



COUNTY OF BURNETT  
**INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**  
**Burnett County Highway/Forestry Facility**  
**8150 State Road 70, Siren**  
**Highway Conference Room**

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## **MINUTES**

Infrastructure Committee

June 16, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Chuck Awe, Emmett Byrne (ZOOM), Bert Lund, Jr., Ramona Moody, Duane Johnson, James Pearson and Don Taylor (9:38 a.m.).

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

**CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Awe called the June 16, 2021, meeting of the Infrastructure Committee to order at the Burnett County Government Center, Room 165 at 9:30 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** There were none.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, 2021, MEETING** Motion to amend the minutes of the May 12, 2021, meeting to add “state roads and bridges” after the words project map, under the Highway Project Report agenda item was made by Supervisor Moody, seconded by Supervisor Pearson. Motion carried, voice vote.

**UPDATE ON AUDIO”/VISUAL SYSTEM – IT DIRECTOR JAMES LECKEL** IT Director James Leckel updated the committee on the audio/visual system project. The Request for Proposal (RFP) has been posted and published for a system to outfit Rooms 160 and 165 in the government center. There are already four known companies interested in the project. RFPs are due back by July 9, 2021, and a decision will be made by July 30, 2021, as to the company we choose to purchase, install and service the system.

**SID SHERSTAD – SIRENTEL ON BROADBAND AND FIBER OPTIC** SirenTel President Sid Sherstad addressed the committee and updated members on the latest information on fiber optic and the demand for broadband services. Mr. Sherstad continues to work on behalf of SirenTel to expand fiber optic throughout the county wherever possible and/or feasible. COVID-19 upped the need and demand for broadband and SirenTel is being aggressive with implementation as funding opportunities become available. Their biggest challenge right now is the limited supply chain of materials. Mr. Sherstad thanked the county for continued support and looks forward to working with the county whenever possible.

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### **AIRPORT DEPARTMENT**

**Budget Performance Report** The Airport Budget Performance Report was submitted and reviewed.

**Operational Report** There is a lot of mowing going on at the airport and we are looking at purchasing a new mower in 2022.

**Project Report** There are no projects planned at this time. Several volunteers from the Hanger Owners Association painted the airport terminal building.

### **MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**Budget Performance Report** Maintenance Supervisor Gary Faught submitted his budget performance report. Mr. Faught was not available for the meeting.

**Operational Report** Mr. Faught submitted his operations report for review.

**Project Report** Mr. Faught submitted his project report for review.

### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

**Budget Performance Report** Highway Commissioner Mike Hoefs reviewed his budget performance report. Numbers to date for closing out the year 2020 shows a surplus of approximately \$444,000.00. This reflects an amount in the ballpark where they like to close out one year to start the next.

**Operational Report** Mr. Hoefs reviewed the operational report and answered committee questions. Personnel hiring continues to be a struggle to get applicants for vacant positions. One employee out due to an injury has recovered. One roof has been fixed on a highway property building. They are monitoring some elevated levels of chloride at Siren Motor Sports. The beaver issues have been resolved. Monarch Paving is setting up a blacktop plant for county projects. We plan for and buy most of it for our road projects. Safety classes and hearing tests have been completed.

**Project Report** Mr. Hoefs reviewed the submitted project status report and answered committee questions. Starting Monday, a State Road 70 shoulder widening project will start a mile and a half west from Little Hertel Turtle Casino and run to the casino. County Road A road work should be complete after next week. A small road project on County Road F is close to complete. The County Road D land acquisitions are going well. The County Road B bridge project west of Coomer will close a section of the road for six to eight weeks starting next Monday. Detour signs will be posted. The Yellow Lake Bridge replacement project planning is on-going and the North Willams Road Bridge project work for the Town of Wood River, along with other town and village road projects are in full swing.

**Request to Approve Filling the Highway Maintenance Worker Position due to the Resignation of Brenin Stevens** Motion to approve refilling the Highway Maintenance Worker position due to the resignation of Brenin Stevens was made by Supervisor Pearson, seconded by Supervisor Johnson. Motion carried, voice vote.

**Request for Approval for ATV/UTV Route – CTH A from Kilkare Road to Thompson Road** Discussion ensued on whether or not to approve an ATV/UTV route opening on County Road A from Kilkare Road to Thompson Road. This stretch wasn't originally included with a request for opening the route on A due to high traffic counts at the time. The committee will have more conversation with the Town of Scott on the issue and come back to committee for more discussion at a later date. No action taken.

**Public Safety Facility Tour Report** Administrator Ehalt shared information from recent jail facility tours in Grant, Pierce, Iowa and Vernon counties. Mr. Ehalt, Sheriff Finch, Chief Deputy Wiltrout and Jail Administrator Taggart traveled to these four counties to learn about their recently built, or being built, facilities by Potter Lawson. Potter Lawson is the firm Burnett

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County hired to manage the construction of our newly planned public safety facility. The group was very impressed by what they saw and learned a lot about what we want, and don't want, when it comes to designing and building our facility. The group plans to take another jail tour to facilities in several counties build by other companies to gather information and comparisons so they can continue to plan better for our facility.

**Wisconsin Counties Highway Association Road School Conference Report** Supervisor Johnson attended the road school conference for the first time. He wasn't

**Discussion on Out-of-County Project Work** Very little discussion occurred to do with out-of-county work being done by the Burnett County Highway Department and whether the county wants to bid on these projects or not. Additional legal opinion and data will be gathered so the committee can continue the discussion on the issue at a later date.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** Intergovernmental road work.

**NEXT MEETING DATE** July 14, 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT** Motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Taylor, seconded by Supervisor Paden. Motion carried, voice vote. Chairman Awe adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.