

POLK COUNTY HIGHWAY MEETING
Polk County Government Center, Balsam Lake, WI
November 6, 2008

Chairman Marvin Caspersen called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m., in the East Conference Room, Polk County Government Center, Balsam Lake, WI.

Members present: Marvin Caspersen, Jay Luke, Art Gamache, Herschel Brown, Dean Johansen
Others present: Steve Warndahl, Kathy Bohn, Emil Norby
Press present: Gregg Westigard, Linda Berg, Buz Swerkstrom

Motion by Johansen and seconded by Gamache to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Luke and seconded by Gamache to approve the minutes from the September 4, 2008 Highway meeting. Motion carried.

Roundabout at USH 8 & 208th Street: Bob Anderson, WisDOT, joined the meeting at this time to update the committee on proposed changes to the intersection at USH 8 and 208th Street. The current temporary signals will be replaced with either modern signals with turn lanes or a modern roundabout. An informational meeting is scheduled for this afternoon at St. Croix Falls to inform the public of the proposed changes. A decision on the design will be made in early December, with construction scheduled for 2010. Drainage and access issues will be addressed with the change. Either project will minimize access to USH 8 and improve visibility. One advantage of a roundabout is the elimination of t-bone crashes. Everyone was encouraged to complete and return comments sheets.

Warm Mix – Monarch Paving: Monarch was unable to attend the meeting but will be making a presentation at the December meeting. The committee was encouraged to read the handout on Monarch's warm mix technique. Advantages include better compaction and less pollution. Highway will be monitoring their test plot on CTH X for performance of this product.

Bridge Aid Resolution: The county board will be voting on the bridge aid resolution presented by the Highway committee. This is a 50/50 shared cost program available to towns for repair and replacement of culverts over 36" in diameter.

Sign Grant: Norby informed the committee that the department received a small grant of \$1641 from NACE for replacement of signs not meeting the new reflectivity standards. The grant will replace about 33 speed limit signs or less than 5% of the signs needing replacement. Mandatory testing of all signs will be required in 2012.

Use of Salt Brine from Cheese for Snow and Ice Control: Norby has been researching the possibility of using salt brine from cheese making as an anti-icing agent. One concern is the high level of BOD in the product and its effect on the environment. If it is

determined to be usable, a local cheese maker would have about 5000 gallons of salt brine available weekly at no cost to department. Norby is working with WisDOT on the feasibility of using salt brine, with the state willing to allow testing of this product on state roads. The committee will be updated as the research progresses.

Highway Facility Update: An energy audit was conducted on the highway buildings. The bids are out on the new roof and insulation for the North shed and there is a possibility of grant money to offset the cost of insulation. Steve Mullenbach is waiting for the bid to be awarded before submitting the grant application. Another grant available could offset the cost of remote activation by PC of electrical power to department equipment, eliminating the need to have all equipment plugged in continuously during winter months. The heating and A/C in the highway offices is currently being updated.

WCHA Winter Conference: Registration packets for the WCHA Winter Conference were distributed to the committee. Committee members attending were asked to bring their registration information to the next committee meeting.

Administrative Report: Warndahl presented some cost saving ideas to the committee. Highway will discontinue their display booth at the Polk County fair and focus on the driver education classes at local schools. Going from a 3-part shop repair form to a 2-part form, expand current oil changes on trucks from 8,000 to 12,000 miles and privatizing the parts room were other ideas shared with the committee. Warndahl is the new president of the Northwest Bid 10 Highway Commissioners for a 2-year term. Construction on CTH I is nearly complete and will be open tomorrow. The new Tough Book laptop to be used for evaluating truck and equipment performance is in and waiting for software. And Mullenbach and Norby watched a demo of a crack seal fiber patching machine in preparation for writing bid specs for purchase of one in 2009.

On behalf of the committee and employees, Warndahl commended Art Gamache on his work on the Highway Committee and wished him well in the future. Gamache resigned his position on county board effective November 7, 2008.

Warndahl advised the committee that the department has been conducting volume tests on the crusher at the Lime Quarry at the request of the Finance Committee and passing the test results on to the county fiscal director. He wanted it to be perfectly clear that Highway is not attempting a takeover of the Lime Quarry.

The Highway meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.