

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Highway Committee  
Summer Road Tour**

**June 17, 2014**

Prior to this meeting, notice was given to the public by posting at the appropriate place in the Courthouse, Eagle River City Hall, Olson Memorial Library and in addition, copies of the notice of the meeting were forwarded to the news media: Vilas County News Review, Lakeland Times, Rhinelander Daily News, Northwoods River News, FYI Northwoods News, News of the North and Radio Stations WERL, WHDG, WLSL-FM, Coyote 93.7 in compliance with the open meeting law.

Present: Charles Rayala, Jr., Vernon Wiggenhauser and Willy Otterpohl. Also present: Jarred Maney – Commissioner/Patrol Superintendent, Louise Krus - Hwy Committee Secretary, and Jason Hilger – Finance Director.

Not Present: Al Bauman and Ron De Bruyne.

Meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by Chairman Rayala.

Motion by Wiggenhauser, second by Otterpohl to approve the agenda to be discussed in any order, for the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting – all voted aye.

**Approve Payroll reports, Highway Committee vouchers and Clothing allowance** – motion by Otterpohl, second by Wiggenhauser to approve as presented – all voted aye. Committee members, Jarred Maney and Jason Hilger departed from the Highway office to travel the county roads.

*Above minutes taken by Louise A. Krus – Highway Committee Secretary. Minutes from this point to adjournment taken by Jason Hilger – Finance Director.*

**County road conditions and needs:** Roads reviewed and situations discussed are as follows: The sinkhole in the road on CTH “G” will need blacktopping in 2015 or 2016. CTH “G” should be sealed to avoid long term costs. Stella Creek Culvert on CTH “G” will need to be replaced in 2014 for a cost of approximately \$86,000.00. The Wisconsin River Bridge on CTH “K” will need replacing; however the cost will be split with the state paying 80%. CTH “K” east of Conover is in need of repair and it appears that pulverizing with base work is needed. CTH “A” is in pretty good shape considering its age but will need an overlay in the next 5 years. The chip seal on CTH “B” in Land O’ Lakes was reviewed and it was noted that it is wearing thin. CTH “B” is in need of an overlay from Land O’Lakes to the Michigan border. CTH “W” is in need of crack sealing from CTH “P” to CTH “B”. CTH “O” is in need of base work and pulverizing and should be a very high priority road. The first 2 tenths of CTH “F” could use a little milling. Many of the County Roads are in desperate need of striping.

**Budget 2015** – The Highway Committee members present held an open discussion regarding the road conditions as noted above. It was the group consensus that significantly more money needs to be spent on roads than what is currently budgeted. It was also noted that the County should be looking at addressing issues with a minimum of 7 miles of roads annually – (206 miles of county roads/30 year life). It was also noted that striping should be considered every other year instead of every 4 years. The committee, by consensus, asked Jarred Maney to work with the Finance Director on a revised 2015 budget which will allow for additional roadwork maintenance and to have it ready to present to the Finance and Budget Committee in July. The committee, by consensus, also requested Jarred Maney to work on a 5 year and 10 year plan so this information can be presented to the Finance and Budget Committee and the County Board.

**Future Funding Mechanisms** – A. Wheel Tax – Motion by Wiggenhauser, second by Otterpohl to request the Highway Commissioner to draft a resolution supporting a \$10.00 wheel tax ordinance to be brought to the Highway Committee in July. Wiggenhauser indicated that this resolution, assuming it is successfully passed, should be presented to the Finance and Budget Committee in July. The process was discussed and it is believed that the County would need to provide an ordinance to the state which would then add the fee to the annual registration costs for people with vehicles registered in Vilas County.

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A \$10.00 license increase would provide approximately \$230,000.00 of revenue generated to be used solely for road purposes. All voted aye. B. Additional fuel tax – Rayala suggested that the Finance Director review the fuel tax calculation and see if the county has any ability to add a fee as this type of tax would be spread across those who use more fuel (and use roads more often). C. Borrowing – the Finance Director suggested that short term borrowing may be a viable solution to fund road projects. It was noted that the County borrowed \$500,000.00 in the previous year to help pay for capital projects and it was widely supported by the County Board. It was noted that the upcoming levy will decline by \$850,000.00 because of our decreasing annual debt payment; thus, a short-term debt issue of \$850,000.00 would maintain the levy at last year's amount. The committee members, by consensus, are in favor of borrowing as a tool to help fund road projects and would support this tool if suggested by the Finance and Budget Committee.

**Letters and Communications** – Motion by Otterpohl, second by Wiggenhauser to approve and sign the Performance Based Maintenance Contract with the DOT to do patchwork – all voted aye.

Motion by Otterpohl, second by Wiggenhauser to adjourn – all voted aye.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise A. Krus, Secretary &  
Jason Hilger, Finance Director