

RACINE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, September 26, 2019 - SUMMARY MINUTES

(NOTE: Audio recording from Racine County is available upon request. These minutes are intended as a summary of actions taken by the Committee and do not include verbatim or detailed accounts of all comments made by staff, the Committee and members of the general public present at the meeting.)

Public Works-Development Services Conference Room
Ives Groves Office Complex
14200 Washington Avenue
Sturtevant, WI 53177

Committee Present: Robert Grove, Tom Hincz, Monte G. Osterman, Mike Dawson,
Nick Demske, Fabi Maldonado

Members Excused: Tom Kramer

**Youth in Governance
Representatives Present:** Katlynn Gill, Jillian Humphreys

Staff Present: Julie Anderson, Public Works & Development Services Director
Dave Prott, Parks and Highways Superintendent
Roley Behm, County Engineering Manager
Alex Valley, County Civil Engineer

Also, Present: Jim Chervenka, resident at corner of USH 45 and 7 Mile Road
Martha Hutsick, Quarry Lake Park Friends Group

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Robert Grove.

2. Approval of the August 13, 2019, Summary Minutes

SUPERVISOR Monte OSTERMAN MOVED, seconded by, Supervisor Maldonado, to approve the August 13, 2019 summary minutes.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Gill: aye

Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

Motion carried unanimously. **VOTE: 6/0**

3. Public Comments (limited to 15 minutes, 3 minutes per speaker). NONE

4. Review, discussion and possible recommendation on a report authorizing the purchase of a barrier lift from the excess proceeds from the 2019 Capital Budget for the Racine County Public Works Fleet Division.

Dave Prott presented this item and explained to the Committee that the barrier lift is a piece of equipment that moves jersey barriers without a chains system “old technology” and is a much safer way to move barrier walls. The cost for this new piece of equipment is \$4500.00.

SUPERVISOR Monte OSTERMAN MOVED, seconded by, Supervisor Dawson, to approve this purchase.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:

Youth Representative Gill: aye
Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

Motion carried unanimously. **VOTE: 6/0**

5. Review, discussion and possible recommendation on a report authorizing the purchase of an air conditioning refrigerant, recovery, recycling, and recharge machine from the excess proceeds from the 2019 Capital Budget for the Racine County Public Works Fleet Division.

Dave Prott presented this item to the Committee. He explained that currently all air conditioning recharging must be done at outside shops/vendors at a high cost. Most vehicles and equipment have air conditioning units. County staff is trained to recharge air conditioning units and it makes economic sense to bring this in-house for staff to manage. The cost of the “RRRR machine” is \$7,500.00.

The Committee agreed that this makes sense to do this recharging in-house and that the price seems reasonable.

SUPERVISOR Monte OSTERMAN MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Demske, to approve this purchase.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTE:

Youth Representative Gill: aye
Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

Motion carried unanimously. **VOTE: 6/0**

6. Review, discussion and possible recommendation on a resolution authorizing and approving the transfer of funds into the Racine County Parks Capital Account for the purchase of professional services from Caleb Barth-Baird Engineering for design completion of the Eagle Lake dock wall and boat ramp.

Prott explained that the design work started on this project and the funding allocation for the engineering firm was not enough to cover the cost of the work. There is an additional \$16,730.00 needed to pay to complete the work by the contractor for engineering, DNR review and permits. The total cost of this engineering work is about \$58,000.00. It is possible that the construction could begin in 2020. This area of the Lake is also known as “Hermes Landing.”

Discussion followed about the specific title of the Resolution. It was decided that the title of the Resolution should be clarified to the effect that this money is to purchase professional services from Caleb Barth-Baird Engineering for completion of engineering for the Eagle Lake dock wall and boat ramp.

SUPERVISOR Nick DEMSKE MOVED, seconded by Supervisor DAWSON, to recommend approval of the Resolution. Supervisor Monte OSTERMAN asked to amend the Resolution to change the title as reflected in these minutes. The initial maker of the motion and the second agreed to this clarifying amendment.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTE:

Youth Representative Gill: aye
Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

Motion carried unanimously. **VOTE: 6/0**

7. Review, discussion and possible recommendation on 2019 auction items from parks and highways divisions.

Anderson and Prott explained the auction item list and how it is prepared. Items that are deemed no longer usable by the County are put up for sale on "Wisconsin Online Surplus" website and anyone can place a bid for items listed for sale. There are minimum bids established and the County gets revenue from the sale of these items. Prott explained that we only place items into the auction every couple of years, so this is probably the first time this Committee has seen a list such as this.

SUPERVISOR Tom HINCZ MOVED, seconded by Supervisor OSTERMAN, to approve this list of auction items.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTE:

Youth Representative Gill: aye
Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

Motion carried unanimously. **VOTE: 6/0**

8. Review, discussion and possible recommendation regarding a Resolution authorizing a cost-share grant application and acceptance of funding through the WDNR for urban and community forestry projects for urban forestry catastrophic storm projects. (1st and 2nd reading requested at October 8th, 2019 County Board due to time-sensitive nature of the grant application.)

This is an annual grant that is due October 1 of each year. Last year, Racine County applied for this grant and did not get any money. Possible projects include paying for volunteers to help in parks, to treat Emerald Ash Borer infestations, tree planting on County lands, funding for County highway crews to mobilize human and equipment resources during storm clean up, etc.

