

DRAFT – COM item 2

RACINE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021 - SUMMARY MINUTES

Ives Grove Auditorium
Ives Grove Office Complex
14200 Washington Avenue
Sturtevant WI 53177

While both the building and the meeting is open to the public, in keeping with the CDC's recommendations on social distancing, members of the public are strongly encouraged NOT to attend the meeting in person. Citizens wishing to make a public comment are strongly encouraged to submit such comments in writing to RCPUBLICWORKS@Racinecounty.com before 4 pm on Thursday, October 8, 2020. (Please note: Seating for the public is very limited due to social distancing requirements. Masks are required in all Racine County buildings.) **DO NOT ATTEND THIS MEETING** if you are experiencing any of these symptoms or if you have been in contact with anyone with these symptoms: shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, cough, chills, nasal congestion, sore throat, fatigue, loss of sense of taste or smell, fever greater than 100.4 F.

Committee Present: Robert Grove, Tom Kramer, Jody Spencer,
Brett Nielsen (conf call), Eric Hopkins

Committee Excused: Thomas Pringle, Tom Hincz

**Youth in Governance
Representatives:** Roselyn Pachero (excused), Robert Barkley Jr. (excused)

Staff Present: Julie Anderson, Public Works & Development Services Director
Dave Prott, Highways & Parks Superintendent
Roley Behm, Engineering Manager

Others Present: Jim Stute, Tom Greil, Brian Gunderson (for the Watershed Protection
Committee and proposed demonstration farm for crop research)

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Bob Grove.

2. Review and possible approval of the draft summary minutes for the December 10, 2020 meeting.

Supervisor Tom KRAMER moved, seconded by **Supervisor SPENCER**, to approve these minutes as presented at 6:01 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0**

3. Public Comments

Anderson reported there were no public comments.

4. Presentation and discussion regarding possible use of a portion of Racine County Case Eagle Park in Rochester by a nonprofit agricultural educator group.

Anderson introduced this item, regarding possible use of a portion of Case Eagle Park as a demonstration farm for crop research.

Tom Greil, Brian Gunderson, and Jim Stute gave a presentation about their plan to use 35 acres of the park for demonstration projects relative to crop management, water quality improvements and various other types of research and agricultural endeavors. Jim Stute discussed at length the tentative research plan, and how the proposal would be coordinated with the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County. Jim and Tom provided handouts to the Committee outlining their plan for use of the farmland area. This is a non-profit group with ties to local FFA chapters, as well as the University of WI Madison Discovery Farms. Jim is seeking various grant funding to pay for the research on the land, and there would be no cost to Racine County. It is envisioned that the group would enter into a non-cash lease with Racine County for an initial 4-year period, with additional years optional beyond 4 years as research continues. The final product once research was completed would be possibly a large wildflower area that could be enjoyed by park visitors. This would also eliminate the need to simply mow the fields a couple times a year to knock down weeds and undesirable vegetation. Jim explained to the committee that he is a former Racine County UWEX agricultural educator, and he is now a consultant working with this watershed protection group. He committed to annual nutrient management plans and goals for the land, and he also committed to reducing the soil loss, runoff and nutrients getting into the Fox River next to this site.

Discussion continued with the Committee. Supervisor Spencer asked if composting could be part of this project. The answer was yes, although staff cautioned that this park is already a dumping site for unwanted items and any compost area would have to be closely managed and maintained to avoid problems.

Next steps include staff reviewing the proposal submitted by the Watershed Protection Committee, possible preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding along with a lease, and then bringing that back to the PWPF for further discussion and action. There would need to be action by the full County Board for this agreement, as well as input from Corporation Counsel. There was no action taken on this item.

5. **Review, discussion, and possible action on a Resolution to authorize application and approve of LRIP local program project grant through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for the Improvement of CTH K, from STH 36 to CTH S (East Wind Lake Road). (1st reading requested at the 1/26/2021 County Board meeting)**

Roley Behm introduced this Resolution describing the project and the fiscal note. This project will allow the remaining portion of CTH K to be rebuilt with fiscal assistance from WISDOT. Racine County received a \$1million opportunity to fund a project and this resolution authorizes work to be done. The fiscal note indicates that future County budget will cover the County share of design and construction at an approximate cost of \$1.5 Million. The total project cost including design and construction is approximately \$2.5 Million.

