

(approved by committee on January 23, 2020)

**RACINE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020 - 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

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

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

**Staff Present:** Julie Anderson, Public Works & Development Services Director  
Dave Prott, Highway Superintendent

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**1. Call to Order, Roll Call**

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

**2. Review and possible approval of the October 30, 2019, summary minutes**

**SUPERVISOR Monte OSTERMAN MOVED, seconded by Supervisor DAWSON, to approve the October 30, 2019, summary minutes as presented.**

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:**

Youth Representative Gill: aye

Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

**Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 7/0**

**3. Review and possible approval of the November 14, 2019, summary minutes**

**SUPERVISOR Monte OSTERMAN MOVED, seconded by Supervisor DAWSON, to approve the November 14, 2019, summary minutes as presented.**

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:**

Youth Representative Gill: aye

Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

**Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 7/0**

**4. Public Comments**

NONE

**5. Review, discussion and possible action regarding a request to allow landscaping project to remain within County G / North Main Street Right of Way. (Laid over on 11.14.2019)**

Anderson updated the Committee as to the reason for the layover of this item on 11.14.2019. She indicated that staff recommends that all items within the 8 feet clear zone be removed from the County Highway right of way no later than June 1, 2020, with full restoration. Any costs for removal and restoration would be the responsibility of Dr. Kelly von Schilling Worth. Since Racine County owns the clear zone and right of way, there is no way to mitigate or lessen the liability to the traveling public or pedestrians in this area. A hold harmless agreement would be useless and unable to be enforced since Racine County owns the land where the landscaping occurred.

Discussion followed. Supervisor Osterman felt that perhaps the trees could remain and that there could be some middle ground with this situation. He also said that he feels that perhaps the applicant (Dr. von Schilling Worth) was given inaccurate information that gave him the impression that it was ok to do the work he began within the right of way. Supervisor Grove feels that the area should be cleared of structures and the vegetation and to allow the pillars to remain in place as they appear to be near or beyond the 8 feet clear zone edge. Supervisors Dawson and Kramer both indicated that there are rules for a reason, and this case it is safety along a public road. They agree that the clear zone should remain clear and without any obstructions.

**SUPERVISOR Tom HINCZ MOVED, seconded by Supervisor DAWSON, to deny the landscaping and retaining wall within the clear zone along North Main Street. Staff will send a letter to the applicant indicating reasons for the denial and that the area must be restored by June 1, 2020.**

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:**

Youth Representative Gill: aye

Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

**Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 7/0**

**6. Review, discussion and possible action regarding an ordinance amendment to lower the speed limit on 7 Mile Road near USH 45 in the Town of Norway.**

Staff explained to the Committee that a speed study was done and the study did not indicate that a lowering of the speed limit was necessary; However, the study likely did not take into consideration the school at the NW corner of USH 45 at 7 Mile Rd (CTH G). Staff indicated that there have been concerns expressed by neighbors for a long time about vehicle speeds in that area and especially along 7 Mile Road. Staff supports lowering of the EB and WB speed limit along 7 Mile Rd (CTH G) from 55 to 45mph from Walczak Road east to USH 45.

Richard Bruhn, a longtime resident who lives on 7 Mile Rd near the school indicated that nobody pays attention to the speed limit and he feels it is only a matter of time before a serious crash occurs at the school entrance along 7 Mile Road.

Staff indicated that the proposed lowering of the speed limit to 45mph is consistent with what was done east and west of the Yorkville Grade School on STH 20.

Supervisor Kramer and Grove spoke about the area of 7 Mile Rd and USH 45 and how lowering of the speed limit is the right thing to do.

**SUPERVISOR Monte OSTERMAN MOVED, seconded by Supervisor KRAMER, to forward an ordinance to the County Board for 1<sup>st</sup> reading on January 14, 2020, with a recommendation to lower the speed limit from 55 to 45mph along 7 Mile Road from Walczak Road to USH 45.**

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:**

Youth Representative Gill: aye

Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

**Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 7/0**

**7. Review, discussion and possible action regarding an ordinance amendment to lower speed limits along CTH U, north and south of 7 Mile Road in the Village of Raymond**

Staff explained that a speed study was done from the Milwaukee/Racine County line south to CTH G along CTH U. It was determined that 85% of the traffic near 7 Mile Road intersection is going 45 mph. There have been very serious crashes at the intersection of 7 Mile Road and CTH U due to the geometrics of the intersection, along with super-elevated curves to the south of 7 Mile Road along CTH U that create issues with gap clearance. Drivers are looking beyond the closest on-coming vehicle and they pull out causing a crash. Racine Co installed rumble strips at the intersection of 7 Mile Road and CTH U in the summer of 2019. Staff is recommending that the speed limit along CTH U be lowered from 55 to 50 from the Milwaukee/Racine Co line south to a point one-quarter of a mile north of the 7 Mile Road intersection. From that point, south of 7 Mile Road, it is recommended that the speed limit be lowered from 55mph to 45mph through the super-elevated curves along CTH U.

Discussion continued with the Committee regarding the situation with numerous driveway entrances along CTH U in a 55mph zone. A longtime resident who lives on CTH U, Joe Schwark, explained to the Committee that he worked as a paramedic for many years and he said that anyone entering that highway with the speeds of the vehicles in that area is "taking their life into their own hands." He said that traffic far exceeds the speed limit of 55mph all the way to the intersection of CTH U and CTH G.

Further discussion among the Committee and staff regarding lowering the speed limit from 55mph to 45mph all the way south to the intersection of CTH U and CTH G. Staff is not opposed to this speed limit change.

**SUPERVISOR Monte OSTERMAN MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Dawson,** to forward an ordinance to the County Board for 1<sup>st</sup> reading on January 14, 2020, with a recommendation to lower the speed limit along CTH U from 55mph to 50mph from the County line south to one quarter mile north of the intersection with 7 Mile Road and then to lower the speed limit from that point from 55mph to 45mph south along CTH U to the intersection with CTH G.

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:**

Youth Representative Gill: aye

Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

**Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 7/0**

**8. Review, discussion and possible action on a resolution authorizing Racine County to participate in the WI Department of Natural Resources Dam Grant Program.**

Anderson explained that an opportunity has presented itself for the County to apply for grant money through the WI DNR to assist with bringing the Horlick Dam into compliance, which is due by 2024. It is possible that the County could receive significant funding to help design and implement a solution to either modify or remove the dam. There is a consultant working on the grant application paperwork, and a Resolution is required that authorizes Racine County to participate in the WI DNR Dam Grant Program.

**SUPERVISOR TOM KRAMER MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Maldonado,** to forward a resolution to the County Board for 1<sup>st</sup> reading on **January 14, 2020**, with a recommendation to approve.

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:**

Youth Representative Gill: aye

Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

**Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 7/0**

**9. Review, discussion and possible action concerning Beaver Trapping license agreement for 2020.**

Dave Prott presented this item. This agreement is with a beaver trapper who works on call when we have issues to be handled with beaver management. This is a catch and kill endeavor, because with catch and release, the beavers continue to destroy stands of trees very quickly.

This agreement is for \$2400. The trapper receives \$150 for the first 2 beavers captured, followed by \$75 for each subsequent beaver captured. Staff emphasized that there is not a constant need for trappers, and usually they only are called upon a couple of times per year. The most problematic areas have been at the John Margis Jr wildlife area in Burlington and areas in Caledonia along the Root River near the County Line.

**SUPERVISOR TOM HINCZ MOVED, seconded by Supervisor OSTERMAN,** to approve this agreement.

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:**

Youth Representative Gill: aye

Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

**Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 7/0**

10. **Review, discussion and possible recommendation on a resolution authorizing the installation and purchase of a John Deere R10 Flex Wing Rotary from the PBM Materials account.**

Dave Prott presented this item to the Committee. He indicated this mower is replacing a mower from 1966. The new mower will be used on state highway routes, since it is being purchased with state funds. Fiscal note attached for reference.

**SUPERVISOR MONTE OSTERMAN MOVED, seconded by Supervisor DEMSKE, to forward a resolution to the County Board for 1<sup>st</sup> reading on January 14, 2020, with a recommendation to approve, along with a fiscal note.**

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:**

Youth Representative Gill: aye

Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

**Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 7/0**

11. **Review, discussion and possible recommendation on a resolution authorizing the application and acceptance of Outdoor Recreation Trail Aids, County Snowmobile Trail Aids Funding through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).**

Dave Prott presented this item. He explained to the Committee that the County is a pass-through fiscal agent for the snowmobile clubs, and that the clubs are reimbursed at state rates for work done on trail management during the winter. In 2019, due to development and GPS mapping techniques, Racine County "lost" 23.1 miles of snowmobile trails. There are nine (9) snowmobile clubs in Racine County.

**SUPERVISOR TOM HINCZ MOVED, seconded by Supervisor DAWSON, to forward a resolution to the County Board for 1<sup>st</sup> reading on January 14, 2020, with a recommendation to approve.**

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:**

Youth Representative Gill: aye

Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

**Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 7/0**

12. **Review, discussion and possible action concerning an amendment to the "Racine County Park Standards and Operating Procedures" regarding the policy on park hours of operation.**

13. **Review, discussion and possible action concerning an amendment to the "Racine County Park Standards and Operating Procedures" regarding the policy on picnic reservations.**

14. Review, discussion and possible action concerning an amendment to the “Racine County Park Standards and Operating Procedures” regarding the policy on reservations for individual campsites.
  
15. Review, discussion and possible action concerning an amendment to the “Racine County Park Standards and Operating Procedures” regarding the policy on group camping reservations.
  
16. Review, discussion and possible action concerning an amendment to the “Racine County Park Standards and Operating Procedures” regarding the policies on baseball/softball fields.

Dave Prott explained each item, numbered 12-16 on the agenda, as housekeeping items which he wanted to make the Committee aware of. These are internal policies and the Committee agreed to each of them and indicated that future items such as these can be done without Committee action.

**SUPERVISOR MONTE OSTERMAN MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Maldonado**, to approve the amendment to the policies in agenda items 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of this agenda.

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:**

Youth Representative Gill: aye

Youth Representative Humphreys: aye

**Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 7/0**

**17. Communications and Referrals**

There were none.

**18. Miscellaneous Public Works Business**

- Next scheduled PWPFC meeting: January 23, 2020. Anderson indicated there will be a meeting, as one item was deferred from this agenda to the next meeting.
- Anderson informed the Committee that the WI DOT is going to design and build a roundabout at the intersection of STH 11 and CTH J. Timing of this project has not yet been established but the DOT is applying for highway safety funding to get this built. There is a history of serious crashes at this intersection.

**19. Adjournment**

There being no further business, **SUPERVISOR NICK DEMSKE MOVED, seconded by Supervisor KRAMER**, to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 7/0