There is a 50/50 grant match requirement, and this is evaluated on a project by project basis.

SUPERVISOR Tom HINCZ MOVED, seconded by Supervisor OSTERMAN, to recommend approval of this grant application and to move the Resolution to the County Board for 1st and 2nd readings on October 8, 2019.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTE:

Youth Representative Gill: aye
Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

Motion carried unanimously. **VOTE: 6/0**

9. Review, discussion and possible recommendation regarding a DRAFT Resolution authorizing the County to grant a water transmission line easement to the City of Racine Water Utility on portions of the Racine-Sturtevant Bike Trail for the purpose of providing improved services.

Anderson explained that this project is for expansion of water lines that cross a Racine County bike trail. The Resolution is not yet complete, but we are seeking an approval from the PWPF Committee as we await the final details of the easement for the language of the Resolution. This project does not involve any County dollars (expenditures) and the County may get money from the easement as the agreement is finalized.

Supervisor Monte OSTERMAN moved, seconded by Supervisor Demske, to approve this Draft Resolution subject to any adjustments needed after review by Corporation Counsel and staff prior to County Board action.

Youth Representative Gill: aye
Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

Motion carried unanimously. **VOTE: 6/0**

10. Project and site updates as requested by the PWPF Committee:

- **7 Mile Road Traffic/ Speed Study**
- **7 Mile Road and USH 45 Traffic Improvements**
- **Quarry Lake Park**

The Committee was briefed on the Quarry Lake Updates, including the work done in the water, the parking lot, lighting, fishing dock replacement, seawall safety work and dog park improvements. Also, mention was made to the Committee about Architectural plans being drafted to replace the existing restroom/visitor building likely in the 2021 budget. Martha Hutsick was in attendance and she expressed her thanks to the Committee and the staff for the updates and hard work that has been done at the Park to make it much nicer. This year there were many days when hundreds of people were at the park using the lake and beach for recreation and picnics. Dave Prott shared slides in a power point presentation to show various work done at the park.

Roley Behm and Alex Valley then discussed the speed study and various improvements being considered for the intersection of 7 Mile Rd and USH 45. The speed study from Walczak Road east along 7 Mile Road to USH 45 was just completed and data arrived from the traffic consultant on September 26, so the information was just off the printer. Preliminary data shows that traffic speeds in the 85th percentile are traveling at about 58.6mph. There is a lot of data to look at and interpret, and once staff has completed review of the data, the information will be sent to WISDOT for their review as they study USH 45 at 7 Mile Road intersection.

Jim Chervenka, a resident who lives near the corner of 7 Mile and USH 45 was present. He shared his concerns and observations with the Committee relative to cars approaching USH 45 along 7 Mile Rd and how the traffic behaves with the rumble strips in place. He said most of the crashes seem to be rear-end crashes, or people who stop at the stop sign and then pull out across USH 45 and get hit by cross traffic. Chervenka also noted that there are multiple speed limits along 7 Mile Road, ranging from 55 to 45 to 35 and 30mph.

One solution may be to add turning lanes in that area, and to add additional signs for clarification of the intersection. County staff also reported that the dynamic speed signs for placement along USH 45 by Drought School should be arriving for installation very soon, and that WISDOT has indicated they will be placing red flashing lights on top of the stop signs at the intersection of USH 45 and 7 Mile Rd.

Staff will provide more information to the Committee as it becomes available.
There was no action taken by the Committee for the update items on this part of the agenda.

11. Racine County Road Access Discussion

Roley Behm and Alex Valley provided a handout to the Committee with various slides that illustrate and explain the roles and responsibilities of Racine County relative to access points along County highways. There was discussion about the challenges staff has with determining safe access points along County highways when the land has been divided so much in the past that there are driveways in close proximity to one another. Discussion was held about Certified Survey Maps and how those are approved at the local level but without any input from Racine County relative to access points. This is a big problem. Safe access is of utmost concern to County staff and issuance of any driveway permits must take into consideration safe access points for all vehicular traffic entering or exiting the highway. The Committee directed staff to continue working on some possible solutions, up to and including creation of an Ordinance that requires review of land divisions across the County along County highways before a CSM is finalized and recorded. The staff will report back to the Committee as more information is gathered to further this discussion. The consensus of the group was that something needs to be done, especially with the increase in development and intense land uses around the County. No formal action was taken by the Committee.

12. Communications and referrals

Report No. 2019-19: County Executive appointing Dragica (Dee) Djurovic to the Racine Zoological Society Board of Directors.

SUPERVISOR Monte OSTERMAN MOVED, seconded by Supervisor HINCZ, to recommend approval of this appointment.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTE:

Youth Representative Gill: aye
Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

Motion carried unanimously. **VOTE: 6/0**

13. Miscellaneous Public Works business

- Next Scheduled PWPFC meeting: October 10, 2019.
(Noted that Supervisor Demske has asked to be excused, as well as both of the YIG Representatives Katlynn Gill and Jillian Humphreys from the October 10, 2019 PWPFC meeting.)

14. Adjournment

Supervisor Monte OSTERMAN moved, seconded by Supervisor Demske, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm.

Motion carried unanimously. **Vote: 6/0**