



Menominee County Highway Department

W2703 Chief Carron Road
Keshena, WI 54135
Ph: 715-799-3369
Fax: 715-799-3789

Menominee County Highway Committee Regular Meeting Minutes Thursday, May 12, 2022 Meeting Held Via Zoom Only

- 1. Call to Order.** 4:07 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call.** Committee members present on the videoconference call: Elizabeth Moses, Chairperson and James Lowey, Member. Committee members absent: None. A quorum was present. Others present: Jeremy C. Weso, Highway Commissioner.

3. Community Input

None

4. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of April 12, 2022

Motion by J. Lowey to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 12, 2022. Second by E. Moses. There were no correction to the minutes or questions on the motion. The motion carried.

5. Commissioner's Report

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

- The Commissioner provided an overview of winter operations to date, along with a comparison to this same time last winter. Winter operations have concluded.
- The Commissioner was pleased to announce that the Stockroom Clerk, Doreen "Corky" Gauthier, returned to work on May 2nd; she had been out on medical leave since March 4, 2022.
- The Commissioner stated that one employee had been isolated due to a COVID-19 infection. He and his family fine, and he has already returned to work.
- The Commissioner stated that the department participated in the community-wide cleanup the week of April 18th. This is an annual event that county undertakes with the Tribe's Community Development Department. The department's trailer that is used for the cleanup brokedown, so the department purchased a used trailer for \$3,800.
- The Commissioner provided a cost breakdown for the CTH M project. The department waited for the breakdown from WisDOT for a year and a half. The breakdown revealed that the construction management and bridge construction cost \$615,237.16, of which

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the State paid \$488,651.80 (79.43%) and the County paid \$126,585.36 (20.57%). The County appropriated \$121,934 towards the project; the County expense exceeded the appropriation by \$4,651.36. The Committee was pleased with the amount of the overrun given that the project had to be revised to incorporate construction of a coffer dam.

- The Commissioner announced that one applicant tested and interviewed for the vacant Patrol Superintendent position. The candidate did really well with the testing and gave a fine interview. An offer was extended to the candidate, but the candidate declined the offer due to a conflict the candidate believe he could not easily overcome. The Commissioner will be reposting the position by the end of the week.
- The Commissioner met with the Tribe's Administration regarding future projects. The Commissioner asked Administration for help pursuing funding for the West Branch and Bear Trap Falls bridge deck reconstruction. Preliminary design plans, cost estimates, and bridge inspection reports were furnished to the Tribe's Community Development Department and BIA roads engineers. Unfortunately, since the two bridges do not qualify for rehabilitation funding through the State, it is possible the bridge deck reconstruction might not qualify for funding through the BIA as well.
- The Commissioner discussed the STH 47 repaving project in Neopit, which is tentatively scheduled for 2026. WisDOT wants to know if the Town would like to include the passing lanes in the project. The Committee believed it would be more cost effective to include repaving of the passing lanes in the State project, so it asked the Commissioner to include that in its improvement plan and future budget request.
- The Commissioner informed the Committee that the department has been experiencing intermittent power outages with the fuel pumps. The Stockroom Clerk replaced the power board in the FuelMaster pedestal earlier in the day. it is hoped that this resolves the power issues.

6. Monthly Expenditures

The meeting packet included one set of payables for \$41,712.83, represented by 39 separate invoices. The payables were revised to include two additional invoices (Tribal Utilities and Zorn Compressor Co.). Included in the meeting packet was a memo briefly describing the payables.

Motion by J. Lowey to approve the April 2021 monthly expenditures in the amount of \$41,712.83. Second by E. Moses. There were no questions regarding the payables. Motion carried.

7. Financial Report

The March financial statement was incomplete. The Finance Director still needed to post revenues and expenses for March, but she was not able to do so in advance of the meeting because she was out of the office due to illness.

Motion by J. Lowey to table the financial report until June. Second by E. Moses. No discussion. The motion carried.

8. Closed Session Pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c): Considering compensation of a public employee

Motion by J. Lowey to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c). Second by E. Moses. Roll call vote: E. Moses - Aye. J. Lowey - Aye. The motion carried.

Motion by J. Lowey to come out of closed session. Second by E. Moses. No question on the motion. The motion carried.

9. Open Session: To Record Any Motions from Closed Session

Motion by J. Lowey to provide the two employees temporary increases as outlined in the Commissioner's Memo. Second by E. Moses. No question on the motion. The motion carried.

10. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

None

11. Adjournment: 4:31 p.m

Minutes recorded and prepared by J. Weso.