

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: May 28, 2013

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Chairman
Dave Albrecht, Highway Committee Member
Robert Warnke, 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
Bill Demler, Highway Maintenance Superintendent
Bill Anthes, Winnebago County Sheriff's Dept.
Todd Christie, 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 Egan, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2013 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 public input.

Commissioner Winters distributed a list of the Highway Department's proposed summer projects. A discussion was held regarding the following projects:

- The reconstruction of the Eureka Bridge on CTH K. This project is starting today.
- The CTH M reconstruction project should begin this week.
- Design of the CTH G Bridge.
- Design of the CTH I & N intersection and design of CTH I from CTH N north to the city limits.
- Design of the CTH N Bridge west of James Road. Bill Demler stated there are currently four 5' culverts that will be replaced with one structure to match Clairville Road.
- Mill and pave an approximate 3 mile section of CTH I from CTH N to CTH Z.
- Mill and pave a 5.5 mile section of CTH FF.
- Chip seal a 2.5 mile section of CTH JJ.
- Chip seal a 4 mile section of CTH II.
- Culvert replacements on CTH Z.
- The department will also be doing a mill and pave project for the town of Utica; a TRIP project on Maple Road for the Town of Neenah; and five culvert replacements as part of the County Aid program for the towns of Neenah, Clayton, Vinland, Winneconne and Omro. More town projects may be forthcoming as the Superintendents complete their road surveys with the towns.
- The Highway Department will also be performing a project on the tennis courts for the Parks Department and a parking lot and driveway project at UWFV. There will also be jobs performed for the WisDOT including the USH 10 mud jacking currently underway.

The Sheriff's Department propane project was discussed. Commissioner Winters informed the Committee that he recently attended a meeting with Sheriff Matz and some of his staff; Mike Elder, Facilities & Property Management Director; and a vendor to discuss using propane gas to fuel vehicles. If the cost savings is significant the Highway Department may be interested in adding some propane vehicles into their fleet. At the present time it would most likely be limited to smaller pickup trucks and one-ton vehicles. Vehicles would have to be purchased special or retrofitted to accommodate the dual propane/gasoline system. Mr. Winters stated that a propane fueling station would be necessary, so it seems to make sense to build it on Highway Department property where there is more available room. Supervisor Egan questioned if the same thing would happen as the current fuel system, where the Highway

Department houses fuel in their tanks but other departments go to local gas stations to buy it rather than from Highway. Mr. Winters stated that the propane program would be run by a vendor, not the Highway Department. Mr. Egan also inquired who would be responsible for billing the departments for the propane. Commissioner Winters stated he feels the Highway Department should at least try out the propane program with a couple small pickups and one-ton trucks.

Supervisor Albrecht stated that he is asking the Highway Committee to support grandfathering in truck weight limits on USH 41 as it becomes an interstate in 2014. If the grandfather language is not adopted trucks weighing over 80,000 lbs. will be forced to travel county and local roads not suited for their large size and weight. Mr. Albrecht stated that for commerce reasons all the communities up and down the valley are in favor of allowing trucks currently operating on USH 41 to continue with the heavier weight. After discussion a motion was made by Chairman Robl, seconded by Supervisor Albrecht, to approve supporting grandfathering in truck weight limits on USH 41 through the USH 41 interstate conversion process. Motion carried 4-0.

General Operations:

- Commissioner Winters reminded the committee about the Summer Highway Conference next week. He asked if the committee approves of giving Chairman Robl proxy voting authorization at the conference. All members stated their approval.
- A copy of the recent WisDOT newsletter was distributed.
- Commissioner Winters stated he recently met with Town of Oshkosh representatives who are unhappy with the work contractors performed for the City of Oshkosh in creating a quiet zone at the railroad tracks on Snell Road. Mr. Demler stated the end result is too steep a slope and the fear that a vehicle leaving the roadway could roll over. The contractor is supposed to be correcting it.
- Commissioner Winters distributed copies of a letter addressed to the Joint Committee on Finance addressing the transportation budget debate. He stated the results contain good news including increasing the funding for Routine Maintenance Agreements with counties by 52 million dollars through 2015; increasing the General Transportation Aids by 2.5%; and the fact that the Transportation Projects Commission no longer must remove certain enumerated major highway projects, meaning the USH 10/441 project should remain where it originally was.
- Commissioner Winters attended a meeting at Park View regarding drainage issues during heavy rains. A study will be done to determine where the water is coming from and why it is flooding.
- Chairman Robl asked about a report he heard that the Winneconne Bridge was stuck open during the weekend. Mr. Winters stated that due to mechanical issues it was stuck in the open position for about one hour. He also stated later that same day the Oregon Street Bridge gates were struck by a motorist.

Due to the Summer Highway Conference next week, the next regular Highway Committee meeting will be held on Monday, June 10th.

A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary