

## March 19, 2024 meeting of the Monroe County Highway Committee

### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by Chairperson David Pierce.

Members present: David Pierce, Wally Habegger, Douglas Rogalla, and Nodji VanWychen.

Members absent: Zach Zebell

Others present: Highway Commissioner – David Ohnstad, Highway Operations Coordinator – Tyson Langrehr, Fahrner Asphalt Sealers – Mike, Scott Construction – Paul Simon, and Highway Office Manager – Brooke Adams

### 2. Period of Public Comment

No public comment

### 3. Last Meeting Minutes (Discussion & Decision)

**Motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2024 regular meeting made by Doug Rogalla, seconded by Nodji VanWychen. All ayes, motion carried.**

### 4. Review Vouchers and Credit Card Charges (Discussion)

Highway Department vouchers and expenditures were reviewed. Month vouchers: \$541,007.41.

### 5. Bid Openings (Discussion)

#### A. BST, CTH A, CTH T

An RFP was issued for Bituminous Surface Treatment, CTH T (STH 131 to STH 71) and CTH A (STH 16 to STH 131).

Tyson Langrehr opened received bids, Commissioner Ohnstad read the bids. Actual payments will be based on quantities constructed.

- Bid from Fahrner Asphalt Sealers of Eau Claire – Bid was appropriately signed. Bid bond present. Total base bid: \$558,959.00.
- Bid from Scott Construction of Lake Delton – Bid was appropriately signed. Bid bond present. Total base bid: \$518,483.80.

Commissioner Ohnstad recommended that we accept both proposals as submitted. The bids will be reviewed and reconciled and awarded as we find appropriate. Upon completion of reconciliation we will notify the awarded company.

#### B. Real Estate Acquisition Services, CTH PC

An RFP was issued for Real Estate Acquisition Services, CTH PC.

Tyson Langrehr opened received bids, Commissioner Ohnstad read the bids.

- Bid from Gruber Consulting – \$71,950.00
- Bid from Jewell Associates Engineers, Inc. – \$45,300.00 base total; \$800.00 per appraisal for appraisal review; \$4,244.00 two-day right of way blitz.

Commissioner Ohnstad stated that it will take some time to go through the proposals because there are many steps to the acquisition process. Prices will vary based on all the contingencies involved. An award will be made once the proposals are reviewed fully.

### 6. Resolution, ATC EIA Remnant, CTH ET (Discussion & Decision)

At the Finance Committee meeting in February, a discussion was had regarding a remnant payment from the Badger Coulee project. The Highway Department had received funding for CTH EW and CTH A from the initial one-time payment to Monroe County. We are now proposing to use the ATC EIA Remnant to offset part of the cost of the CTH ET/West Veterans Street project. If approved by the committee, the proposal will be taken to the Finance Committee meeting 3/20/24 to use the remnant payment, or some portion of it for the CTH ET/West Veterans Street project.

**Motion to approve the effort of requesting ATC EIA Remnant funds to be used for CTH ET/West Veterans Street Project made by Doug Rogalla, seconded by Nodji VanWychen. All ayes, motion carried.**

### 7. Short-Span Bridge Inventory & Inspection (Discussion)

Commissioner Ohnstad provided updates on the Short-Span Bridge Inventory and Inspection program. The Highway Association has been working with the DOT, the Wisconsin Towns Association, and the League of Municipalities. Nothing has changed for the inventory phase of the project.

There have been changes to the second phase, assessment/inspection. The agreement now is that the counties can do their own assessments for county bridges if they have an on-staff certified inspector, or they can use their own contract vendor. We are utilizing our contract vendor.

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For the towns and villages, they will be assigned an independent third-party vendor by the Wisconsin Towns Association or League of Municipalities to complete the assessment/inspection. The reimbursement for the second phase of the program is \$350 per structure. The timeframe remains the same.

### 8. "ARIP" Agricultural Roads Program (Discussion)

Commissioner Ohnstad stated that the way the program is structured, it is to build all-season roads. The county will not be putting in an application. CTH D is a major collector so it does not qualify for the program. If we had to build a county highway to the all-season standard, there would not be enough funding for us to complete.

### 9. Highway Improvement Projects (Discussion)

Commissioner Ohnstad provided updates on projects.

- We have been holding scoping meetings for bridge design projects. Town of Tomah, Town of LaGrange and Town of Sheldon have had their scoping meetings. We have not received notice that Town of Sparta has been approved. Once the notice of approval is received, a vendor is lined up to begin the process.
- CTH ET/West Veterans Street has been awarded and the contract executed (Gerke Excavating). The road will be under construction all summer. The utilities will be completed first. The road will be closed and we will not establish a detour, but there are plenty of detours to take. As soon as we have a start date we will issue a news release.
- BST – we will be reviewing the bids opened today at 9 am.
- CTH BC – getting ready to advertise Putnam Ridge Project. There are construction easements that we need, then the project will go to bid.
- CTH F is out for advertisement. Closes 3/25.
- County Bridge Inspection and Program Manager Bids close this Thursday (3/21/24) at 9 am. Our current agreement was originally signed in 2016 and was renewed 3 times.
- We started spraying some state highways with a growth retardant. We will be expanding that to some parts of the county highway system. Highway Operations Coordinator Tyson Langrehr spoke on it and said, once we get the invasive species mapping back, decisions will be made as to where to spray. This will help keep mowing needs down and will push back mowing to fall for those areas. Last year approximately 500 acres, the cost was \$20,000 for spray. The spray retards the grass from growing, but it still stays green. Any invasive species within the grass the spray does kill. It does not kill milkweed (appropriate for DNR requirements and pollinators). Commissioner Ohnstad said the results we saw from the state last year were encouraging, and we want to expand to county system.
- Finally have conditional approval on the state salt building. The engineer is finishing up the estimate for the mechanical ventilation. Once we have that estimate, we will work with the DOT to increase our appropriation for the salt building to accommodate the ventilation system.
- The heated storage building, they are working on the plumbing and finishing up electrical. Looking at an April 1<sup>st</sup> completion date.
- CTH ET, Forbes Rd. to CTH N – project had started 3.5 years ago with an application for Federal Lands Access program appropriation, which we were awarded. We were awarded 2.8 million. We petitioned for a scope change to adjust the segment length, which was approved (Forbes Rd to CTH N). We had design authorization to proceed, with an expedited schedule to be bid 2/13/24. The right of way was cleared this winter so it was prepared for construction this summer. The bids were opened and posted, and the results were beneficial to the county. There was an issue with the DBE on the low bid, so it was deemed non-responsive. It then went to second lowest bid, which was more. We are looking at supplemental funding to support the local match. Then, we were notified that the funding appropriation was never delivered from Federal DOT to Wisconsin DOT. Funding allocation was never transferred, so the project should not have bid out at this time. We have been informed that the project will need to be postponed, or re-bid. If the funding transfer were to be completed, we could re-bid this spring, but that will push us to a construction start of 7/1/24. A project of that size, getting it done this fall would be a challenge. We should not be paying a premium as the delay was between Federal DOT and Wisconsin DOT. The other option is to postpone and re-bid next winter and delay construction until next year. Nothing can be done until the funds are transferred to Wisconsin DOT. We'll have to see what arrangement can be made and make a decision from there

### 10. Commissioners Report (Discussion)

See #9.

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**11. Future Agenda Items**

Next meeting date scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 9:00 am at the Highway Administration Building.

**Motion to adjourn made by Nodji VanWychen, seconded by Doug Rogalla. Meeting adjourned at 10:34 am.**