

Waukesha County Board of Supervisors

**Minutes of the Public Works Committee
Thursday, June 10, 2021**

Chair Swan called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Dave Swan, Keith Hammitt, Jim Batzko, Christine Howard, Darlene Johnson, Chris Mommaerts, and Tom Schellinger.

Also Present: Chief of Staff Sarah Spaeth, Facilities Manager Shane Waeghe, Construction Project Supervisor Jeff Lisiecki, Maintenance Mechanic Mark Breu, Public Works Director Allison Bussler, Business Manager Rhiannon Cupkie, Budget Management Specialist Michelle Beasley, Administrative Specialist Mary Pedersen, Waukesha Metro Transit Supervisor Brian Engelking, Wisconsin Coachlines President Tom Dieckelman, Coach USA East Region Vice President Mike Pjevach County Board Chair Paul Decker, and Citizens Frances Heintz-Taylor, Thomas Klein, Eddie Meier, Nic Meier, Debbie Carrasco-Zanini, John Heintz-Taylor, Nancy Meier, Barbara Klein, David Leikam, and Tyler Leikam.

Public Comments

Frances Heintz-Taylor expressed her opposition to the Moraine Hills Drive/CTH D project and how this will impact her land including the eco system, removal of valuable timbers, property values, and tax base. She instead asked that improvements be made to the current road. Thomas Klein said improvements have been nonexistent for 30 years and should be considered first. He said there are two bus stops and the speed limit could be reduced to reduce accidents but overall, it's a safe road. Barbara Klein said no reports or studies were provided to citizens by the Public Works Department. She felt improvements could be made to the current road including better signage. Nic Meier said there were less accidents on that portion of the road than what County staff had indicated and less accidents occurred on the curve than on the straightaway. He felt the speed limit should be reduced. David Leikam said there are many similar curvy roads in the area and better signage is needed where the curves are. As a motorcycle rider, he enjoys the curvy roads. He said the County will not be straightening each road that has curves so something does not make sense with this project. Tyler Leikam said he is attracted to the area because of the topography including the curvy roads and adding signage to that curve would be the better option. Debbie Carrasco-Zanini, John Heintz-Taylor, and Eddie Meier also spoke in opposition.

Bid for Waukesha County Jail AHU-10 Modifications Project #220335

Waeghe, Lisiecki, and Breu were present to discuss this item. After reviewing the proposal forms and bid amounts, staff are recommending the contract be awarded to Southport Engineered Systems for a total cost of \$48,990. Based on information submitted on the proposal form, Southport Engineered Systems has stated that they can complete the work within the County's schedule, has completed the non-collusion affidavit, and demonstrated sufficient qualifications and responsibility for this project.

MOTION: Schellinger moved, second by Johnson to approve the bid for the Waukesha County Jail AHU-10 Modifications Project #220335. Motion carried 7-0.

Bid for Waukesha County Highway Operations Boiler Replacement Project #71330

Waeghe, Lisiecki, and Breu were present to discuss this item. After reviewing the proposal forms and bid amounts, staff are recommending the contract be awarded to Southport for a total cost of \$120,650. Based on information submitted on the proposal form, Southport Engineered Systems has stated that they can complete the work within the County's schedule, has completed the non-collusion affidavit, and demonstrated sufficient qualifications and responsibility for this project.

MOTION: Hammitt moved, second by Schellinger to approve the bid for the Waukesha County Highway Operations Boiler Replacement Project #71330. Motion carried 7-0.

2020 Waukesha County Transit Report

Bussler, Cupkie, and Engelking discussed this report for the year ending 2020 which included information on total rides and total rides per revenue hour, revenue hours and miles, operating expenses, investment, and changes due to COVID-19.

Ordinance 176-O-030 Extend Waukesha County Public Works Director Temporary Authority to Suspend and Modify Waukesha County Transit Services Due to Ongoing, Lower Ridership After COVID-19 Pandemic

Cupkie and Engelking discussed this ordinance which authorizes the Director of Public Works to continue making temporary changes to transit service levels in order to make responsible use of county, state, and federal funds in order to appropriately respond to the continuing effects of the pandemic (by adjusting the level of route operations, where appropriate) and to maintain responsible use of resources until December 31, 2021 or until terminated by further action of the County Board. The original temporary authority was granted through July.

This ordinance will effectively extend the authority granted in Enrolled Ordinance 175-22. All changes made by the Director of Public Works would need to be publicly posted for at least three business days before going into effect. The department would continue to report all temporary changes to the Public Works Committee.

Waukesha Metro continues to closely monitor these routes and there have been significant declines in ridership due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic, resulting in sharp declines in farebox revenue. When farebox revenues decline, fixed costs need to be covered with additional County funds. The County was allocated \$6.2 million of federal funding which can be used to make up for revenue losses and allow for the continuation of routes without adverse financial impacts to the County. The 2021 budget already includes \$360,000 of this federal funding to help mitigate the impact of the lower ridership during the pandemic. However, there are instances where ridership declines are significant for particular routes and these funds could be used more productively. These revenues are multi-year funds which can be used strategically to phase-in service levels as ridership returns, cover fluctuations in other transit funding sources, and adjust to changing transit needs.

Total ridership on routes being operated currently is estimated at 45% of pre-pandemic service levels. Waukesha Metro estimates that farebox revenues systemwide are \$17,700 below budget per month on average and operating fewer trips under this temporary authority is helping offset with lower costs. Ridership will be monitored this summer to determine when additional trips

should be reinstated. Additional trips may be added back after Labor Day based on information provided from the Milwaukee County Transit System that businesses plan to begin transitioning employees back to downtown Milwaukee locations.

All route changes continue to be temporary and allow for the strategic use of federal funding resulting in no ongoing tax levy impact.

MOTION: Schellinger moved, second by Johnson to approve Ordinance 176-O-030. Motion carried 7-0.

Approve Minutes of May 13, 2021

MOTION: Johnson moved, second by Batzko to approve the minutes of May 13. Motion carried 7-0.

Next Meeting Date

- July 15, 2021

Executive Committee Report of May 17, 2021

Swan said the Executive Committee heard an update on Waukesha County's Center for Growth and approved two ordinances and one appointment.

Advisory Committee Reports

Howard gave a report on the Aging & Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee meeting.

Review Correspondence

- Fund Transfer request by the Public Works Department to transfer \$265,000 from Operating Expenses to Fixed Assets (Building Improvement Plan).

Future Agenda Items

- Discuss Moraine Hills Drive/CTH D Capital Project (Johnson)
- 2021 WCHA Summer Road School Report (Swan)

Legislative Update

Ignatowski gave an update on the state budget process and state revenues for the County.

MOTION: Hammitt moved, second by Johnson to adjourn at 10:18 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James Batzko

James Batzko
Secretary