

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: January 19, 2012

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
Dave Albrecht, Highway Committee Member
Ernie Winters, Highway Commissioner

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 A.M. A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2012 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. There was no public input. Supervisor Albrecht joined the meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the CTH K Bridge project in Eureka. Commissioner Winters stated he recently had a meeting with the City of Berlin mayor, staff from Short Elliott Hendrickson, representatives of the WisDOT, and members of Friends of the Fox to discuss the proposed new bridge height. Mr. Winters stated that staff from Ayres Associates re-measured the clearances of the Omro Bridge and current Eureka Bridge on the same day to verify the heights. Commissioner Winters stated that he believes there is no law, rule or DNR directive that compels Winnebago County to match the clearance of the upstream structure especially since that portion of the Omro Bridge that is higher is not the navigable portion of the waterway. He stated he would like all parties to be satisfied with the new structure upon completion of the project. Mr. Winters stated that ample chances were given to allow opinions on the proposed bridge design, and the City of Berlin signed a resolution approving the structure as designed. Supervisor Egan stated that he believes that both the Berlin and Omro Boat Clubs may now have more interest since the Eureka Locks were reconstructed giving access to more boaters. Commissioner Winters had preliminary estimated figures of \$50,000 - \$60,000 to have the bridge profile adjusted moving the pier spacing, possibly gaining 6-9" of height. This would postpone the project another year. Commissioner Winters added the WisDOT is now unsure they will approve the project as currently designed. Supervisor Albrecht stated that perhaps the WisDOT or Friends of the Fox would like to contribute the additional \$50,000-60,000 needed to adjust the design. Commissioner Winters stated the Federal Funds are capped so there will be no additional money there. He will be meeting again with the City of Berlin Mayor and will report back at the next Highway Committee meeting with more accurate figures to adjust the design and his recommendation on the issue.

Commissioner Winters informed the committee that after doing some research on the Town Bridge Aid Program and Cost Share Policy he determined there is no maximum dollar amount limit. He stated if the committee wishes to add that language they can re-write the policy to include that. Supervisor Albrecht suggested that Supervisor Egan discuss this item at his next Town's Association Meeting since it is the towns that are paying the costs. Supervisor Egan stated he will address this item with the Town's Association and report back at a future meeting.

Commissioner Winters stated that the auger truck bid out under the 2012 Capital Equipment Budget came in approximately \$3,000 over the amount budgeted. The proposal for a tri-axle truck chassis came in under budget so the funds can be transferred to cover the cost of the auger truck. A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Egan to approve the \$3,000 budget transfer funding from the tri-axle chassis to the auger truck. Motion carried 5-0. Chairman Robl signed the budget transfer.

The State of Wisconsin provided more General Transportation Aid revenue than anticipated. A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to accept the additional \$115,000 of 2012 General Transportation Aids and reduce the amount of funding transferred from the Highway Fund to cover County Road Maintenance. Motion carried 5-0. Chairman Robl signed the budget transfer.

General Operations:

- Commissioner Winters stated he spoke with the Airport Director regarding their need for a broom. Mr. Winters stated the two units owned by the Highway Department are too small and would not be adequate to accommodate the Airport's needs.
- Commissioner Winters stated one of the big topics discussed at this week's Winter Highway Conference was the fact that most counties will not have union contracts governing their employees due to Act 10, and how that issue will be addressed. Mr. Winters stated that when his employee's contract expires at the end of 2012 he will be writing the work rules in conjunction with the Human Resource Department. Another item for discussion at the Highway Conference was the legislation that's pending determining if counties can perform work for other municipalities.
- Chairman Robl informed Mr. Winters that in the past the Commissioner invited three different engineering firms to interview for professional service jobs. The committee would score them and make the selection of who to hire. Mr. Robl stated they would like to continue this process and Mr. Winters agreed.
- Supervisor Egan inquired about the new salt shed proposed for Planeview Drive. Commissioner Winters stated he spoke with the WisDOT and the project is scheduled to be constructed this year. He stated the WisDOT is unhappy with the provisions noted on the conditional use permit limiting when salt can be delivered. Mr. Winters stated there will be a scale included in the project but the possibility of adding truck storage is still being discussed. Mr. Egan stated he feels if it is possible to obtain the truck storage, the county should take advantage of that option.
- Supervisor Albrecht informed Commissioner Winters that this department may have been aggressive in the past getting projects approved, but he warned him that he may have to slow down on the capital improvement plans as funding becomes tighter. Commissioner Winters stated he can prioritize and rank the projects and will cut back where necessary.
- Supervisor Warnke stated that the CTH I project has been designed already but he is requesting flashing stop signs both ways at the intersection of CTH I and CTH N due to safety (sunset) issues. Mr. Warnke asked Commissioner Winters to look at this area.
- Chairman Robl inquired how the new satellite shed in Winchester is progressing. Commissioner Winters stated the project is on schedule and on budget. Supervisor Albrecht questioned if the project is completed under budget where the funds will go that were applied from the sale of the previous two old highway buildings. Supervisor Egan inquired about issues with the floor of the new facility. Commissioner Winters stated he will check on those two items.
- Supervisor Warnke asked about the GPS units installed in the county fleet by the WisDOT and if the department intends on maintaining them. Mr. Winters stated the DOT had those installed to benefit the state by gaining more control over what the county trucks are doing on the state highways. Mr. Winters stated he does intend to maintain the GPS units.

The next regular meeting will be held on February 6, 2012.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.