

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: February 20, 2012

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

EXCUSED: Tim Hamblin, Highway Committee Member

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive
William Anthes, Winnebago County Sheriff's Dept.
Tony Daley, Berlin Journal
Harrison Sturgis

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 February 6, 2012 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.

Commissioner Winters distributed a memo to the committee members containing options to build or postpone the construction of the CTH K Bridge in Eureka. Commissioner Winters stated after holding many meetings and discussions with the WisDOT and design consultants and due to the impending deadline for bid letting, it is his recommendation to hold off the project this year and consider the changes that would increase the structure's height. Mr. Winters stated the WisDOT informed him that they are willing to consider lifting the cap on funding and would provide 80% of the construction costs to accommodate the design changes. Mr. Winters was informed by bridge contractors that the construction cost may be lower in 2013 due to the fact they are very busy in 2012, but will have more time next year to complete the project. Commissioner Winters stated if they decide to go forth this year he is not confident that the project would get completed this fall due to the lateness of the bid letting and fact the contractors are busy with other projects. The Committee members voiced their concerns for the area farmers and how postponing the project may affect them. Commissioner Winters stated if a decision is made today he will send out an informational letter notifying the public of the project delay. Supervisor Egan stated he is unhappy that nobody from the City of Berlin made the effort to attend any of the committee meetings in person to discuss this issue since they are the ones requesting the design changes. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Warnke to delay the construction of the CTH K Bridge in Eureka one year having a bid letting in the fall of 2012 with construction in 2013 based on the recommendation of Commissioner Winters. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Egan. Motion carried 3-1. Ayes - Robl, Egan, Warnke. Nay -Albrecht.

The Fox Cities Bike and Pedestrian Trail Study was discussed. Commissioner Winters stated when the agreement was originally penned Winnebago County, as the sponsor, was supposed to incur no out of pocket costs. Now Federal Transportation is requiring some local contribution. After meeting with the WisDOT and East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, it was decided that that ECWRPC would pay the entire cost through Winnebago County. Supervisor Albrecht stated this would have to go before the ECWRPC board for their approval. Commissioner Winters stated he will bring this item back to a future meeting after he has the necessary paperwork.

Commissioner Winters stated he was contacted by one of the staff from Dermatology Associates located on Rockwood Lane in the Town of Neenah regarding the poor condition of the apron between the road and the recreational trail located along CTH CB. Mr. Winters stated that due to the fact that the developer did not meet the necessary requirements, Rockwood Lane was not accepted by the Town of Neenah. Commissioner Winters stated he is investigating who is responsible for the maintenance of the CTH CB trail and will report back on this item.

General Operations:

- The WisDOT has requested to attend a future Highway Committee Meeting to update them on area projects. Commissioner Winters stated he will schedule them for one of the meetings in March.
- There will be meetings held this Thursday, February 23rd at the Highway Department regarding the USH 41/STH 21 project. The business meeting will be held at noon, the public portion at 5:00 p.m.
- The Fox Valley Technical College has informed Commissioner Winters of a proposed addition to their campus located on CTH I in Oshkosh. Additional roof and parking areas may complicate drainage issues in that area. Commissioner Winters is working with the City of Oshkosh to address this issue.
- Commissioner Winters informed the committee that three times this winter season there were individuals who confronted the department's snowplow operators. Mr. Winters stated he has discussed this with the Sheriff's Department and informed his drivers if they are approached by any individuals in a threatening manner that they are to call the Sheriff's Department immediately.
- The Secretary of Transportation is scheduled to attend a statewide safety event in observance of Work Zone Awareness week. The event is scheduled to be held at the Winnebago County Highway Commission near the memorial built in honor of the two employees fatally injured while working along USH 41 in 2006. Commissioner Winters advised the committee members if any of them would like to be present or speak at the ceremony they are welcome to do so. Supervisor Albrecht stated he thinks the memorial should be improved before that time. The idea to invite the student who finished the memorial as part of obtaining his Eagle Scout rank was suggested.
- Chairman Robl inquired about the Commissioner and Committeemen's meeting. Commissioner Winters stated Winnebago County will be hosting the meeting in May of this year and asked the committee for their input as to locations. Mr. Robl stated he would like to see the event held in the Oshkosh area. Mr. Winters stated he is looking into locations.
- Supervisor Warnke asked about the budget. Commissioner Winters stated that since there were relatively few winter events in January and so far in February that to date the budget is in pretty good shape.
- Supervisor Albrecht noted that actions of the Highway Committee should not be underrated. He stated that after the committee invited local legislators to a previous meeting they were able to get the CTH T overpass built. The committee all agreed that inviting legislators to their meetings is more productive than going through the Legislative Committee.

The next regular meeting will be held on March 5, 2012.

A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary