



# Menominee County Highway Department

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## Menominee County Highway Committee Special Meeting Minutes October 28th, 2020

- 1. Call to Order.** 3:02 P.M.
- 2. Roll Call.** Committee members present: Elizabeth Moses, Chairperson; Elizabeth Fernandez, Vice-Chairperson; and James Lowey, member. A quorum was present. Others present on the call: Jeremy C. Weso, Highway Commissioner; Kourtney Erickson, Office Manager; Steve Wilke, Patrol Superintendent; and Julie Callahan, Taxpayers Association.
- 3. FY2021 Budget**

The FY2021 Highway Department budget application was presented and discussed.

- The Commissioner discussed the projected increases in wages and healthcare premiums.
- The Commissioner discussed the need to replace two pickups, to acquire a claw bucket attachment for the excavator, and to purchase a used scissor lift. The request to replace two pickups was raised earlier in the year and the Committee decided to postpone action on the request until the 2021 budget discussions were held. The Commissioner's budget request for the two pickup trucks was for \$60,000, but the Commissioner had since learned the estimate was \$10,000 higher. The Committee supported the revised request for the pickup trucks. It also supported the request for the claw bucket, which had been previously approved by the Highway Committee earlier in the year but supplemental appropriations had not been secured. As for the scissor lift, the Highway Committee asked the Commissioner to acquire the lift using FY2020 appropriations.
- The Commissioner discussed his need to transfer two paving projects to 2021 due to significant distractions in the current year caused by the pandemic and a private matter.
- The Commissioner discussed the need to address depreciation expense in FY2021. The Finance Director was planning to discuss this matter with the auditor soon to identify alternative solutions. Absent additional funding and an outright demand to fully cover depreciation expense, the Commissioner's only choice would be to reduce staffing. The Committee believed reducing or eliminating staff would only compound problems in the long-run. As such, the Committee decided to refer the matter to the Personnel and Finance Committee with the hope that the Finance Director and auditors were able to craft an alternative solution.

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- The Commissioner discussed the need to replace the bridge decks on Bear Trap Falls Road and West Branch Road. The Commissioner said that if anything, funds for design in FY2021 would help. The Committee supported the Commissioner making a request to Personnel and Finance for design funding.
- The Commissioner also discussed the need to replace a 1.78 mile stretch of road on CTH M-East. The Commissioner will look to other funding possibilities in 2021, but the County may need to budget money in 2022 for replacement.

Motion by J. Lowey to accept the FY2021 budget along with the additional \$10,000 needed for the pick-up trucks and to send the budget request to the Personnel and Finance Committee. Second by E. Fernandez. Motion Carried.

#### **4. Closed Session Pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)( c): Considering employment and compensation of Highway employees**

The Committee decided this was unnecessary at this point.

#### **5. Open Session to Record Any Motions from Closed Session**

None

#### **6. Adjournment: 3:29 P.M.**

Minutes recorded and prepared by K. Erickson.