

Price County Highway & Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 14, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Courthouse County Board Room 101; 126 Cherry St; Phillips, WI 54555

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Larry Palecek, Committee Chairperson.

Roll Call: Present: Doug Erickson, Brian Ernst, Mark Kyle, Larry Palecek, Jordan Spacek (remote). Also present: Nick Trimner, Roger Petrick, Vance Pollitt, Alan Barkstrom

Items for discussion and possible action:

1. Public Comment and Communications: Supervisor Erickson regarding permits on County Road X with road limit postings. Permits allow travel from State Highway 13 to Biewer Sawmill. Questions on borrowing/debt levy for road maintenance.
2. Minutes from the January 10, 2023 meeting: Motion Kyle/Spacek to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion carried.
3. County Highway E Project Update: Still working on real estate acquisition on two parcels.
4. County Highway C Access for New Business: Owner of new business contacted the Highway Department regarding truck traffic on County Highway C. Roger has applied for grant money for reinforcement to that portion of the road. Motion Spacek/Erickson to allow year-round legal load weight limit use of County Highway C for property at 399 Birch Street, Village of Prentice. Motion carried.
5. Motor Grader: Condition of grader needs repairs or replacement. Committee consensus to continue using and repair as needed.
6. Upgrades to Department Radio System: South repeater went down. Office system needs to be upgraded. Motion Erickson/Kyle to use up to \$21,000 from the Highway Department Facility Fund for upgrades to the Highway Department Office radio system. Motion carried.
7. Old County Highway H Bridge Removal Update: Sold through Wisconsin Surplus to a golf course in LaCrosse for \$8,575. Installed some riprap and will landscape in the spring.
8. Resolution – Request State of Wisconsin to Use a Portion of the 2023 Budget Surplus for Maintenance of the County Trunk Highway System: Motion Ernst/Kyle to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
9. 2022 Outstanding Airport Construction Award Nomination: Winner will be announced at Bureau of Aeronautics conference in May.
10. Wisconsin County Highway Association: Roger is on Utility Committee. Working on designing a standard state-wide policy. New bridge inspection guidelines to be implemented in 2026.
11. Work Zone Awareness Week April 17 – 21, 2023: Bring awareness to safe driving in work zones to prevent accidents and death to workers. Will show WCHA video at next County Board meeting.
12. Department Reports
 - a. Commissioner: Working on grants. 90/10 grant for County Highway D project. County Highway C reinforcement. Met with citizen regarding a potential DOT grant for a trail system. Would need \$200,000 match. Information for business owner that neither the County nor the municipality is responsible for business access to highways. State Highway 13 Phillips project in the State's 2025 budget. Will do rut wedging in interim.
 - b. Airport: Snow removal. Working on the six-year plan. Will need repairs to terminal building.
 - c. Dams: Dave is attending CDL class. Winter maintenance.
 - d. Highway Crew – Vance Pollitt: Patching potholes when allowable. Winter snow maintenance. Sanding for some municipalities. Going through a lot of sand/salt, supplying to several municipalities. Cooperative culvert order. 87" of snow through March 4th. 10.25" of rain. Staffing is good. Training new hires. Mechanic resigned.
 - e. Fleet and Facilities: RFP out for mower tractor. Delivery of new pick up. Plow package received for new chassis. Freightliner available for outfitting. Found a used forklift. Winter equipment has been running well.
13. Vouchers: Motion Erickson/Ernst to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$2,516,452.66. Motion carried.
14. Schedule next meeting: May 9th.
15. Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m. to Highway Department Shop, 704 N Lake Avenue. Assessed condition of grader. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Gottwald, County Clerk