

MEETING OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

HELD ON: August 9th, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: PASZAK, SHIDELL, TIMMONS, BAIER; excused HOLEWINSKI

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: BENNETT/COMMISSIONER, COOPER/SECRETARY,
SCHOLTES/CORRE ENGINEERING, JOHNSON/HWY EMPLOYEE

The following matters were taken up to wit:

1. Paszak called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. It was noted the meeting was properly posted and the media notified.
2. **Motion:** Shidell/Timmons to approve the agenda. All ayes.
3. **Motion:** Shidell/Baier to approve the minutes of the July 26th, meeting. All ayes.
4. **Motion:** Timmons/Shidell to approve vendor vouchers #406-445 for a total of \$72,320.41. All ayes.
5. Tom Johnson, Highway employee, was present on his own behalf to express his concerns about the direction the Highway Dept has gone and how he as an employee is being treated. 10 years ago employees would keep an eye on the weather and were eager and willing to answer their phones and report to work to plow snow at all hours. They felt appreciated and were compensated, paid time and a half, for coming in in the middle of the night. Now they feel unappreciated and manipulated. He feels they have been cut too far; hours cut to 37.5 hours a week, no overtime, paying 5.9% into pension. Since January 1st, money has been very tight. He said he is just trying to make a living, and now, since the major cuts that started in January, he can't make his payments. Paszak explained that money is tight for everyone, and we all have had to cut back, but Johnson should be thankful he still has a good job with good benefits. Timmons explained that the private sector does not pay time and a half for overtime. He said everyone needs to live within their means. Johnson asked the committee to show him that the county is in dire straits. Then he asked why other departments were not hit hard like Highway. Shidell explained that other departments are being looked at also. The county has no money, and the state dictates how much we can raise taxes; we have no room to move. Baier explained that one of the reasons the county is hurting so badly is because of all time high foreclosures and tax delinquencies. Baier is proud of the job the highway workers do, they do a great job. But because of the economy, the employees are now in the same boat as everyone else. Johnson told the committee that he would like to see the crew go back to 40 hours a week, Monday thru Friday, with employees being paid time and a half for evenings and weekends. Paszak said there is nothing they can do, and there will be no overtime.
6. Discussed ATV riders' request to open CTH N to ATVs and to cross USH 8 to Crescent Road. A map was shown to show that CTH N did not connect with USH 8 at Crescent Road. There is actually a town road that leads to this intersection. Therefore, the committee agreed that it was not the counties responsibility to apply for a permit to cross the highway and suggested the town apply for a permit to cross USH 8. The committee also does not like the idea of the Crescent riders piggy backing on the Nokomis ATV Club. They would like to see them create their own club, with their own policies and insurance. **Motion:** Shidell/Baier to deny the request to open CTH N and cross USH 8 with ATVs because the town road actually accesses this intersection and it is not the county's jurisdiction. All ayes. The committee agreed that, if the town received permission to cross USH 8, and if the Nokomis ATV Club permits the Crescent riders to go under their policy, the committee may consider opening CTH N to ATVs, but would stipulate a deadline date for the Crescent riders to establish an official Club.
7. Committee reviewed supervisor's lists of activities for the last few weeks. Shidell asked Bennett to bring the total cost of the shouldering machine set up to the next meeting.
8. Plum Creek asked Bennett if they could have permission to move and widen the easement road on Highway property located on CTH B. Plum Creek will be cutting timber on their land just beyond our

property and said they would pay the county \$10,000 for stumpage to select cut timber on the 20 acres owned by the Highway Dept. Bennett said that would be great, but that the \$10,000 would go to the General Fund. The Highway Committee did not agree with this and Shidell said he would take it to the Administrative Committee. The committee suggested that one of the Foresters look over the marked trees before they were cut. **Motion:** Baier/Shidell to approve Plum Creek moving the easement road on Highway property on CTH B as well as approve them to select cut timber on that county 20 acres of property for \$10,000. All ayes.

9. Underwater Bridge Inspectors have been hired to do the county underwater bridge inspections due this summer. They have insurance and are bonded.
10. Highway Q has been paved, and shouldering will begin next Monday. Soft spots that were found during paving and were repaired immediately. Our trucks had no problem keeping up with Pitlik & Wick's plant, even waiting on them a few times when they had electrical problems. The project will run over budget because culvert replacements were not figured into original cost estimate by previous commissioner, and asphalt is much higher than expected.
11. Paperwork had been submitted requesting the project on CTH J be declared a 'No Build'. Paperwork has also been submitted to transfer STP money from CTH J to CTH Y. CTH Y will now have CHIP, CHIP D, and STP money to apply to the project. For the same money, we will be able to do 9 miles of reconstruct on CTH Y versus only .9 miles on CTH J.
12. Discussed using inmates to remove invasive species along the highways. Deputy Chief Sweeney said no, but could use individuals ordered to do community service. McNaughton Correctional Institute has no Project Sergeant at the moment, so no crews are out doing work. Can possibly talk to judge to see if individuals ordered to do community service can be ordered to remove invasive species.
13. **Motion:** Timmons/Baier to approve the Bridge Aid Resolution for the Town of Pelican for a culvert replaced on North Lake George Road for a total cost of \$15,231.48 of which the County is responsible for 50% or \$7,615.74. All ayes.
14. **Motion:** Shidell/Timmons to go into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1)(f) Wis. Stats for the purpose of considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific person, which, if discussed in public, would likely have a substantial adverse effect on the reputation of the person referred to in such data. Roll call vote taken. All ayes.
Motion: Timmons/Baier to go back into open session. Roll call vote taken. All ayes. No action taken.
15. Future meeting dates:
 - August 23rd, 2012, 8:00 a.m.
 - September 13th, 2012, 8:00 a.m.
 - September 25th, 2012, 8:00 a.m.
 - October 11th, 2012, 8:00 a.m.
 - October 25th, 2012, 8:00 a.m.
16. Future agenda items:
 - CTH J Project; CTH Y Project;
17. No Public comments
18. **Motion:** Baier/Timmons to adjourn at 9:55 am. All ayes.

Committee Chairperson

Committee Secretary