Discussion followed. It is known that this stretch of CTH K is one of the worst in Racine County, and staff feels that the “bonus” money from WISDOT will be well spent on this stretch of highway improvement.

Supervisor Tom KRAMER moved, seconded by **Supervisor HOPKINS**, to forward this Resolution and fiscal note for first reading at the County Board on January 26, 2021.
Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0

6. **Review, discussion, and possible action on a Resolution authorizing application and approval of a STP-Urban local program project grant through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for the improvement of CTH C from Ohio Street to Fairway Drive. (1st reading requested at the 1/26/2021 County Board meeting)**

Roley Behm introduced this Resolution describing the project and fiscal note. This project will allow design and construction along CTH east of STH 31 to Fairway Drive. This project is also receiving some DOT funding assistance. The project length is approximately .61 mile. If approved, a future year county budget (possibly 2023) will cover the county funded design. The County will partially cover the construction at an approximate cost of \$1,175,443. The State DOT will fund the rest of the project total, which is estimated to be \$4,217,760.

Discussion followed. Roley indicated that the PASER rating of that highway is a 3, which is indicative of a road that needs to be rehabilitated.

Supervisor Tom KRAMER moved, seconded by **Supervisor HOPKINS**, to forward this Resolution and fiscal note for first reading at the County Board on January 26, 2021.
Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0

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7. **Review, discussion, and possible action on a Resolution authorizing application and approval of a HSIP local program project grant through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for the improvement of the intersection at CTH A and CTH J. (1st reading requested at the 1/26/2021 County Board meeting)**

Roley Behm introduced this Resolution describing the project and fiscal note. This project will allow design and construction of a new roundabout (single lane) at the intersection of CTH A and CTH J. There was a safety study conducted and it was determined that this intersection qualifies for HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program) funds from DOT. If approved, a future year county budget will cover the County portion of the project (10%) of design and construction at an approximate cost of \$187,185. The State DOT will fund the rest of the project total, which is estimated to be \$1,862,852.

Behm noted that the construction year is yet to be determined, but there have been 27 crashes in this intersection in the past 5 years, not including year 2020 data.

Supervisor Tom KRAMER moved, seconded by **Supervisor HOPKINS**, to forward this Resolution and fiscal note for first reading at the County Board on January 26, 2021.
Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0

8. **Review, discussion, and possible action on a Resolution authorizing application and approval of a HSIP local program project grant through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for the improvement of the intersection at CTH U and 7 Mile Road. (1st reading requested at the 1/26/2021 County Board meeting)**

Roley Behm introduced this Resolution describing the project and fiscal note. This project will allow design and construction of a roundabout (single lane) at the intersection of CTH U and 7 Mile Road. There was a safety study conducted and it was determined that this intersection qualifies for HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program) funds from DOT. If approved, a future year county budget will cover the County portion of the project (10%) of design and construction at an approximate cost of \$187,809. The State DOT will fund the rest of the project total, which is estimated to be approximately \$1,869,085.

Behm noted that the construction year is yet to be determined, but there have been 23 crashes in this intersection in the past 5 years, not including year 2020 data.

Discussion followed about the number of roundabouts in the State and this area. Staff indicated that roundabouts increase safety, especially once drivers get used to using them. There are also lower maintenance costs because there are not light standards or light poles that need to be replaced.

Supervisor Tom KRAMER moved, seconded by **Supervisor HOPKINS**, to forward this Resolution and fiscal note for first reading at the County Board on January 26, 2021.
Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0

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9. Communications and Referrals

Anderson indicated there were none.

10. Miscellaneous Public Works business

- Next scheduled PWPFC meeting: Thursday, January 28, 2021 (only if warranted).

Anderson informed the PWPFC that there will NOT be a meeting on January 28, due to a large audio-visual project being done in both the Ives Grove Auditorium as well as the County Board Chambers starting January 27, 2021. Therefore, the next Committee meeting will be Thursday February 11, 2021, unless an emergency meeting is needed before the next County Board meeting.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, **Supervisor Tom KRAMER moved**, seconded by **Supervisor SPENCER**, to adjourn **at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 5/0**

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