

Minutes of the Public Works Committee

Thursday, July 16, 2020

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, Legislative Policy Advisor Alex Ignatowski, Senior Landscape Architect Jason Wilke, Senior Civil Engineer Karen Braun, Senior Engineering Technician Jason Mayer, Public Works Director Allison Bussler, Business Manager Rhiannon Cupkie, Waukesha Metro Transit Supervisor Brian Engelking, Budget Specialist Bill Duckwitz, Budget Management Specialist Michelle Beasley, Wisconsin Coach Lines President Tom Dieckelman, Citizen Debra Schneider, and interns Nick Ladewig, Ronnie Duffela, and Amber Walters.

Approve Minutes June 11, 2020

MOTION: Johnson moved, second by Batzko to approve the minutes of June 11. Motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence

Swan passed out copies of an article from *The Freeman* related to Waukesha Metro Transit.

Public Comment

Schneider, Waukesha County Green Team, Inc. President, encouraged the committee to look at transit alternatives such as shared ride options, collaborative partnerships and clean energy solutions to address transit needs.

Executive Committee Report June 15, 2020

Swan advised the Executive Committee heard a presentation on County Board survey results and the County Board Office Strategic Plan Environmental Scan, approved 19 appointments, and heard a grievance appeal for a previous Waukesha County employee.

Future Agenda Items

- Meet offsite at the Airport or Highway Operations (Swan)

Future Meeting Dates

- August 13, 2020
- September 10, 2020 (capital projects)
- October 1, 2020 (budget review)
- October 15, 2020

Discuss and Consider Bid for the Menomonee Dog Exercise Area Capital project #PLU 202002

Wilke discussed this project as outlined in the capital project sheet and said staff are recommending that the contract for buck and rail fencing at the Menomonee Park dog exercise area be awarded to United Wood Products for a total contract cost of \$61,737.90. Three vendors submitted RFPs for consideration.

Schellinger questioned why the dog park needed a fence and said he is against spending money on a fence.

MOTION: Batzko moved, second by Howard to approve the bid for buck and rail fencing at the Menomonee Park dog exercise area, Capital Project #202002. Motion carried 6-1. Schellinger voted no.

Discuss and Consider Ordinance 175-O-021 Laying Out, Relocation And Improvement Of County Trunk Highway C, Hasslinger Drive Intersection – Project I.D. 3781-03-00

Braun and Mayer discussed this ordinance which authorizes the laying out, relocation and improvement of CTH C in the Town of Merton and Village of Chenequa.

MOTION: Schellinger moved, second by Johnson to approve Ordinance 175-O-021. Motion carried 7-0.

Discuss and Consider Ordinance 175-O-022 Grant Waukesha County Public Works Director Temporary Authority To Suspend And Resume Waukesha County Transit Service During COVID-19 Pandemic

Bussler, Cupkie, and Engelking were present to discuss this ordinance which authorizes the Director of Public Works to continue suspensions of transit service currently in place and to make temporary changes to transit service levels in order to make responsible use of county, state, and federal funds while adhering to Centers for Disease Control guidelines. The changes would be only be in effect during the pandemic and up to one-year duration. All changes would need to be publicly posted for at least three business days before going into effect. The department would report all temporary changes to the Public Works Committee. This ordinance results in no ongoing tax levy impact.

According to the County’s contracted transit system administrator, Waukesha Metro, ridership has declined significantly during the pandemic, which results in lower farebox revenues. When farebox revenues decline, fixed costs need to be covered with additional county funds. The county was allocated \$2.1 million of federal CARES Act funding to help make up for this revenue loss and allow for the continuation of routes without adverse financial impacts to the county. However, department management indicates that there may be instances where ridership declines so much for particular routes that it would not be a good use of federal funds to subsidize.

In particular, ridership on the 901/904/905 commuter route (from various points in Lake Country to the city of Waukesha, downtown Milwaukee, and the UW-Milwaukee Campus) began declining early in the pandemic, and the number of trips was reduced 25% in response (from 32 trips to 24 trips) on April 6th through a temporary emergency declaration. Ridership has continued to decline, and the total investment per ride (county, state, and federal funding) increased to over \$100 per ride (budgeted at \$17 per ride). The overall route is now experiencing a revenue loss of approximately \$15,000 per month.

MOTION: Howard moved, second by Johnson to amend line 50 of the ordinance by deleting “three” and replacing it with “five.” Motion carried 6-1. Hammitt voted no.

MOTION: Hammitt moved, second by Howard to approve Ordinance 175-O-022 as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

Legislative Update

Ignatowski updated the committee on the State’s study committees.

MOTION: Hammitt moved, second by Johnson to adjourn at 9:32 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James Batzko

James Batzko
Secretary