



# Menominee County Highway Department

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## **Menominee County Highway Committee Regular Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 14, 2024 Highway Department Conference Room**

**1. Call to Order.** 9:00 a.m.

**2. Roll Call.** Committee members present: Keith Tourtillott, Chairman; Eugene Caldwell, Vice-Chairman; and Gregg Malmstrom, Member. Members absent: None. A quorum was present. Others present: Jeremy C. Weso, Highway Commissioner; Ken Casper, Patrol Superintendent; and Brittany Anderson, Office Manager.

**3. Community Input**

Chairman Tourtillott asked to have community cleanup added to the agenda for the next meeting. This was a topic of discussion at local community meetings. The Commissioner stated that he would discuss the Highway Department's involvement with the community cleanup under his report later in the meeting.

**4. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2024**

Motion by G. Malmstrom to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 13, 2024, with one correction: Under the Commissioner's Report, change the start date of Victoria Minch from January 5, 2024, to February 5, 2024. Second by E. Caldwell. Motion approved.

**5. Commissioner's Report**

The Commissioner's presented his written report. The Commissioner highlighted the following from his report:

- The Commissioner informed the Committee that the Robert "Bobbie" Perez bridge naming ceremony will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. The event will be held at the bridge. Chairman Tourtillott will be hosting the event. A small luncheon will be held at Alberta Zhuckahosee residence following the ceremony.
- The Commissioner informed the Committee that seasonal weight limits were posted on County and Town roads on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The Commissioner also informed the Committee he was told an overloaded semitruck and trailer was pulled over on CTH VV-East by a Sheriff's deputy on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The truck was transporting new/used vehicles. The truck was directed to go to the Casino parking lot. A deputy helped the truck driver remove one of several vehicles stored on the trailer. The Shawano County Sheriff's Office helped our deputy weigh the truck and trailer at Shawano County Highway Department. The truck and trailer were about 33,000 pounds overweight, not including

## Menominee Co. Highway Meeting Minutes

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the vehicle that was unloaded at the Casino. The truck driver was not cited for the overweight vehicle. The Commissioner was concerned that the lack of enforcement was sending the wrong message to other truckers. The Committee agreed that the law should be enforced; the local logging industry is forced to shut down and lose profits for the sake of protecting our roads, so not enforcing the law is not fair to our loggers; and the lack of enforcement sends the wrong message to other would-be violators.

Motion by E. Caldwell to send the issue to the Public Safety Committee for it to investigate the matter and determine why a ticket was not issued. Second by G. Malmstrom. Motion approved.

- The Commissioner informed the Committee that BayCom installed the new antenna, jumper, and cable on the Neopit tower. Communication for the operators has vastly improved. The repeater is still on back order, so it could be a few more months before the repeater is in place. BayCom found that the old antenna was replaced in 2021 by OK Tower, but it appeared to have been damaged in the process of installation. The Commissioner will discuss this matter with Corporation Counsel to see if he thinks it is worth pursuing a claim against Northway and/or OK Tower.
- The Commissioner informed the Committee that the department annually participates with the Tribe on spring community-wide cleanup. The week of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the department will send out a team each day with a truck and trailer to pick up household items left on the curb. During the first four days, we pick up household items in specific areas of the county, while on the fifth day we pick up residual items left out by households after their scheduled collection date. In addition, year-round we loan pickers and vests and give individuals, families, and groups garbage bags to perform roadside cleanup. We also participate in the Adopt-a-Highway program, where groups and organizations can "adopt" a segment of the State highway for roadside cleanup.

G. Malmstrom stated that it would nice if we could figure out a way for taxpayers to drop off paint and other household items without having to pay the annual \$185 fee, or so, to use the transfer site, so the Highway Department would not have to go out and schedule an annual curbside collection. There are very few locations that residents can go to dispose of paint, oil, and other household items.

Motion by G. Malmstrom to approve the Highway Commissioner's report. Second by E. Caldwell. Motion approved.

### **6. Monthly Expenditures**

Included in the meeting packet was a memo from the Commissioner summarizing the residual 2023 payables totaling \$5,323.49 and the February 2024 payables totaling \$52,592.04. The credit card log was included in the monthly payable report.

Motion by G. Malmstrom to approve the December 2023 monthly expenditures totaling \$5,323.49 and the February 2024 monthly expenditures totaling \$52,592.04. Second by E. Caldwell. The motion carried.

**7. Financial Report**

The meeting packet included the financial report for January 2024. The financial report revealed year-to-date revenues of \$480,609.08, YTD expenses of \$197,561.32, surplus of \$283,047.76, and YTD depreciation of \$21,217.22. A budget modification to address the overdrawn insurance line items will be processed by the Office Manager and Commissioner.

G. Malmstrom asked where the department was at with its winter maintenance budget given that it has been a mild winter. The Commissioner stated that the savings are largely realized in diesel fuel and parts and repairs. There are some savings in materials through sand-salt purchases, but the department does not save much in terms of salt purchases, for we are required under contract to purchase a defined amount every season. The department utilizes the savings, if any, to purchase more gravel for roads, more tar for crack sealing, more contracted patching work, and road striping. The department has to be cautious on how much extra work it performs during the summer months, for the next winter season could start early.

A motion approving the financial report was deemed unnecessary.

**8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

The Committee asked for an update on our Earth Week activities.

**9. Adjournment**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:31 a.m. No motion necessary.

Minutes recorded and prepared by J. Weso.