

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: February 4, 2013

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Chairman
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member
Dave Albrecht, Highway Committee Member
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
Ernie Winters, Highway Commissioner

EXCUSED: Tim Hamblin, Highway Committee Member

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive
Jamey Gosz, Highway Equipment Superintendent
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 Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Egan to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2013 meeting as written. Motion carried 3-0.

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 budget transfer to replace Highway Department fleet #43 was discussed. Commissioner Winters stated that he is recommending replacing the truck due to the recent engine failure. The light duty one-ton truck has over 200,000 miles on it and was used every day by the department. Jamey Gosz, Highway Equipment Superintendent, explained that these vehicles are used mostly as patrol vehicles, making frequent stops picking up garbage, etc. They don't often get brought up to highway speeds and tend to develop issues with carbon build-up in the motor. This is already the second motor for this particular unit and it may also need a new transmission. Mr. Gosz stated that the \$13,000 it would cost to purchase a new engine is all the truck would be worth at auction as it will be fully depreciated next month. After discussion a motion was made by Chairman Robl to approve a budget transfer in the amount of \$50,000 to replace truck #43. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Warnke and carried 3-1. Supervisor Albrecht voted nay. Superintendent Gosz left the meeting.

The CTH M Capital Improvement project was discussed. Commissioner Winters stated that he is requesting a budget transfer for the reconstruction project. The bidding on this project will be done in conjunction with Fond du Lac County's portion in hopes the bids come in more favorable. Winnebago County's project is a one mile section from STH 44 to the south county line. The base is badly deteriorated and there is a considerable amount of rutting. The project will include flattening some hills, fixing the curve alignment and replacing the bad pavement. The engineering for this project has been completed and right of way purchased at an earlier time. After a lengthy discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Egan to approve a budget transfer providing \$1,600,000.00 in capital funding to reconstruct CTH M from Pickett to the south county line. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Albrecht and carried 4-0.

Commissioner Winters updated the committee on the CTH I and N intersection project. He informed them that OMNI Associates has nearly finished redesigning the intersection from a roundabout to a four-way stop design. They determined that this intersection does not warrant traffic lights, but the current four flashing stop signs will remain. The wider design will address drainage issues and may include additional turn lanes. Commissioner Winters informed the committee that the plan is currently to begin paving CTH I southerly between CTH N and CTH Z. Supervisor Egan questioned if the project should instead begin at CTH N and go north to the City of Oshkosh. He also questioned if the town of Black Wolf will contribute funding to remedy the drainage issues. Commissioner Winters stated that he will be talking with the town since their drainage issues are a part of the drainage issues on the project. This item will be addressed at a future meeting.

General Operations:

- Commissioner Winters stated he is looking for input from the committee members regarding a policy for providing street lighting on county roads. He stated the county is responsible for the traveled portion of the roads, not sidewalks or lights, etc. Several committee members stated they feel that adding street lighting would become too costly for the County and that the department will be inundated with requests.
- Commissioner Winters informed the Committee that he was contacted by the Town of Neenah Chairman regarding traffic control at the intersection of CTH CB and Oak Ridge Road.
- Commissioner Winters provided Supervisor Warnke some literature on “Rustic Roads” since he inquired at the last meeting.
- The Highway Department received a copy of an order to discontinue an alley in the Town of Rushford. Commissioner Winters stated he forwarded the order to Corporation Counsel Bodnar, with a copy to the Property Tax Lister.
- Supervisor Albrecht stated that he was contacted by some constituents regarding their mailboxes being hit during snow removal. He stated that he was informed by the auditors to possibly expect vandalism and fraud due to the passing of Act 10, and asked if that could be related. Commissioner Winters stated that he has not seen anything of that nature. In fact, he stated to the contrary that the Highway Department has a good group of people working here and intentional vandalism is not occurring.
- Chairman Robl stated that he attended a meeting last week at Liberty Hall in Kimberly. He said they were informed there that it’s unlikely the USH 10/441 project will be delayed.
- Supervisor Albrecht questioned why several Highway Department employees were at the recent county board meeting but did not speak after he gave them several opportunities. Commissioner Winters stated he was told they were there observing the meeting, and in support of the County providing a work rules handbook.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary