

**MINUTES OF THE
HIGHWAY, INFRASTRUCTURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

1. **DAY & DATE:** September 3, 2020
2. **PLACE:** Wood County Courthouse, Rm 114,
400 Market Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
3. **MEETING TIME:** 9:00 A.M.
4. **ADJOURNMENT TIME:**
5. **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Jacob Hahn, Supervisor John Hokamp,
Supervisor Lee Thao, Supervisor David LaFontaine
PRESENT VIA WEBEX: Supervisor Al Breu

6. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Chad Schooley, Parks & Forestry Director; Fritz Schubert, Forest Administrator; Roland Hawk, Highway Commissioner; John Peckham, Highway Accounting Supervisor; Supervisor Dennis Polach; Supervisor Bill Clendenning; Al Thurber and Ed Newton; Finance Department; Dick and Marian Hebert, Marshfield.

PRESENT VIA WEBEX: Chairman Lance Pliml

7. Call meeting to order.
8. Declaration of Quorum.
9. Public comments. Dick and Marion Hebert, who have a bar in the City of Marshfield called “Abaras Outer Limits”, expressed their disappointment in how their parking may be taken away. He is asking us to look at the records from the past regarding parking on this street so considerations can be made for his business. Perhaps just lower the speed limit of the road rather than take away his parking. Discussion ensued. This will be brought back to the committee next month for consideration.
10. Correspondence.
11. Approve minutes from previous committee meetings. **Motion by D. LaFontaine, second by J. Hokamp. Motion carried.**
12. ATV Trail/Route System Update. The Hwy. Dept. has received notifications for two additional routes. These are being brought directly to the HIRC to approve rather than going through the regular ATV Committee, which are Hwy. Z (section from Hwy. 73 N to Ranger Rd, about ¾ mile). It is 35 MPH so technically the town could open it up to ATV’s according to statutes, even if it is not in their ownership. R. Hawk approved that section for the T. of Saratoga. The other is Hwy. JJ in Town of Port Edwards. Volume is very light so that section is an easy choice to open up. Recommendation from R. Hawk is to approve them. The third one came in yesterday which is in the Town of Rudolph to recommend Hwy. C and O. He has not had a chance to review them just yet, but will discuss at our next ATV meeting. From 3rd Ave to village limits, about 1/8 mile which restricts anyone from entering the village east side of 34. It is 45 mph. Instead of waiting to approve that section of road, he would like to incorporate that with this meeting for approval. Roland would review the rest of C and O with our regular ATV committee. Once signed, these additional routes will be open to the public.

Motion by J. Hahn to open all 3 sections of road to ATV traffic, second by A. Breu. Motion carried.

R. Hawk also discussed 2021 plans for the ATV Trail/Route system and taking inventory of signs. He will be applying for a grant of \$10k for the ATV budget through Wood County’s Economic Development Grant. We hope this would be enough for signing what we anticipate opening up in 2021. Then later, discuss a comprehensive plan for the ATV Trail/Route plan for opening up more areas in Wood County.

C. Schooley gave an update on the Wood County ATV Intensive Use area parking lot project. Staff is working on relocating wash-down station, replacing fencing with boulders, and removing trees in front of shelter. Hwy crew will be blacktopping a portion of the parking lot later this fall.

13. HIGHWAY

- a. Highway Staff Reports. Human Services, S. Budnik is requesting to lease some space from Highway for a bus they use for transportation. The building needs some work and that should be completed by end of October. D. LaFontaine mentioned that he has received complaints of all the thistles on Hwy. 10.
- b. Highway Revenue Report.
- c. Highway Vouchers. **Motion to pay vouchers and accept Revenue Report by D. LaFontaine and second by L Thao. Motion carried.**
- d. Lease to WC Human Services at Marshfield Hwy Shop. No approval needed from the HIRC.
- e. Wisconsin DOT 2020 Work Zone Safety Field Manual changes to WC Highway Dept. This is a guidance on how to provide traffic control while working on a state system. DSPS (Dept. of Public Safety) has also agreed they will use this as a way to enforce traffic control on the County system. The County will have to change the way they do business.
- f. Winter Schedule & Work Plan to protect essential employees from COVID outbreak. Discussion on employee scheduling and work plan. In order to meet staffing levels for winter maintenance over those few months, the staff will be assigned into small pods of five or six. Currently, we have 26 plow sections and cannot afford to have many employees out at one time. Shifts will start at various times and the group will always work together to prevent cross contamination of the Coronavirus.
- g. **2021 Budget. J. Peckham and R. Hawk discussed the Highway budget with the HIRC. Approximately \$1.3 in Tax Levy. Money to be used from debt service for a salt shed and another that will be funded by the State of WI.
Motion to approve the Highway 2021 budget and forward to the Operations Committee for approval by D. LaFontaine, second by A. Breu. Discussion took place regarding some other projects they were bonding for. D. LaFontaine stated it would behoove the County to look into bonding as those rates are at an all-time low. R. Hawk explained how that process is going. R. Hawk will share with the HIRC the Hwy. 5-year plan. Motion carried.

14. PARKS AND FORESTRY

- a. Parks & Forestry Staff Reports. C. Schooley went over the vandalism damage repair at Dexter Park. New sinks have been placed and the beach house is open for the public. F. Schubert went over the email that was sent out to the HIRC regarding the Verso mill closure. B. Clendenning talked about E.coli. He stated he saw some public with bags of bread feeding the geese. This is what adds to the E.coli problem. The County is asking the public to stop feeding the geese. The E.coli problem is an issue at Lake Wazeecha beaches. Egg oiling has been done in the past but there are limitations. Perhaps signs that say, "Do not feed the geese" and create an ordinance for this purpose. These ideas will be discussed further in the future.
- b. Special Use Permits. None.
- c. MACU Update. F. Schubert, Forest Administrator, provided information on this. P. Kastenzholz arrived at a \$35k settlement for Wood County. The final paperwork is being processed and the check will then be sent.
- d. 2021 Budget. C. Schooley summarized the Parks & Forestry 2021 budget. If Hwy were awarded a grant from the Economic Development application, those funds would be placed into the P&F non-lapsing ATV account and used for future use. C. Schooley stated the P&F budget is tracking well and anticipates staying within 2020 budgeted expenses. Reaching the budgeted revenues will partly depend on having a contracted final Red Pine harvest completed on County Forest. C. Schooley continued to go through the Parks & Forestry budget for the committee. **Motion by D. LaFontaine, second by A. Breu. Motion by J. Hahn and**

second by J. Hokamp to amend to include \$20K in the ATV maintenance, supplies & expense account. Amendment Motion carried. Original Motion carried.

- e. Parks Revenue Report. C. Schooley summarized the report. We have exceeded our 2020 budgeted revenues already this past month. Campgrounds and other outdoor activities are very busy.
- f. Forestry Revenue Report. F. Schubert summarized the report and expressed the bad news regarding Verso closing. The forest is beginning to dry out and he is talking with contractors to try to get them to start sales with good ground conditions. Unfortunately, these sales have a fair amount of Aspen and Hardwood, and currently they have no local market for this pulpwood.
- g. Parks and Forestry Vouchers.

Motion to approve the Parks & Forestry revenue reports & vouchers by D. LaFontaine and second by J. Hokamp. Motion carried.

15. Future Agenda Items.

R. Hawk will bring a final draft of a sale.

Speed study and Hebert's Bar in Marshfield.

16. Set next regular meeting date: October 1, 2020 at 9:00am at Wood County Courthouse, Rm 114,
400 Market Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

17. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned by Supervisor Hahn at 10:45 am.

Recording Secretary: Sandra Green, Parks & Forestry Office Supervisor