

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: March 21, 2011

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Chairman  
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member  
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member  
Tim Hamblin, Highway Committee Member  
David Albrecht, Highway Committee Member

ALSO

PRESENT: Bill Demler, Winnebago County Highway Maintenance Superintendent  
John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive  
Kathi Sawall, Town of Nekimi resident  
Larry & Debbie Last, citizens  
Rick Satterlee, Ayres Associates  
Doug Zellmer, Oshkosh Northwestern  
Lt. William Anthes, Winnebago County Sheriff's Dept.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2011 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Robl asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address any agenda items at this time. Ms. Sawall asked if she understood the newspaper to say that the County Board has to approve the selection of where the proposed West Side Arterial intersects with STH 21. Committee members stated that they believed that placement decision was between the WisDOT and the town of Algoma. Supervisor Albrecht joined the meeting.

Rick Satterlee, Ayres Associates stated he stopped in to update the Committee on the two projects his firm is currently working on for Winnebago County. Mr. Satterlee stated that right of way is being purchased for the CTH T project between CTH Y and CTH GG and is scheduled for construction in 2012. He stated that when the committee is ready to begin the second phase of CTH T that Ayres Associates is interested in continuing work with the county, and asked that they strongly consider his firm. Mr. Satterlee also updated the committee on the Eureka Bridge project on CTH K. The project is still on schedule for construction in 2012, although there have been some delays because of the historical society. Mr. Satterlee thanked the committee members for their time, and then left the meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the department's 2011 winter operations. Bill Demler, Highway Maintenance Superintendent, stated that to date the Highway Department has expended 93% of their winter budget, leaving a balance of approximately \$36,000. He stated the remaining funds likely would be insufficient to cover the remainder of winter weather this spring, plus November and December of this year. After discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Hamblin, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to approve a budget transfer of \$100,000 to cover winter maintenance funding for 2011. Motion carried 5-0.

Superintendent Demler then gave a presentation breaking down the winter maintenance operations for the present year. He stated that Winnebago County received approximately 20" more snow so far this winter compared to last year. In conjunction, totals for salt, brine, and salt/sand usage were higher. Mr. Demler stated the department does not perform winter maintenance duties for the towns of Clayton, Nepeuskun, Poygan, Rushford or Winneconne as they have agreements with private contractors. Supervisor Egan stated that he feels several of the towns have the impression that Commissioner Haese does not care if the department retains the town work. Mr. Demler stated that the department greatly appreciates the town work and feels it is necessary to allow them to retain the labor pool required to adequately serve the traveling public.

Mr. Demler stated that beginning next week he and Superintendent Groth will begin their yearly road checks with the towns to determine what work needs to be done. He stated that due to the poor economy overall the towns have been requesting less seal coating and other major work. Mr. Demler stated that depending on what happens with the Governor's repair bill, the possible reduction of incidental labor rates may make the Highway Department more competitive with private industry.

The staffing requirements and routes for future winter maintenance operations were discussed. Superintendent Demler stated that they will need a total of four more employees due to the USH 41 expansion project and associated interchanges; two to three employees this year, and one more next year. Chairman Robl asked if having less town work would make up the necessary manpower for the winter routes. Mr. Demler stated that due to the class of highways that run through Winnebago County, many require 24 hour per day service so the additional personnel is necessary. Supervisor Albrecht inquired about utilizing the bridgetenders for winter maintenance. Mr. Demler stated that option is being considered, but until the Governor's budget issues get resolved that remains a negotiating issue between the two unions.

General Operations:

- Chairman Robl asked what big projects the Highway Department has scheduled for this year. Mr. Demler stated that there are three paving projects: CTH F from Omro to CTH D; CTH MM from CTH M to Richter Lane; and CTH FF from STH 21 to CTH K. The department will also be repaving the Human Services building parking lot in Neenah.
- Supervisor Hamblin inquired how fuel costs are impacting the department. Mr. Demler stated that the higher fuel costs are definitely impacting the department. He stated the fuel cost savings is one of the main reasons that the Highway Department works the four 10-hour days in the summer. Working one less day per week saves a whole day's worth of fuel costs for the fleet traveling to and from job sites as well as the staff's travel time, thereby increasing productivity.
- Lt. Anthes, Winnebago County Sheriff's Dept., stated that because the week of April 4-8 is Work Zone Safety Awareness week their department will have extra squads patrolling on USH 41. Mr. Demler stated that on April 12th the "Work Zone Memorial Wall" will be on display at the Lambeau Field Atrium and there will be a ceremony emceed by Commissioner Haese.

The committee thanked Superintendent Demler for attending today's meeting and providing them information.

A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer  
Highway Secretary