

MINUTES

HIGHWAY, INFRASTRUCTURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, September 3, 2026
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: Highway Dept., Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jake Hahn, Al Breu (WebEx), Wayne Schulz, Jeff Penzkover, Lee Thao

OTHERS PRESENT: Trent Miner, County Clerk (WebEx), 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. Due to a misprint in the agenda, approval of the August meeting minutes will be postponed until October.
4. The Highway Dept. staff reports were reviewed and discussed.
5. The Highway revenue report was reviewed.
6. Motion by Thao/Schulz to approve the Highway Dept. vouchers. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Highway Commissioner Hawk discussed the need for a policy that would increase the pricing of small batch blacktop mixes. When the Highway Dept. does a small batch mix of asphalt, the cost increases exponentially and currently, with no policy, they are not able to recoup their additional cost. Motion by Penzkover/Breu to allow the Highway Commissioner to adjust asphalt pricing as he sees fit. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Hawk reviewed the discussion about roadside vegetation spraying from last month's meeting. He reviewed that this process is governed under DATCP regulations and the spraying times have wind and moisture limitations on when it can be applied. Everything is documented as it happens.
9. Hawk reviewed the 2026 budget for new patrol trucks and noted that the county board had approved short term financing of one of the patrol trucks so they could be acquired prior to new emissions standards going into effect. After review of the maintenance fund, Hawk is suggesting that this unit could be purchased with the funds available instead of financing. Motion by Schulz/Breu to purchase the patrol truck with the maintenance fund instead of short term financing. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Hawk advised of the Wisconsin County Highway Association regional legislative breakfast coming up on October 23, 2026, in Stevens Point.
11. Hawk & Accounting Supervisor Peckham presented the proposed 2027 Highway Dept. budgets for the committee to review. Noted was the decrease in maintenance funding from 2026 to 2027. Motion by Hahn/Breu to tentatively approve the Highway Dept. budgets with the increase of the

maintenance funding level of \$1,892,000, and forward onto the Finance Dept. Motion carried unanimously.

12. The Parks & Forestry staff reports were reviewed.

13. Parks & Forestry Director Schooley presented the 2027 Parks & Forestry budgets for review. Motion by Hahn/Thao to approve the aforementioned budgets as presented and forward onto the Finance Dept. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Schooley reported that speed limit signs have been placed in all parks. During the upcoming recodification of county ordinances process, Schooley will be looking at modifying the ordinance to better control issues surrounding E-bikes.

15. The Wood County Wildlife Area Advisory Committee minutes were reviewed.

16. Schooley presented Parks fee structure to begin in 2028. Motion by Schulz/Thao to approve the fee structure, effective January 1, 2028, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

17. Forest Administrator Schubert discussed a new county forest management opportunity of prescribed burning. In the past, county forests have not been able to take part in this management plan due to lack of staffing, and knowledge of the various permitting required, however the DNR is looking at allowing their staff resources available for this. Hannah Butkiewicz from the Nature Conservancy discussed how they could be involved as well. Motion by Schulz/Penzkover to allow the Forest Administrator to move forward with possible prescribed burning on county forest lands. Motion carried unanimously.

18. The Parks & Forestry revenue reports were reviewed.

19. Motion by Hahn/Thao to approve Parks & Forestry vouchers. Motion approved unanimously.

20. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2026, at 9:00 AM.

21. Chairman Hahn declared the meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM.

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

Highway Infrastructure & Recreation Committee
September 3, 2026

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