



COUNTY OF BURNETT  
**INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**  
Burnett County Government Center  
7410 County Road K, Siren  
Room #165

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## MINUTES

Infrastructure Committee  
June 13, 2018

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Jeremy Gronski, Jim Paden, Bert Lund Jr., Rick Anderson, Emmett Byrne, Duane Johnson and Christopher Sybers.

**EXCUSED** Richard Anderson.

### **NOTICE POSTED IN ACCORDANCE TO WIS. STAT. 19.84 OPEN MEETING LAW**

**CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Gronski called the June 13, 2018, meeting of the Infrastructure Committee to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Burnett County Government Center Room 165.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** Chairman Gronski explained the public comments regarding a specific agenda items will be heard at the time the item is discussed by the committee. Chairman Gronski asked for general public comments at this time. Several people would like to comment on agenda items 9d and 9e.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ORDER** Motion to approve the agenda order as presented was made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Byrne. Motion carried, voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2018, MEETING** Motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2018, as submitted was made by Supervisor Byrne, seconded by Supervisor Lund. Motion carried, voice vote.

### **PRIORITIZATION OF FACILITY PROJECTS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

Administrator Nathan Ehalt reviewed prioritization of facility projects. The projects include planning for better office space in the UW-Extension Department, move the lunchroom downstairs to create more office space and create more space for the evidence and interview rooms.

### **AIRPORT DEPARTMENT**

**Budget Report** Administrator Nathan Ehalt provided no new information.

**Operational Report** Operations Supervisor Chuck Schultz reviewed his operational report and answered committee questions.

**Project Report** There were no projects to report on at this time.

Burnett County Infrastructure Committee  
June 13, 2018

## **MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**Budget Report** Maintenance Supervisor Gary Faught reviewed his budget performance report.

**Operational Report** Mr. Faught reviewed his submitted report. Mr. Faught noted the new handrail system was replaced between the main parking and north service parking and the air conditioning system in dispatch is fixed.

**Project Report** Mr. Faught reviewed his submitted project report and answered committee questions.

## **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

**Budget Report** Highway Commissioner Mike Hoefs reviewed his budget report.

**Operational Report** Mr. Hoefs reviewed his operational report and reported he is still short one staff member. Mr. Hoefs is dealing with the peeling paint on the cold storage building and discussing it with Corporation Council. We have not received the new plow truck as of yet; delays continue. Chairman Gronski and Mr. Hoefs shared information from the WCHA Summer Road School they attended. Chairman Gronski discussed budget and funding for infrastructure.

**Project Report** Mr. Hoefs reviewed his submitted project status report The land acquisition on County Road H is an ongoing process. Mr. Hoefs noted it takes time to work with WSB on long-term road improvement and maintenance plans. The crack sealing by Bremer Bank is falling apart and it is a road hazard. Hopefully it will be repaired soon.

**Discussion and Decision on ATV Policy Updates** Mr. Hoefs reviewed the current ATV Policy. Legislature separates ATVs and UTVs, but Mr. Hoefs has added UTVs to the Burnett County policy. Two things Mr. Hoefs considers for ATV/UTV route applications is site distance and ADT (average daily traffic) count. He has decided 1000 ADT is the maximum number and puts out traffic counters for seven days. After discussion options were presented for dealing with applications and opening roads to recreational vehicles. Options: A. Do nothing; B. Make a few changes; C. Do what Polk County did and open all county roads. Chairman Gronski discussed ATV/UTV violations on roads that are not open in his resident township – Town of Anderson. Chairman Gronski noted the Town of Anderson has no open ATV/UTV routes and people are still riding on the roads. Supervisor Austin questioned whether golf carts are allowed anywhere; golf carts aren't legal to operate on the routes.

Public Comments: Mr. Ron Gray from Turf and Tundra ATV Club comments the policy takes too long to open or close certain routes and the process needs to be faster. The Town of Scott would like to open all roads for ATVs/UTVs. Mr. Gray noted he spends a lot of time on the road routes and signage. Motion to approve the modifications to the Burnett County Policy for ATV and UTV routes was made by Supervisor Sybers, seconded by Supervisor Byrne. Motion carried, voice vote. A complete copy of the ATV/UTV Policy can be viewed at the Highway Department, in the Office of the County Clerk or on line at [www.burnettcounty.com](http://www.burnettcounty.com).

## **Decision on ATV Route Applications from the Towns of Wood River, Jackson and Scott** Mr.

Hoefs reviewed the Town of Wood River application and commented there is low traffic volume and good visibility for stopping sight distance. Chairman Gronski would like to see the Sheriff's Department approve these applications per the policy. Motion to approve the Town of Wood River ATV route application was made by Supervisor Byrne, seconded by Supervisor Paden. Motion carried, voice vote.

Mr. Hoefs reviewed the Town of Jackson application and commented there is high traffic volume, 1,467 vehicles per day as determined by a traffic study. This is more than the ATV policy allows

Burnett County Infrastructure Committee  
June 13, 2018

and it does not connect a route. Motion to deny the Town of Jackson ATV route application, was made by Supervisor Sybers, seconded by Supervisor Lund. Motion carried, voice vote.

Mr. Hoefs reviewed the Town of Scott application and commented he received 23 phone calls from people who oppose the route. The Town of Scott does not have the roads open but it has been approved and waiting for approval from the county. This route request will not connect an existing route. Town has approved opening the roads but waiting on the county. Supervisor Gary Lundberg represents District 16 and a 2012 referendum in the Town of Scott recorded 60% of the voting constituents voted no and 40% yes. The applications submitted are not signed off by law enforcement.

Betty Paskausky commented she is in favor of the ATV/UTV route plan. A committee was formed. Submitted voting ballots to every land owner in tax statements. Put up cameras for monitoring.

Supervisor Gronski noted it is not up to the committee but up to the Town of Scott.

Karen Wiggins spoke about the referendum in 2012; 163 votes in favor of opening the roads and 240 opposed. In August of 2017, 25.7% were in favor of opening the roads and 75.3% opposed. On a 2-0 vote in at the Town of Scott Board meeting all roads were opened.

Dennis Olson is opposed to opening the roads. His concerns were young kids are on ATVs and they are noisy.

John Lofswold distributed information. ATVs are not designed to drive on roads. Adding additional hazards to the road is not helping our law enforcement.

Kathy Young is opposed to opening county roads. Safety is a concern.

Jane Willette from the ATV committee is opposed to opening county roads.

Susan Braun is opposed to opening roads; safety issues and noise.

Kathy Okonek is part of the ATV committee is opposed to opening the roads. Law enforcement is already stressed and noted safety concerns.

Supervisor Gronski reviewed the Town of Scott application, and due to the most recent laws, you can open County Road A in the town. Motion to approve the Town of Scott ATV route application, was made by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Paden. Motion carried, voice vote. Motion by Supervisor Gronski, seconded by Supervisor Sybers to amend the Kessler Road proposal to stop at Swiss Trail Road and County Road H. Motion carried, voice vote.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** There were none.

**NEXT MEETING DATE** July 11, 2018.

**ADJOURN** Motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Johnson. Motion carried, voice vote. Chairman Gronski adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.