

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: May 7, 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

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 April 16, 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 one present from the public today.

Chairman Robl stated he asked Commissioner Winters to add agenda item #3 to today's agenda to discuss county trunk highway maintenance and improvement priorities. Mr. Robl stated that since these projects cost a great deal of money they want to ensure they are prioritized properly, including condition of the roads and traffic volumes. Commissioner Winters distributed the current capital improvement plan and stated that he will have to submit a final five-year plan later in the year. Mr. Winters also showed a highlighted map showing which highways are slated for mill and pave projects and which are going to have full reconstructions. Supervisor Albrecht joined the meeting. Commissioner Winters stated he pushed back purchasing the right of way along CTH A, and the Eureka Bridge reconstruction project from 2012 into 2013. Supervisor Albrecht questioned if Commissioner Winters has projects on the shelf should money become available from other sources. Commissioner Winters asked if the committee wished to adopt a different philosophy regarding that process. Mr. Albrecht stated absolutely not, to continue with the process that has worked well in the past.

Supervisor Egan asked how the department intends to protect CTH M from the constant truck traffic hauling from the mega dairy. He stated that the towns of Rushford and Poygan will be putting on weight limit restrictions to protect their town roads which will most likely cause all the truck traffic to use the county roads. Supervisor Hamblin stated it is their job to make sure the investment put into Winnebago County roads is not ruined by that type of hauling. Commissioner Winters stated that some other counties have agreements in place with large haulers to adhere to weight limits or have them help pay costs to maintain the roads.

Commissioner Winters stated the five-year capital improvement plan will be addressed at a future meeting. He also stated he will be seeking input from the committee on the CTH A right of way acquisition project.

The Town Bridge Aid Program was discussed. Supervisor Egan stated that he gave a presentation at the local town's association meeting regarding the bridge aid policy and asked for their input. To date he has not heard anything back. Commissioner Winters stated he read the State Statutes regarding putting a limit on the amount of commitment that could be requested on the bridge aid. He stated he'll discuss this item with Corporation Counsel Bodnar.

General Operations:

- Chairman Robl stated the Commissioners and Committee Members meeting last Thursday hosted by Winnebago County went well. The committee members who attended the meeting agreed that the meeting, location of LaSure's Banquet Hall, and food were all good.
- Chairman Robl asked how much work the department has from the towns. Commissioner Winters stated that the department has a fair amount of work, similar to past years.

- Commissioner Winters reported that the crews have been busy the last several days cleaning up after the flooding. Nearly 6" of rain was received last Thursday and Friday. He stated that there was no major damage, mostly shoulder wash outs.
- The CTH "T" pre-construction meeting was held last week. There will be public informational meetings held every Tuesday at the Highway Dept at 10:00 a.m. The reconstruction project is scheduled to begin this week. The bid was awarded to Michels Materials.
- Commissioner Winters stated there will be an opportunity to submit an application for a TIP (Transportation Improvement Planning) project. There will also be a safety program that includes intersections and signals to improve safety. Supervisor Warnke stated he is still waiting for flashing stops signs at the intersection of CTH I and CTH N. He stated the signs are necessary at this location due to the reduced visibility at sunrise and sunset and heavy traffic during EAA. Commissioner Winters stated the cost for the solar stops signs are \$1,700 each not including any ongoing maintenance costs, and asked what criteria should be used to determine placement. Supervisor Warnke stated he believes in this case they're warranted based on complaints from citizens, past accident data and the fact that it could eliminate a roundabout at that intersection that neighbors do not want constructed. Supervisor Egan added that he does not believe in waiting until after an accident happens to make necessary changes. Flashing stop signs will be addressed at the next committee meeting.
- Chairman Robl questioned if the department will be doing chip sealing for other counties. Commissioner Winters stated he believes the department has some work lined up. Supervisor Hamblin suggested Commissioner Winters contact the Facilities Director, and the Airport Director regarding doing some other work for them.
- Supervisor Albrecht informed Commissioner Winters that he is doing a good job after five months in the position, and stated the most important part of his job should be to keep up the infrastructure.

Commissioner Winters asked if any of the committee members wanted to go view the new Winchester facility. None of the committee members wished to go today.

A motion was made by Supervisor Hamblin, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer  
Highway Secretary