

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: September 20, 2010

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive
Chuck Farrey, Town of Vinland
Ray Batley, 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 Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to approve the minutes of the August 30, 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. There was no input on agenda items. Robert Warnke entered the meeting.

The Town of Vinland submitted a request to replace a culvert on Kolb Road under the county aid culvert program. Mr. Farrey stated the current 24" pipe is insufficient to provide proper drainage when heavy rainfall occurs similar to the storms that were encountered in 2004 and again in 2010. The town is requesting to replace the 24" pipe with a 36" arch culvert. Commissioner Haese remarked that per State Statutes 82.08, the culvert pipe must be 36" minimum diameter to qualify for aid. Therefore, the current 24" culvert pipe would not qualify for funding under the statutes. Commissioner Haese asked the town representatives if anyone had sized the culvert, checked on soil types, or calculated if the surrounding area requires a culvert larger than 24". Mr. Farrey stated they had not done that yet as their road supervisor was on vacation. Supervisor Albrecht stated Commissioner Haese should contact the Land & Water Department for their input on this issue. Chairman Robl also asked Commissioner Haese to determine the estimated cost comparison between the 24" and 36" installation. The issue can then be brought back to a future committee meeting for further action.

The Town of Vinland also recently requested solar powered stop signs be installed at the intersection of CTH T and Breezewood Lane. Commissioner Haese stated that this intersection is part of the boundary line of the towns of Vinland and Clayton. He stated there is some brush along Breezewood Lane under the jurisdiction of the Town of Clayton that could be hampering vision of the current stop signs that should be removed. Mr. Batley stated he will contact the Town of Clayton to draw their attention to this matter. Commissioner Haese stated that according to the accident data from December 1994 until December 2009, the crash history did not warrant solar powered signs at this intersection. Mr. Haese also informed the Town of Vinland representatives that there is some poor pavement along Breezewood Lane with substantial rutting that could potentially cause a vehicle to slide through the intersection under wet or winter driving conditions. Mr. Haese also noted that solar powered signs cost \$1,750 each vs. \$23 each for standard signs. They also require additional maintenance and are prone to theft in rural areas. Chairman Robl stated there should be a policy created regarding all non-standard (flashing light) signs including the purchase, installation, maintenance costs, etc. that can be referred to when these requests are made. The Town of Vinland representatives thanked the Committee for their time and exited the meeting. The committee will review this issue at its next meeting. Commissioner Haese was asked to prepare a policy regarding blinker or solar powered blinker signs prior to the next meeting if possible.

The accident history at the intersection of CTH I and CTH N was discussed. Commissioner Haese reported that between 1994 and 2009 there were a total of 21 accidents at the combined CTH I, CTH N, Fisk Avenue intersection. Mr. Haese stated he requested recent crash data from the Sheriff's Department, but he had not received any information from the Sheriff's Department regarding this intersection prior to the meeting. Supervisor Albrecht stated that after the non-standard flashing light policy is written each request should be reviewed on its own merit using the policy as a guideline. Supervisor Egan requested Chairman Robl include an item on the next meeting agenda regarding the intersection of CTH I and CTH N calling for discussion, decision and action to finalize this item.

The speed limit on STH 76 from USH 41 to CTH Y was discussed. Commissioner Haese stated that after the recent resurfacing of STH 76 WisDOT lowered the speed limit to 45 mph. He stated that one of the criteria used in determining speed limits is what 85% of the traveling public feels is a safe and comfortable speed to operate their vehicles at. He stated that motorists are traveling in a safe and efficient manner at speeds well above the posted 45 mph along STH 76. After discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Albrecht to recommend to the WisDOT that they increase the speed limit on STH 76 from USH 41 to CTH Y to 55 mph. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Haese stated that he has no changes to the proposed 2011 Highway Department budget at this time. He stated the County Board will be meeting at the end of October to discuss the proposed budget as presented.

General Operations:

- Commissioner Haese stated the TPC (Transportation Projects Commission) hasn't met for seven or eight years to enumerate construction projects. Recently, Governor Doyle scheduled a date for the Commission to meet. Mr. Haese stated that the Legislative Committee, Highway Committee or the County Executive should organize the local officials to ensure funds get committed for the STH 441 projects.
- Commissioner Haese informed the committee members that right of way acquisition has begun on CTH T from CTH Y to CTH G.
- There will be two resolutions at this week's County Board meeting regarding highway issues. The first is approving the design work for the satellite facility in the town of Winchester, the second is approving a quit claim deed for a piece of property along old CTH W.
- Commissioner Haese stated he has been visiting the site of the old Oshkosh B'Gosh building where the department will be paving the parking lot. He stated a change order was necessary to remove some of the organic soils from the parking lot area adjacent to the building. Additional aggregate will have to be installed, and there are still several layers of organic material and an old foundation that will be buried under the new material. He exhibited old debris that was found at the lot including door knobs, pottery, and miscellaneous materials that came from the area around the old foundation.
- Supervisor Warnke questioned if Commissioner Haese had been contacted by the director of Facilities regarding razing the old Parkview buildings. Mr. Haese stated that Facilities has indicated to him that a bid document for this work will be available sometime in the future.
- Chairman Robl questioned the status of the CTH E paving project. Commissioner Haese stated that the CTH E project has been completed. Also, the Eureka Boat Landing parking lot has had one mat of hot mix asphalt installed at this time.

Being no further discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary