- ❖ Crack-filling on STH "54" from Valley Rd. in Luxemburg to Algoma to begin next week

Commissioner Todd Every had the following to report:

- ❖ Highway Updates:
- ❖ Car Killed Deer Update: The State has extended the existing contract thru November 30<sup>th</sup>. Once the state has decided how they are going to implement the new rules, we will begin implementing car killed deer pickup on local roads.
- ❖ Commissioner Every is assisting Local Municipalities w/ the LRIP Program application
- ❖ Total Tons of Asphalt made at the Hot-mix Plant this year (thru Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>) is 18,417 tons
- ❖ Hand-outs:
  - Copy of Administrator's 2016 Budget for our Department
  - Monthly Highway Department budget report from the Finance Dept
- ❖ Solid Waste Updates:

- We received DNR approval for a Plan Modification to accept the *Fox River Fiber* paper sludge product and use it as Alternate Daily Cover
- Dozer ~The left planetary drive repairs totaled just above \$22,000. Repairs we also made to the Right Planetary drive motor. Just after we got the dozer back, a piece of debris ripped the left planetary seal. The seal was replaced at an estimated cost of approx. \$2,000.
- We've been using a loader place ADC while the repairs are being made.

Chairman Kirchman asked for a recap from the gentlemen that came to look at our Hot-mix Plant.

County Board Member Pat Benes asked for an update on the CTH "H" Bridge.

**Discuss 2016 Highway Department Budget:** Commissioner Every provided each Committee Member with a copy of County Administrator Feldt's proposed budget. Chairman Kirchman began discussion on the topic stating he is very unhappy with Mr. Feldt's proposal to remove \$706,308.00 from the County's Roads & Bridges Fund to off-set tax levy funding for the 2016 annual budget. Mr. Kirchman stated those funds are to be used for roads & bridges, not to be used for other county costs. Mr. Kirchman stated these funds are not to be used to balance the county budget. Mr. Kirchman continued stating no one should walk in & look at a fund balance & simply take the money. These funds belong to the Highway Dept. The Highway Dept has cut their employees from 35 to 22 in a very short period of time. The Highway Dept. has not purchased equipment in the past in order to save money for the future. The majority of the money in this fund came from the DK-fund which was negotiated from the State when STH "57" was transferred to the County now known as CTH "DK". With great appreciation, previous Commissioner Dale Jandrain spent the funds wisely in completing the projects & was able to save a large sum. Chairman Kirchman continued by adding the Highway Dept has done extra work & has now been rewarded with additional GTA's (General Transportation Aids).

Committee Member Bruce Heidmann stated he strongly agrees w/ Mr. Kirchman's comments as does Committee Member Gary Paape. Committee Member Tom Romdenne stated, as a member of the Finance Committee, he wanted the rest of his fellow Highway Committee members to know he had not seen the \$706,308.00 transfer out to the levy prior to any other County Board member. Mr. Romdenne questioned where the County Board was going to get the \$700,000+ the Highway Department will need for the following year.

It was noted at the meeting, only two county departments did not take a cut. They include the County Administrator's Office and the Finance Department.

County Board Chairman Ron Heuer took a moment to address the committee with the following comments in regards to the budget cuts:

- We looked strictly at Fund Balances (Mr. Feldt worked with Mr. Kunesh, Finance Director)
- In the past, the Highway & Solid Waste Departments have "ate up" funds from the general fund (to which Mr. Kirchman replied the Highway Dept has not)
- We are looking at possibly implementing a Wheel Tax
- There is an opportunity to implement a County's Sales Tax
- Mr. Heuer addressed County Board Member Chuck Wagner's "tirade" from the previous County Board Meeting in regards to the decreased number of employees who have left their employment with Kewaunee County and the continuous hits in decreased pay the existing employees keep taking
- Mr. Heuer is recommending an increased sales tax to begin in 2017 if it goes to referendum

County Board Member & Finance Committee Chairman Lee Luft added the following comments to the discussion:

- He spoke w/ Mr. Feldt briefly & no one had seen Mr. Feldt's budget in advance
- In regards to the Highway Dept. Budget, you are sitting with 2.9 million "in the bank", Mr. Feldt simply wants \$700,000. Per Tom Karmen from Schenk, we need to retain \$1 Million in reserve (as a contingency)
- Mr. Luft stated he asked for a 5% decreased budget proposal, the first in County History
- Mr. Luft is recommending county employees pay a greater percentage of their health insurance premiums

Commissioner Every added the following points:

- Looking at the life cycle of roads, the county is behind in maintenance and reconstruction and gets further behind each year. We are making road improvements the best we can with the budget constraints.
- The county may have to consider other sources of revenue such as bonding or other taxes in order to fund improvements. Several counties in our district bond yearly for portions of their road improvement program.

As the budget discussion continued, Mr. Luft took an opportunity to pitch Tourism & the need to increase staff in the Land & Water Dept plus add a Tourism position. Mr. Luft added the County should throw money that way & we should live within our means. Mr. Heuer added the recommended Tourism position isn't just tourism it's to double as a PIO (public information officer). Mr. Heuer stated he continuously receives calls from realtors about losing sales in Kewaunee County and we need to change that.

The committee discussed various ways the balance of the Roads and Bridge Fund could be spent. Discussion centered around road construction, bridge construction, equipment purchases, and contingency.

Based on the discussion detailed above about the proposed budget presented to the County Board, it was the general consensus the Highway and Solid Waste Committee does not agree with the removal of \$706,308 from the County's Roads & Bridges Fund to off-set tax levy funding for the 2016 Highway Dept. annual budget. The Highway and Solid Waste Committee understands this is a short stop gap measure for this budget cycle but this action cannot be sustained in the future.

Motion by Gary Paape to recommend the Finance Committee needs to address viable options for future funding to increase revenue to prevent using Special Revenue Funds to balance budgets. Second by Bruce Heidmann. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

The Highway Committee requests Commissioner Every to prepare a budget for the balance of the Roads & Bridges Fund.

Discuss 2016 Solid Waste Budget: No new changes since the previous committee meeting.

Highway Dept. Equipment Inventory Review: Commissioner Every & his staff continue to gather information & the values of equipment. This is on-going and will be revisited at an upcoming Highway Committee Meeting.

Approve & Sign Vouchers: Solid Waste Vouchers paid by check: \$53,005.54. Solid Waste Vouchers paid by credit card: \$191.57. Motion to approve vouchers as presented made by Bruce Heidmann. Second by Tom Romdenne. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Travel Requests: None

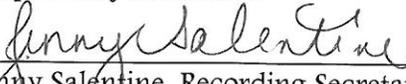
Any other business as allowed by law: Committee member Tom Romdenne asked County Board Member Lee Luft if the finance committee will be discussing the presented budget at next week's Finance Committee Meeting. Tom is requesting for Lee Luft to "CC" each county board member via email on the agenda for said meeting.

Next Meeting Dates:

- ❖ Wed., October 21<sup>st</sup> @ 8:45 AM
- ❖ Thurs., November 5<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45 AM (cancel or possibly change to Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- ❖ Wed., November 18<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45 AM
- ❖ Thurs., December 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 8:45 AM
- ❖ Wed., December 16<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45 AM

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn today's meeting by Tom Romdenne. Second by Bruce Heidmann. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:48 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Jenny Salentine, Recording Secretary