

**RACINE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015**  
**Summary Minutes**

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

**Committee Present:** Katherine Buske, , Russell Clark, Kenneth Lumpkin  
Pamela Zenner-Richards

**Members Excused:** Ronald Molnar, Tom Hincz, Kiana Harden-Johnson

**Youth in Government**

**Representatives Excused:** Mary Graeber, Kristi Parsons

**Staff Present:** Julie Anderson, Public Works & Development Services Director

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Kay Buske

**2. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**3. Approval of the November 13, 2014, Summary Minutes**

**SUPERVISOR ZENNER-RICHARDS MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Lumpkin.** to approve the November 13, 2014, summary minutes. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 4/0

**4. Review, discussion & possible recommendation on a resolution to totally opt out of the loH (Implements of Husbandry) regulations regarding length and weight limits for agricultural implements and agricultural commercial vehicles on Racine County and State highways as authorized by Wisconsin Act 377 (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading requested on January 13, 2015)**

Julie Anderson stated that this matter is time sensitive and to comply with State requirements, a resolution or an ordinance must be adopted by mid-January of this year. Wisconsin Act 377 sets weight and length limits for farm machinery operating on county and state roads. It also gives local authorities the ability to govern operation of farm equipment on the public roadway, subject to seasonal or certain postings. Anderson noted that large, heavy farm machinery is damaging roads in some areas of the state; however, highways in Racine County are built for heavy loads and this hasn't really been a problem in this area. Input concerning this issue has been gathered from several farmers in Racine County and Supervisor Bob Grove, who is familiar with the farming community. Staff recommends forwarding a resolution to opt out of enforcing weight and length limits of farm machinery on roadways,

subject to seasonal and special postings, to the County Board of Supervisors, with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> readings on January 13, 2015.

**SUPERVISOR CLARK MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Zenner-Richards,** to forward a resolution to the County Board of Supervisors, with a recommendation for approval and a request for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> readings to occur at the January 13, 2015, County Board meeting.

Discussion followed. Supervisor Zenner-Richards asked if farming in general has decreased in Racine County. Anderson replied that dairy farming has decreased; however, cash crop farming has increased in the County. Supervisor Lumpkin asked who the enforcing agent would be and how much the fines would be. Anderson stated that Public Works engineering staff would most likely enforce the regulations if the County would choose to opt in, and perhaps Development Services staff. She didn't have specific information concerning fines. Lumpkin then asked if each municipality has a choice in this matter and if the State could come back at a later date and demand enforcement even though the County opted out. Anderson stated that the State provided a summary of options local governments may take to govern the operation of farm machinery on their roads (included in Committee members' meeting packets) and each governing municipality may make the decision to opt in or opt out. Townships may choose to regulate farm machinery on roads under their jurisdiction, even though the County opts out. Anderson stated that although there are a number of large farms in Racine County, this is a more urban county and the operation of farm machinery on roadways isn't an issue like it is in other counties around the state. Supervisor Clark commented that if the logging industry may be classified as farming, then this may one reason why having laws in place to regulate weight and length limits on equipment are necessary in northern counties.

Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 4/0

**5. Review, discussion & possible recommendation on a resolution authorizing application and approval of \$165,000 in funding grants from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation CHIP program for the reconstruction of CTH "G", from USH 45 to CTH "U"**

Anderson summarized the proposed use of grant funds. Resurfacing and reconstruction will be done on some segments of Highway K and Highway G in 2015 as part of capital projects. Highway G is part of the 100-mile designated bicycle route that circles Racine County; with 22 feet of asphalt currently in place, it's possible to widen the shoulders, making it safer for all users of this road. Highway K is too narrow to accommodate a bicycle/pedestrian lane; and although segments of Highway K will be pulverized and new pavement laid, there are no plans to widen Highway K in 2015. Anderson stated that moving grant monies from Highway K to Highway G as proposed will cause no loss of funding or additional cost for the County.

**SUPERVISOR ZENNER-RICHARDS MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Clark,** to forward a resolution to the County Board of Supervisors, with a recommendation for approval, with a 1<sup>st</sup> reading to occur at the January 13, 2015, County Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 4/0

**6. Review, discussion & possible recommendation regarding a request from WE Energies to use the parking lot at Quarry Lake Park as a temporary staging area for a WE Energies project**

Anderson presented the request. WE Energies notified Racine County Public Works that they will be replacing power posts, roughly from the Meadowbrook Country Club entrance, south to Spring Street, and a location is needed to temporarily store about 50 poles for the project. WE Energies will be required to sign a hold-harmless agreement, excluding Racine County from liability for any injuries or damages. WE Energies has offered to give Racine County the old discarded poles, if cut into 20' lengths, which the County will repurpose as bumpers in county park parking lots.

**SUPERVISOR ZENNER-RICHARDS MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Lumpkin.** to approve the request from WE Energies to use the parking lot at Quarry Lake park as a temporary staging area. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 4/0

**7. Special Use Requests**

**(a) Moving Wall Memorial, Pritchard Park, August 26-31, 2015**

Anderson presented the request. Ten years ago, Local Chapter 767 of the Vietnam Veterans of America sponsored the Moving Wall, a replica of the Washington D.C. Vietnam Veterans Memorial that travels the country. The Chapter has been awarded the Wall for 2015 and is requesting use of Pritchard Park for the event, from August 26 through August 31. Julie Anderson stated that the event was very successful in 2005, drawing over 40,000 people to the site. She noted that the County will take the necessary steps to make sure the site is well-groomed and prepared for the event. Staff has no objection to the request and recommends waiving any usual and customary County fees.

**SUPERVISOR LUMPKIN MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Clark,** to approve the request from the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 767 for use of Pritchard Park from August 26-31, 2015, for the 2015 Moving Wall and to approve waiving fees. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 4/0

**(b) Salmon Unlimited Wisconsin Trout Ice Fishing Derby, ReefPoint Marina, January 31, 2015**

Anderson presented the request. She stated that this event was approved in 2014 and was very successful. SU Wisconsin worked well with ReefPoint Marina staff and management. Anderson noted that the Ice Fishing Derby will not conflict with the dredge project in the small boat basin.

**SUPERVISOR CLARK MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Zenner-Richards,** to approve the request as presented for the Trout Ice Fishing Derby to take place at ReefPoint Marina on January 31, 2015. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 4/0

**8. Communications and Referrals**

There were no communications or referrals.

**9. Miscellaneous Public Works Business**

The next meeting of the Public Works, Parks and Facilities Committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2015.

**10. Adjourn**

There being no further business, **SUPERVISOR CLARK MOVED, seconded by Supervisor Zenner-Richards**, to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 4/0