

MINUTES

HIGHWAY, INFRASTRUCTURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 6, 2025
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: Highway Dept., Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jake Hahn, Al Breu (WebEx), Scott Brehm, John Hokamp, Lee Thao

OTHERS PRESENT: Trent Miner, County Clerk, see attached sign-in sheet

1. Chairman Hahn called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and declared a quorum present.
2. There was no public comment.
3. The minutes of the January 2, 2025, meeting were presented. Motion by Breu/Thao to accept the minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Fred Heider from the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission gave an update to the committee on the status and next steps of the Parks, Recreations, & Open Spaces plan being worked on by their organization for Wood County. He provided the background and timeframe for completion. This plan is required in order to qualify for grant funding for projects.
5. The Parks & Forestry staff reports were reviewed.
6. Parks & Forestry Director Schooley presented special use permits for the following organizations: - 2025 Red Sands Beach Closure request from Aqua Skiers, South Park - 2025 State Water Ski Show Tournament, South Park - 2025 Winter and Summer Kiwanis Youth Outdoor Days, South and Nepco Lake Park. Motion by Brehm/Breu to approve the special use permits as requested. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Schooley gave an update of the progress being made at CERA Park, namely cutting, pruning and stump grinding of trees.
8. Schooley discussed the renaming of CERA Park and reviewed some of the history of the park and previous names used. Consensus of the committee was to open the renaming up to the public via social media and bring back suggestions at a future meeting.
9. Schooley requested permission to solicit for donations for improvements to CERA Park, pursuant to County Board Rule 32. Motion by Breu/Brehm to approve the

request. Motion carried unanimously. The committee also requested that Schooley look into funding required for naming rights to objects within the park.

10. Schubert reviewed the issue on the county forest where the awarded bidder is no longer in business and did not complete their contract. As has happened in the past, a novation agreement was used to transfer the contract to another willing logger if that logger agreed to the pricing that was originally bid. Contract #780 fits this scenario and Midwest Hardwoods is willing to take over this contract and provide its own performance bond. Motion by Hokamp/Breu to approve Midwest Hardwoods taking over Contract #780 for the same pricing that was bid by Yoder Logging. Further, the performance bond would be returned to Yoder Logging. Motion carried unanimously.
11. The Wood County Wildlife Area Advisory Committee minutes were reviewed. It was noted there is a vacancy on this committee. If anyone is interested, they should contact Schubert.
12. Parks & Forestry revenue reports were reviewed.
13. Motion by Thao/Hokamp to approve the Parks & Forestry vouchers. Motion carried unanimously.
14. The Highway Dept. staff reports were highlighted and reviewed. Hawk reviewed the accident recovery charges and collections that is done by the program assistant. Over \$86,000 has been recovered since the department started this in 2021.
15. The Highway revenue report was reviewed.
16. Motion by Hokamp/Thao to approve the Highway Dept. vouchers. Motion carried unanimously.
17. Highway Commissioner Hawk reviewed the USH 10/STH 186 intersection issues and will be asking the WisDOT for use of a non-conforming sign to, hopefully, better alert drivers of the divided highway. WisDOT would have to approve any signage change at this intersection. This would possibly be of some help in the short term.
18. Hawk submitted a federal grant for CTH A in the amount of \$25M, however with the change in the federal administration, some of the funding is in limbo. He will keep the committee updated.
19. Hawk updated the committee on the progress of the CTH AA closing and upgrades. They are currently in the planning & permitting process.
20. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 9:00 AM at the Highway Department Conference Room.

21. Chairman Hahn declared the meeting adjourned at 10:13 AM.

Minutes taken by Trent Miner, County Clerk, and are in draft form until approved at the next meeting.

