

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2019  
HAINES BUILDING, MERCER**

Members Present: James Kichak and Patrick Hanson

Members Absent: Scott Erickson, Larry Youngs and Karl Krall

Also Present: Mike Swartz, Commissioner; Tana Osterman, Office Manager II; Joe Pinardi, County Board Chairman, sign-in sheet attached

Kichak called meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

Roll call was taken Erickson, Youngs and Krall absent.

The meeting was properly posted in the Iron County Miner, Ironwood Daily Globe and announced on WJMS and WUPM.

Motioned by Hanson, supported by Pinardi, to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 18, 2019. Motion carried.

Recess from open session to hold public hearing on proposed opening of county roads to ATV/UTV.

Introduction of Greg Olson, Northwest Regional Coordinator (WATVA-Wisconsin ATV/UTV Association)

Public Questions and WATVA Changes:

- Do ATV/UTV need insurance? No, not mandatory.
- Tire Pressure, going to more radial tires.
- Light Bar changes, keeping lights on always.
- Registration and gas tax fees go to ATV Trails per Olson.

ATV and UTV operators born on or after Jan 1, 1988 who are at least 12 years old for ATV (and at least 16 years old for UTV) must complete an ATV and UTV safety certification course in order to operate on public ATV/UTV trails.

Cathy Vavra, representing Mercer Dusty Loons is requesting the county roads be opened by Labor Day weekend. Committee explained that the Ordinance will have to be approved by the County Board, which is on the Agenda for Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Gary Patzke – Concerned about safety issues.

Mercer Dusty Loons – Position is riders will have better access to resorts and businesses; looking for access and not riding the road.

Larry Simpson – Speed limit concerns with cars and ATV/UTV using the same road with different mph limits.

Ordinance will note Statute 23.33 and ATV club's responsibility for installing and maintaining signs. We'll draft a letter, so clubs acknowledge their responsibility.

Motioned by Hanson, supported by Pinardi to move into open session. Motion carried.

Old Business: None

CTH A Reclassification – Doesn't meet the criteria to be a major collector. By not being a Major Collector CTH A will not be eligible for STP Funding. However, Federal Highways would be available in a flood such as in 2016. In return, CTH CC will be upgraded to a Major Collector.

Motioned by Hanson, supported by Pinardi, agree to all reclassifications on county roads. Motion carried.

Gravel Royalty Fee – Highway Department has two Pits. One in Kimball and the other behind the Mercer Shop. When the gravel is eliminated the department is going to have to purchase property or material from a vendor.

Motioned by Pinardi, supported by Hanson, to implement a Gravel Royalty Fee to the towns. Discuss the fee at the next Highway Meeting when more committee members are present. Motion carried.

Motion by Hanson, supported by Pinardi, to authorize Commissioner to bid a Tri-axle Truck with removable axle and equipment. Motion carried.

Update CTH G Bridge Project – Pulverizing this week, paving next. Project on schedule, 40day working contract + 3 rain days; bridge completed in 26 days. Janke makes the guardrail in the winter.

Commissioner Report:

- Worked with Land & Conservation to install 4 culverts for the towns; Gurney, Saxon, Kimball and Oma.
- Hwy 47/77 PBM Crack Sealing projects over recovered \$18,000.
- Hwy 47/182/51 Polymer Overlay over recovered \$3,000.
- Request on CTH E and CTH G from Hwy 51 to Little Pine Rd to reduce the speed limit. Commissioner believes this is a law enforcement issue and not a reduction in speed limit; plenty of sight distance for the speed.
- Hwy 51 – need to mill/fill 6,800ft. Hwy 77 approx. 1mile.
- 3 flaggers returned to college, last day was August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Hwy 47 culvert liners installed; Ashland County will finish grouting.
- Need to install culverts on CTH C and CTH E.
- WisDot is holding a PIM (Public Involvement Meeting) at the Iron County Courthouse, Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30P.M. to discuss plans to improve the Hwy 51/US2 intersection. Construction scheduled for summer 2021.
- Bridge Inspection – The county has no deficient bridges; only Town of Kimball and Saxon.
- Receiving state salt.

Budget: Estimated year-end \$254,330

Motioned by Hanson, supported by Pinardi, to approve payment of bills for August \$83,825.09. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

- Jim Hannemann would like a dead tree on CTH FF near Popko Circle residence #3332W removed. Also, brush the Welcome to Iron County Sign on Hwy 51. Commissioner will take care of these issues.
- Larry Simpson requesting passing zones on CTH FF. Commissioner will contact TranSMART Technology to inquire the cost and if area meets the criteria.

Next monthly meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00P.M.

Motioned by Hanson, supported by Pinardi, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.

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