



# Menominee County Highway Department

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## **Menominee County Highway Committee Regular Meeting Minutes Thursday, April 11, 2024 Highway Department Conference Room**

- 1. Call to Order.** 9:05 a.m.
- 2. Roll Call.** Committee members present: Keith Tourtillott, Chairman; and Eugene Caldwell, Vice-Chairman. Members absent: Gregg Malmstrom (excused). A quorum was present. Others present: Jeremy C. Weso, Highway Commissioner; and Brittany Anderson, Office Manager.
- 3. Community Input**  
  
None
- 4. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2024**

Motion by E. Caldwell to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 14, 2024. Second by K. Tourtillott. The motion passed with one member absent (G. Malmstrom - Excused).

### **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 Patrol Superintendent, Ken Casper, resigned effective as of Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. He was offered the Paving Foreman position at Shawano County Highway Department. The Patrol Superintendent position was posted.
- The Commissioner reminded the Committee that the Robert "Bobbie" Perez bridge naming ceremony was taking place on April 13<sup>th</sup> at noon.
- The Commissioner updated the Committee on his meeting with the Public Safety Committee the night before, wherein the Commissioner expressed his concerns about the Sheriff's Office not enforcing weight limits. More specifically, this matter concerned the 33,000-pound overweight semitruck and trailer that was loaded with used vehicles operating on CTH VV-East on March 2<sup>nd</sup> while seasonal weight limits were in effect. At the Public Safety Committee meeting, the new Chief Deputy stated that a citation was not issued because neither he nor the officers on duty at the time possessed the training necessary to defend a citation in court. The chief deputy committed to obtaining training for the deputies this year so that they are better prepared for the next season.

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- The Commissioner told the Committee that after reviewing the matter more closely, they found that OK Tower only replaced the antenna and not the line and jumper on the Neopit Tower back in 2021. As such, the department would not be pursuing any claim against the company for not installing the line and jumper, but that it would discuss the matter involving the damaged antenna with Corporation Counsel.

The Committee Chairman asked the Commissioner why the crew did not carry chainsaws with them while they were plowing on the night of April 2<sup>nd</sup>, which was the start of a two-day snowstorm. The Chairman stated that officers were cutting trees ahead of the plow trucks and the plow trucks had to wait for the officers to complete that work before they could continue on. The Commissioner stated that due to safety concerns, the operators do not carry chainsaws in the cabs and are not expected to cut trees on top of plowing. The department employs a 2-operator rule, which requires at least one person be available to help or call for help should a sawyer get injured; the operators are required to don personal protective equipment while they are cutting; getting in and out of a plow truck while carrying a chainsaw and while it is snowing is not particularly safe; and transporting bar oil and gas in the cab is less than ideal. However, the department had one operator out with the loader removing trees. The Chairman and Commissioner agreed that the collective response of parties that were out during the snow should have been focused on clearing heavy traffic roads first (i.e., State highways), followed by County roads, and then local roads. The Chairman asked to have this added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Motion by E. Caldwell to approve the Highway Commissioner's report. Second by K. Tourtillott. The motion passed with one member absent (G. Malmstrom - Excused).

### **6. Earth Day Cleanup**

The Commissioner handed out a copy of the Highway Department's Earth Day Cleanup flyer, which included the pickup schedule. The Committee asked the Commissioner to post the flyer throughout the community.

### **7. Monthly Expenditures**

Included in the meeting packet was a memo from the Office Manager summarizing the March payables totaling \$119,728.75. The credit card log was included in the monthly payable report.

Motion by E. Caldwell to approve the March 2024 monthly expenditures totaling \$119,728.75. Second by K. Tourtillott. The motion passed with one member absent (G. Malmstrom - Excused).

### **8. Financial Report**

The meeting packet included the financial report for February 2024. The financial report revealed year-to-date revenues of \$653,647.33, YTD expenses of \$363,483.05, surplus of \$290,164.28, and YTD depreciation of \$42,434.44.

A motion approving the financial report was deemed unnecessary.

**9. Closed Session Pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c): Considering compensation for a public employee**

Motion by E. Caldwell to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c) – considering compensation for a public employee. Second by K. Tourtillott. Roll call vote: K. Tourtillott - Aye; E. Caldwell - Aye; and G. Malmstrom - Absent (excused). The motion carried.

Closed session – not recorded.

Motion by E. Caldwell to come out of closed session. Second by K. Tourtillott. The motion passed with one member absent (G. Malmstrom - Excused).

**10. Open Session: To Record Any Motions from Closed Session**

Motion by E. Caldwell to accept the Commissioner’s recommendation. Second by K. Tourtillott. The motion passed with one member absent (G. Malmstrom - Excused).

**11. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Tree cutting during active winter maintenance operations

**12. Adjournment**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m. No motion necessary.

Minutes recorded and prepared by J. Weso.