

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: April 2, 2012

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

ALSO

PRESENT: Mayor Dick Schramer, City of Berlin  
Tony Daley, Berlin Journal Newspapers  
Robert Doemel, Highway Department  
David Peck, Friends of Fox & Berlin Boat Club  
Guy Hegg, District #27 Supervisor

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 March 19, 2012 meeting as written. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Robl asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address any agenda items at this time. Guy Hegg stated he would like to comment on agenda item #5 – the Three County Bicycle-Pedestrian Study. Mr. Hegg questioned who initiated the study and what locations were being studied. Mr. Hegg urged the committee not to approve the \$150,000 based on where the funds are coming from and stated that there are more important projects that need funding such as the Tri-County Ice Arena parking lot. Commissioner Winters explained that the project was originated by East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in conjunction with Outagamie and Calumet Counties. Mr. Winters stated that the project will be funded with federal money and no out of pocket costs will be incurred by Winnebago County. Mr. Winters stated it does not encompass any specific roads, that it's simply a planning study to determine if bike/ped paths are necessary, where to map them and to secure funding recommendations. Supervisor Albrecht stated there is a lot of objection to how these joint projects end, where nobody wants to pay their fair share and Winnebago County ends up "holding the bag". Commissioner Winters stated that the study is capped at the \$150,000 that will be paid with federal funds. A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke to approve a Three-County Bicycle-Pedestrian Study with ECWRPC for \$150,000 in grant funds. Mr. Hegg then questioned if the federal grant money is accepted what strings might be attached, such as lighting, plowing and maintaining the bike/pedestrian path. Mr. Winters stated that those are items that would be decided much later after the study determines if the trails are warranted. After further discussion Supervisor Warnke stated he would withdraw his motion until a representative from ECWRPC can attend the next meeting to explain the study further.

The CTH K Bridge project in Eureka was discussed. Dick Schramer, Mayor of Berlin, stated he had not attended the prior Highway Committee meetings to discuss this item because he was not aware of them. Mayor Schramer stated he worked with Ayres Associates staff in the past several years and thought they would be coordinating the bridge design and clearance requirements with the city before the design was completed. Supervisor Warnke asked if the City of Berlin is willing to contribute if the committee approves the \$50,000 design change. Supervisor Warnke stated that the County Board would be unlikely to support the additional \$50,000 without some monetary contribution from other entities. Mr. Schramer stated he appreciated the county being good neighbors but stated the City of Berlin is under tight budget restraints and cannot afford to participate financially in the bridge redesign. He reminded the committee that the Berlin Boat Club invested \$300,000 into the lock system and would like to see the bridge clearance set as agreed upon at the meetings. Mayor Schramer stated the bridge is outside of their jurisdiction. He stated if he was provided a cost to pay for the redesign he would approach Green Lake County and the City of Berlin to see if there's any way they can participate in the funding. David Peck stated it is important to look into the future with these projects and the potential for tourism dollars. He stated that perhaps the Friends of the Fox could apply for grant money to contribute.

Commissioner Winters stated that a decision has to be made soon so he can get confirmation from the State if they'll raise the funding cap. Mr. Winters stated that the State of Wisconsin follows a complicated timetable and time must be allowed to amend and revise all the documents in order to meet the December 2012 bid letting. Mr. Winters stated that part of the issue is that Winnebago County has no legal requirement to change the design, that everyone involved had given their blessings on the original design. He stated the current design is not considered an impediment to navigation. He also noted the \$50,000 needed to redesign the bridge is only a small portion of the 2.2 million dollar project total. Mayor Schramer stated according to State Statutes that it is reasonable and logical to have the bridge accommodate the higher clearance. Supervisor Albrecht stated if there is some funding contribution he would be in favor of making the changes to the design, otherwise with no contribution he is not. He stated that Winnebago County should not have to fund the entire cost for the redesign. Mr. Albrecht stated he would like representatives of Ayres Associates to join the next meeting to discuss this topic.

Commissioner Winters then distributed a memo he wrote recommending the design revisions to the CTH K Bridge. Supervisor Albrecht stated he would not support the request unless participation is included. Supervisor Egan stated he supports the decision and would rather pay now than pay later. Supervisor Egan stated he believes Winnebago County should send letters out trying to get funding contributions. Commissioner Winters stated in all his years in government he has never sent a letter asking for donations for a capital project. Mr. Peck stated he will approach the boating clubs he is a member of to see if they can commit to some funding. He stated he'll have an answer to the Highway Committee at their next meeting to be held on April 16<sup>th</sup>, but that two weeks is not a lot of time to do it in.

After a lengthy discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Hamblin to support approving the CTH K Bridge redesign if the people most affected by it including the Berlin Boat Club, Wisconsin Heritage Parkway, and other stakeholders are willing to contribute funding towards the redesign. Supervisor Warnke added to the motion that two weeks time would be allowed to get a commitment of funding. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Albrecht. The motion carried 4-1. Ayes – Robl, Albrecht, Hamblin, Warnke. Nay – Egan.

Commissioner Winters reported that bids were opened last week for the CTH T reconstruction project. The project limits are from CTH Y to CTH GG. The bid that came in the most favorable was submitted by Michels for \$1,405,709.17. Ayres Associates sent a recommendation to approve the bid submitted by Michels. A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht to approve the CTH T reconstruction funding including \$1,750,000 of bond proceeds and \$450,000 of CHIP-D funds. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Warnke and carried 5-0.

#### General Operations:

- Commissioner Winters stated he was planning on taking the committee members to view the new Winchester facility at the next meeting but because of their full agenda they will do it another time.
- The WisDOT notified Commissioner Winters that they may need to purchase a small sliver of right of way on the northeast corner on CTH Y near the USH 41 overpass to widen the approaches out. Mr. Winters will bring the paperwork to a future meeting.
- Commissioner Winters stated that he updated the wording on the resolution regarding Work Zone Safety Awareness Week to include all past individuals that were fatally injured in Work Zones. Supervisor Albrecht stated he thinks the department should create a memorial to recognize any employee who died while at work, not just within work zones. Commissioner Winters stated they can do that in the future.

The next regular meeting will be held on April 16, 2012.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.