

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: June 17, 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
Tim Hamblin, 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 Egan, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2013 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. There was no public input.

Commissioner Winters distributed an outline of the key state transportation budget issues and how they relate to the Highway Department. Some of the items discussed were the additional \$52 million dollars for State highway maintenance the Counties will receive in the second year of the biennium; the 4% increase of General Transportation Aids in 2015; the fact that the DOT will be adding 180 new engineering positions; and funding to keep the LRIP program at its current levels.

Commissioner Winters also stated his concerns on how a signed memo of understanding will impact the department. The agreement allows the WisDOT to conduct a study on how the counties do maintenance work for the state. This could potentially change how business is done with the WisDOT and could have a significant financial impact should they decide to hire more private contractors to do their mowing, signing, litter pick up, etc. Mr. Winters stated this is being driven by the WCHA executive committee and board and he considers it a real possibility that counties may lose a lot of state maintenance funding. After discussion Supervisor Warnke advised Commissioner Winters to keep up the fight and not give up. Mr. Winters stated he intends to do what he thinks is right for the department.

The 2014 County Highway Budget was discussed. Commissioner Winters stated that he will be requesting to add an additional person to the department next year. The majority of the cost for the new employee will be covered by the additional state maintenance funding since that person will be assigned to a state section. Increasing staff is necessary to cover the additional lane miles of highway after completion of the USH 41 expansion and STH 45 projects. No additional equipment is necessary. Mr. Winters stated that he is completing his budget now and will bring it to a future meeting for the committee's approval.

General Operations:

- Commissioner Winters stated that he has received several requests from the towns for culvert aid for next year.
- Mr. Winters stated that Harrison Sturgis Jr. is moving forward on a new access point on CTH CB. He will need to submit a permit application and match the existing access across the street.
- WisDOT will be hosting a local officials meeting on the WIS 441 project tomorrow from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. It will be held at the Town of Menasha Municipal Complex. There will be a public informational meeting on the same topic on June 25th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Butte des Morts Elementary school in Menasha.
- WisDOT will also be hosting a public informational meeting at the Highway Department facility tomorrow night regarding the CTH G, GG, and Y overpasses in Winnebago County. The open house is scheduled from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. with a brief presentation at 5:15 p.m.
- The quiet zone project on the northwest quadrant of Snell Road was discussed. The contractor hired by the City of Oshkosh constructed the project too steeply, which could lead to vehicles rolling over should they leave the roadway. To remedy the issue the Highway Department will be installing beam guard charged to the City.

- Commissioner Winters stated he was questioned recently whether there are legal requirements stating trucks must have back up alarms. Mr. Winters stated he investigated the issue and found that there is no State or Federal traffic law requiring them but OSHA requires there must be an alarm or a spotter behind each truck.
- Chairman Robl inquired about the work on STH 44 at USH 41. Commissioner Winters informed him that there was a structural crack in the STH 44 abutment that the DOT is correcting. The work is supposed to be done before the EAA convention.
- Commissioner Winters informed the Committee that he had to release an employee last week. He stated the employee was counseled a couple times but could not meet department rules. The vacant job has been posted.
- Commissioner Winters attended a ribbon cutting on the USH 41 Butte des Morts Bridge last week. The work should be completed on that project in 4-5 weeks.
- Chairman Robl inquired if the towns are requesting the Highway Department perform work for them this year. Mr. Winters stated that the Superintendents are still compiling estimates for some of the towns but that the department is in good shape with work and will be busy this summer.
- Commissioner Winters distributed a copy of a letter written by Governor Walker requesting the federal government allow trucks currently carrying loads greater than 80,000 lbs and operating on USH 41 to continue when the road is converted to an interstate.
- The CTH I mill and pave project from CTH N to CTH Z began today. Commissioner Winters is applying for funding for the next portion of CTH I from the City of Oshkosh to CTH N.
- The CTH M project from STH 44 to the south county line is underway. Construction began on the south end so most of the construction is in Fond du Lac County at this time.
- Commissioner Winters distributed copies of a letter he received from the WisDOT regarding STH 26. This summer the DOT will be performing a traffic operations, speed and safety study of STH 26 from STH 151 to USH 41. The letter suggests they will take into consideration the committee's suggestion of installing message boards to alert traffic of incidents, road construction, etc.
- Supervisor Albrecht stated that Supervisor Warnke did a good job getting the lighted four way stop signs at the intersection of CTH I and CTH N. Supervisor Egan stated that he was told by the Town of Black Wolf Chairman that they appreciate them also.
- Supervisor Hamblin inquired if the Highway Department will be involved with the new parking lot at Park View. Commissioner Winters stated he would like the opportunity to do so but nobody has mentioned it to him yet. The Sheriff's Department may also be expanding their parking lot if the funding gets approved. The Highway Department would like a chance to get that work also.
- Supervisor Egan asked when the STH 116 project would begin. Commissioner Winters stated that project should be getting underway in the next week or two.

The next meeting of the Highway Committee will be held on July 1st.

A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary