



Menominee County Highway Department

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Menominee County Highway Committee Regular Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 8, 2022

- 1. Call to Order.** 4:00 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call.** Committee members present on the videoconference call: Elizabeth Moses, Chairperson and James Lowey, Member. Committee members absent: Elizabeth Fernandez, Vice-Chairperson (excused). A quorum was present. Others present: Jeremy C. Weso, Highway Commissioner, and Steve Wilke, Patrol Superintendent.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of January 11, 2022

Motion by J. Lowey to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 11, 2022. Second by E. Moses. Motion carried.

4. Commissioner's Report

The Commissioner's written report was presented. Notable topics discussed included the following:

- Birthdays and Anniversaries – The Commissioner announced the anniversaries and birthdays of department personnel.
- Winter Maintenance Update – The Commissioner provided an overview of winter operations to date, along with a comparison to this same time last winter. All trucks are currently in service.
- COVID-19 Update – The Commissioner reported that one employee tested positive for COVID-19 but was symptom-free. The employee is back at work following a five-day isolation period.
- Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) Funding – The Commissioner briefly discussed two of the five LRIP applications that were submitted in January. Three were previously reported on by the Commissioner at the January meeting. The other two were regular biennial applications, one for the County for \$77,487.37 and the other for the Town for \$13,220.52. The Commissioner will pair the two applications and apply the funding to scattered site road repavement on Town roads. The scattered sites project totals will cost an estimated \$199,557, of which the State would reimburse \$90,707.89.
- Surface Transportation Program (STP) Funding – The Commissioner informed the Committee that funding coming to the State under the Infrastructure Improvement and Jobs Act, more popularly known as the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation" (BIL), will be funneled through WisDOT's STP program. The Commissioner was surprised the

funding was channeled through STP rather than the Local Road Improvement Program, for most Commissioner's have grown very familiar with the LRIP program application process. The primary focus for the Commissioner will be on securing funding for the West Branch and Bear Trap Falls bridge deck replacement, but road improvement funding will also be sought. It appears that funding will be an 80/20 split, but the Congress has not yet appropriated funding for the BIL.

J. Lowey asked if the Tribe might sponsor applications for improvement of West Branch and Bear Trap Falls bridges using BIA funding allocated for improvement projects. The Commissioner stated that he had not heard back from the BIA or the Tribe. The Commissioner will follow-up with the Tribe's Community Development Director.

5. Monthly Expenditures

The meeting packet included two payable listings: one was for December 2021 payables and the other was for January 2022 payables. Included was a memo briefly describing both sets of payables.

Motion by J. Lowey to approve the December 2021 monthly expenditures in the amount of \$10,884.94 and January 2022 monthly expenditures in the amount of \$120,325.27. Second by E. Moses. There were no questions regarding the payables. Motion carried.

6. Financial Report

The Commissioner discussed the December 2021 financial statement with the Committee. That report was included in the meeting packet. The report revealed that year-to-date revenues were \$2,065,953.75 and year-to-date expenditures were \$2,384,312.80, leaving a deficit of \$318,359.05. Included in that expense was depreciation expense of \$330,201.30 and capital expenses, for which approved fund balance has yet to be posted.

J. Lowey asked why revenues were lower than budgeted, while expenses were close to the mark. The Commissioner stated that additional revenues are expected and that applied fund balance will be posted at year-end closeout, so the revenues will exceed expenses.

7. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

None.

8. Adjournment: 4:21 p.m

Minutes recorded and prepared by J. Weso.