

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: February 2, 2015

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Chairman
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member
David Albrecht, Highway Committee Member
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
Kenn Olson, 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 Albrecht to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2015 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Robl welcomed Kenn Olson as the newest member of the Highway Committee. Mr. Olson is replacing Tim Hamblin after his retirement the end of 2014. Mr. Robl then asked if there was any public input on the agenda items. There was none. Supervisor Egan joined the meeting.

Commissioner Winters distributed copies of the City of Appleton's proposed project to be performed at the intersection of STH 47 and Valley Road. The project entails widening the lanes and adding a short bike lane. Mr. Winters stated he sees no reason that Winnebago County would not cooperate on the project since the County has nothing currently planned for CTH P and there will be no cost to Winnebago County. Mr. Winters stated that in the future CTH P may need to be looked at for possible upgrading.

Commissioner Winters distributed an outline and maps of the annual maintenance projects proposed for 2015. Mr. Winters stated that since there are fewer major reconstruction projects for this year he is proposing more mill and paving projects. All of the projects on the list were rated a 3 or 4 on the PASER scale which means the roads are aging, have rutting and cracking, and are in need of an overlay to lengthen their life span. Commissioner Winters is requesting approximately \$3.8 million dollars to complete the 10.5 miles of milling and paving at five different locations. Supervisor Albrecht asked where the funds will come from. Commissioner Winters stated that he would be in agreement to taking any remaining bond money and applying to the 2015 mill and pave projects. Mr. Winters explained that since the projects are performed with Highway Department forces, approximately \$400,000 in labor costs would go against the levy and only the milling contractor and material costs would be bonded for. After discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Egan to approve a budget transfer of \$3.8 million dollars to fund the five milling and paving projects for 2015. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Warnke and carried 5-0. Chairman Robl signed the budget transfer. This item will go before the Personnel and Finance Committee and the full County Board for approval.

The Tri-County Bike Study was discussed. The study determined that many urban county highways may be required to have bike corridors, either paved shoulders or separate paths, constructed along with any future work done on those roads. Any project that uses federal funding must meet the federal standards, including bike paths if directed. This could mean additional right of way purchase and increased project costs. Commissioner Winters stated that this study was paid for by WisDOT, East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and grant money. The study is available online should anyone wish to read it. The second study that will be performed during the next 1.5 years will focus on bike accommodations from a rural perspective and will be paid for with the \$80,000 WisDOT TAP grant money that was applied for as a joint effort with the Public Health Dept. This study will determine where pedestrian paths are recommended along rural highways.

General Operations:

- The WisDOT hosted a public informational meeting last week in the Town of Menasha on the STH 441 project. The meeting provided the status of the 441/10 project, including interchanges, schedule of improvements, etc. Another meeting is scheduled for March 2nd.
- Commissioner Winters distributed a news release from Senator Petrowski's office stating the Senator is pursuing a bill that would restrict cell phone usage in work zone areas. Commissioner Winters stated he is passionate about this topic and intends to strongly support this issue. After discussion the Committee recommended that Commissioner Winters draft a letter to the local legislators showing the Highway Committee's support on this bill. It was also suggested that Commissioner Winters contact the Legislative Committee to make them aware of the issue.
- Commissioner Winters stated that he recently completed a Webinar on Road Diets. This is a federal program that aims to change the way public officials look at safety and hopes to have it integrated into road design and maintenance. More on this topic will be coming in the Federal Transportation budget.
- The new issue of the WisDOT's newsletter "The Connector" was distributed.

Chairman Robl stated that the next regular Highway Committee meeting will be held on February 16, 2015.

A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Olson to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary