The Crawford County Highway Committee held their regular meeting on Thursday, October 15th, 2026, at the Crawford County Highway Department conference room in Seneca, WI. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl Orr at 9:00 a.m. Proof of Publication was verified by Carl Orr.

Members present were Carl Orr, Mark Gilberts, Derek Flansburgh, Wayne Jerrett, Gerry Krachey, and County Board member Brian Reynolds. Also present was Commissioner Kyle Kozelka, State Highway Superintendent Terry Hird, Shop Superintendent Cory Folbrecht and David Harvat, Concrete Foreman. County Highway Superintendent Dave Jones and Julie Check were excused.

Minutes from the last regular meeting on Thursday, September 17th, 2026, were approved by a motion made by Wayne Jerrett, second by Mark Gilberts. Motion carried by a voice vote.

Gerry Krachey made a motion to authorize payment of Invoice Vouchers #: 541-557 and 560-605; and Payroll Vouchers #: 539, 540, 558 and 559; second by Mark Gilberts. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

Fund Balances, Transfer of Funds, Invoice Adjustments – Past Due Accounts:

- **Fund Balances -** Reviewed the Fund Balances dated 9/25/26.
- **Budget** – Commissioner Kozelka informed the committee of a budget meeting that took place with Gary Koch, and Highway Committee members Carl Orr, Tom Cornford and Gerry Krachey. He informed the committee of the email notices he received from Gary, regarding the amount of funds that will be taken from the Highway Department 2025 Fund Balance to balance the budget for 2027. Much discussion was had regarding the long-term impacts of this practice, and any potential alternatives for the future.
- **Bridge Aid** – Commissioner Kozelka informed the committee of a numerical error that was on the Bridge Aid Resolution that they approved at last month's meeting. Gerry Krachey made a motion to approve the amended Bridge Aid Resolution at $86,495.08 total, equating to $43,247.54 as the County's share; second by Mark Gilberts. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

State Trunk Highways:

- **STH Update** – State Highway Superintendent Terry Hird informed the committee that the state crew began their state section mowing, and prior to that were busy picking up deadfalls along the roadways, to prepare for mowing. Terry also explained to the committee the struggles we've had with DOT environmental and their reluctance to address water ponding and ditching issues under and adjacent to box culverts along STH 60 and 171.
- Commissioner Kozelka informed the committee of a meeting with Sheriff Dale McCullick, representatives from the ATV/UTV club, and Art Sommerfield and Joseph Lamere from WisDOT. He explained that there was good discussion regarding the DOT's concerns with routes on the State Highway System, due to legislation that doesn't necessarily allow for safe riding practices. They are willing to approve of some new connecting routes within the County, so long as we're able to amend our County and Municipal Ordinances to reflect the changes before spring, while DOT works on signing placement permits.

County Trunk Highways:

- **CTH E – 13E16-25 – STP Rural, STH 27-179, Resurface, Project ID: 5002-00-01/71**
  - **Approve of Sales Study and Nominal Payment Parcel Report** – Commissioner Kozelka explained the need for a Permanent Limited Easement along CTH E for a beam guard extension. A sales study and nominal payment parcel report was put together by Fred Gruber, and the amount of property at the comparable sale price

County Trunk Highways: (continued)

- would be under the typical minimum of $500.00, so the commissioner recommended initially offering the minimum. Motion by Gerry Krachey to approve of the sales study and nominal payment parcel report, and to offer the $500 minimum; second by Derek Flansburgh. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

- **CTH W (STH 61 to Richland County Line) – CHI-S – Encroachment Resolutions/Acquisition Proposals –** Commissioner Kozelka explained that he is still working with the Carlin family, on getting the go ahead for purchasing property for the realignment. They have some concerns regarding the existing encroachments on County R/W and also their own property; so there has been much discussion about how to move forward with the project and also rectify the encroachment issue that they also have. Commissioner Kozelka will update the committee at the next meeting.

Local Projects and Bridges:

- **FFY 2024-2026 BIL, Local Bridge Program – Village of Desoto, Mill Park Drive, Mississippi Tributary Bridge #P-12-0703, Project ID: 5408-00-00/70, NEW BRIDGE #B-12-0928** – Still working through concerns of the Village and trying to finalize this MOU.

Highway Buildings, Facilities and Equipment:

- **Gays Mills/Soldiers Grove Shop Location** – Commissioner Kozelka updated the committee on the sitework progression; erosion matting and seeding is almost complete.
  - **Pay Request #2** – Meise submitted pay request #2 in the amount of $320,586.95. Mark Gilberts made a motion to accept and pay the request; second by Gerry Krachey. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

Bids, Proposals, Sales or Misc.:

- **Winter Sand Bids –** The committee received one bid for the 2027 Winter Sand Bid. Prairie Sand & Gravel submitted a bid of $8.93/ton picked up. Derek Flansburgh made a motion to accept the bid from Prairie Sand & Gravel, second by Gerald Krachey. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

Variance Request(s), Disposal of Right of Way, Easements, Misc.:

- **Werthwein Driveway & ROW Encroachment -** Commissioner Kozelka informed the committee that he met with Keith Werthwein on site. Keith informed the commissioner that the existing driveway that he's been utilizing is only a construction access. He wanted to reevaluate the permitted access location and propose a new one, now that the trees have been cleared and substantial grading has taken place along the bank. The commissioner and Keith were eventually able to agree upon a new driveway access location, so long as the committee was agreeable. The committee agreed with the commissioner's assessment but stipulated that the new access must be constructed immediately, and the construction access removed.

Safety.:

- **Accidents, Incidents or Injuries – Review** – Committee Chair Carl Orr explained why he thought it would be beneficial to add this item to our monthly agendas. He feels that proper investigation and discussions regarding incidents, accidents and near misses are crucial to mitigating them in the future. He encouraged the staff to bring up the events during meetings, so that everyone can weigh in on how to properly address any current or anticipated safety concerns.

Personnel and Personnel Issues.:

- **Employee Recognition – Brandon Millin – 1 year of service** - Brandon was unable to attend the meeting, so he will be recognized at the November meeting.

CLOSED SESSION:

- **Personnel**
- **County Property – Disposal/Alternatives/Relocation**

CLOSED SESSION: At 10:11 a.m. Mark Gilberts made a motion to move into Closed Session: pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c) to discuss personnel; and pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(e) to discuss county property, second by Derek Flansburgh. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

OPEN SESSION: At 10:35 a.m. Gerry Krachey made a motion to move into Open Session pursuant to Section 19.85(2), second by Mark Gilberts. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

As a result of the closed session(s), no motions were made.

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, November 19th, 2026*, at 9:00 a.m. at the Crawford County Highway Department in Seneca. At 10:36 a.m., with no further business, Mark Gilberts made a motion to adjourn, second by Derek Flansburgh. Motion carried by a voice vote.

Mark Gilberts

Wayne Jones

Gerald Krachey
Committee

Derek Flansburgh

-Commissioner

Commissioner