

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: October 4, 2010

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Chairman
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member
Tim Hamblin, Highway Committee Member
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
John Haese, Highway Commissioner

EXCUSED: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Member

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive
Jim Wollerman, Town of Vinland
Kathi Sawall, Town of Nekimi resident
Todd Christopherson, Winnebago Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Guy Hegg, Winnebago County Board Member

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 September 20, 2010 meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Robl asked if there was anyone from the public who wanted to address any agenda items at this time. Mr. Wollerman, Town of Vinland Road Superintendent, stated he had two items on the agenda to address. He stated that if Winnebago County would accept the town's suggestion to install LED (blinker) stop signs at the intersection of Breezewood Lane and CTH T, the town would pay for one-half of the cost.

Mr. Wollerman also stated that he is inquiring on the town's behalf whether a decision had been made to approve the funding for the culvert installation on Kolb Road as part of the County Aid Culvert Program. Mr. Wollerman explained that the town is paying to replace two other culverts on Kolb Road, but is requesting culvert aid funds for the larger culvert pipe installation. It entails replacing a 24" diameter culvert with a 36" arch culvert. Mr. Wollerman stated that town is going to install the 36" culvert at this location regardless of the committee action regarding culvert aid funding.

Commissioner Haese asked the committee members if they had received the informational packet he sent them. They all stated they had. Contained in the packet was the Winnebago County Highway Commission Policy regarding the use of Light Emitting Diode (LED commonly referred to as blinker) signage. The policy states "the installation of all LED (blinker) signage in Winnebago County shall only be allowed under the standards and conditions as indicated in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) 2003 edition, section 2A.08; 2009 edition, section 2A.07 and all future editions of the manual that refer to section 2A.07." This means that according to State Statutes, Winnebago County must follow the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) regarding installation of LED or blinker signs. Supervisor Egan stated he has a problem with the fact that this is the first they were informed on the existence of the traffic manual even though it's been published for many years. Mr. Haese stated the manual is available on the WisDOT's website and recommends anyone wishing to view it go there since periodic revisions are posted there. Chairman Robl stated he feels the towns should also be made aware of the sign manual. No action was taken on this agenda item since Winnebago County must follow the WisDOT's traffic manual regarding LED signs.

The LED signs at the intersection of CTH I and CTH N were discussed. Supervisor Warnke asked if the solar powered signs at that intersection are in violation of the WisDOT's policy. Commissioner Haese stated they are not in violation due to the number of crashes at that area, and will not be removed at this time. Mr. Haese stated that the four-way stop signs at the intersection of CTH I and CTH N are functioning very well at this time. He would not recommend constructing a roundabout at this location in the near future since the four way stop condition that was recently installed is adequate to meet the traffic conditions in this vicinity. Commissioner Haese reported that after inquiring about the crash data at this location the Sheriff's Department informed him that there was one accident on July 15th involving one vehicle and there were no injuries.

The request from the Town of Vinland regarding LED stop signs at the intersection of Breezewood Lane and CTH T was discussed. Commissioner Haese reported that new, larger 36" standard stop and stop ahead signs were installed at this intersection last week. Due to the fact that this location also falls under the criteria in the MUTCD regarding LED signs, no blinker signs will be installed at this location. Mr. Haese also advised the committee that he will call the town of Clayton officials to make them aware of the brush that may be causing a vision hazard on Breezewood Lane west of its intersection with CTH T.

The Town of Vinland request for aid to replace a culvert on Kolb Road was discussed. Commissioner Haese stated that according to State Statute 82.08 a culvert must have a 36" or greater diameter in order to qualify for funding under the Bridge/Culvert Aid Program. The Town of Vinland is requesting funds to replace a 24" diameter culvert with a 36" pipe. Even though the town petitioned for funds as an emergency repair, the culvert does not qualify for funding under the State Statute. Mr. Wollerman stated that he understands the 36" minimum policy but inquired if this rule will be consistent for all future requests. Commissioner Haese assured him that no culvert replacement under 36" will be approved under the Town Bridge/Culvert Aid Program. Commissioner Haese distributed a policy he wrote regarding bridge/culvert replacement based on State Statutes 82.08 for the committee to review. This item will be addressed at the next highway meeting.

The proposed 2011 Highway Department Budget was discussed. Commissioner Haese stated that budget books were distributed and budget reviews will be held the end of October.

General Operations:

- Commissioner Haese received notice that the TPC (Transportation Projects Commission) will be meeting shortly, but was surprised to see that the USH 441 project was ranked at number three in order of importance.
- The WisDOT will be hosting a public meeting regarding the construction schedule for the USH 45 frontage roads at the Highway Department Facility on October 6th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Commissioner Haese stated that he received correspondence from Representative Kaufert's office regarding the future requirement for retro reflectivity of highway signs and asked if one of the committee members had contacted his office. Guy Hegg, a County Board Supervisor stated that he contacted his office because of concerns regarding the cost that each unit of government must bear to upgrade all their signs. Federal Highways has mandated that the reflectivity of all signs must be upgraded prior to 2015.
- As of date the Highway Department has expended 64% of their total budget for 2010.

The next regular meeting of the Highway Committee will be held on October 18, 2010. Since there was no other business to discuss, a motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.