

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: July 16, 2012

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive
John Haese, OMNNI Associates
Loanne Owens-Flaig, Highway Dept. Office Manager
Jamey Gosz, Highway Dept. Shop Superintendent

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 A.M. A motion was made by Supervisor Hamblin, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to approve the minutes of the July 2, 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. John Haese, OMNNI Associates, stated he stopped in to say hello to the committee members. Mr. Haese thanked the committee for allowing OMNNI to perform work for them in the past and asked that they keep his firm in mind for future projects. Mr. Haese then left the meeting. Supervisor Egan joined the meeting.

Commissioner Winters updated the committee members on the proposed capital improvement project at CTH I and CTH N. Mr. Winters stated that the proposed roundabout has not met with much popularity from the neighboring residents or the City of Oshkosh staff. To date the cost for designing the roundabout at this location totals approximately \$25,000. That includes survey and drainage work. It will cost approximately \$20,000-\$30,000 to update the design to a standard type intersection. The cost to construct a roundabout is estimated at \$1.5 million dollars, and a standard intersection with signals, which are not needed at this location, costs approximately \$1 million dollars. Commissioner Winters stated he feels that the residents who pay taxes in the area should have some input on the decision. He stated that since the intersection has been a four-way stop, accidents have decreased. He would recommend that the intersection be built as a 4-way controlled intersection instead of a roundabout. After discussion, the committee members all agreed that a roundabout should not be constructed at the intersection of CTH I and CTH N, that the area will be constructed as a standard 4-way stop marked with flashing stop signs.

Commissioner Winters distributed packets to the committee members regarding the preliminary 2013 budget. A discussion was held regarding the requested capital equipment purchases. Some of the larger items to be replaced in 2013 are a tri-axle truck and the asphalt paver. Both items are replacing older units that have been fully depreciated. All equipment purchases are supported strictly by Highway Fund revenues. Supervisor Albrecht questioned if all the equipment listed is necessary since the department is losing a large percentage of work due to Act 10 limiting the amount of work that the department can perform outside the county. Commissioner Winters stated the department can still perform maintenance work for other entities, but are not supposed to perform construction projects. He stated the equipment is still necessary to keep the department running effectively. Superintendent Gosz explained that the amount budgeted for equipment purchases has not increased in many years even though the cost of the equipment has risen dramatically.

The committee also discussed the proposed 2013 budget revenues and expenses. Loanne Owens-Flaig, Highway Department Office Manager, explained her worksheets outlining each category. Ms. Owens-Flaig stated currently the department has a cash balance of approximately \$800,000. She would prefer to see a balance of \$1 million in reserves. The milder winter caused there to be less revenue for the department. For the 2013 budget, the department intends to request that the County Executive not transfer as much money out of the Highway Fund to offset the tax levy. Supervisor Albrecht stated that the 2013 County Road Maintenance total on the worksheet should be increased by \$72,000 to match the 2012 budget. Mr. Albrecht stated that too much money had been taken from the Highway Fund in the past and has now put the department in a bad situation for years to come. Mr. Albrecht stated that he does not agree with it. Commissioner Winters stated that the funding taken was approved by county board and that it could have been stopped by the county board, but was not. Commissioner Winters stated he will bring the 2013 budget back to a future meeting in its final form.

General Operations:

- ❖ Commissioner Winters reminded the committee of the bike/pedestrian kick-off meeting to be held by ECWRPC on July 19th.
- ❖ Commissioner Winters reported that even with the extreme hot weather recently, there have been few pavement blow-ups, and no major problems with motorists.
- ❖ The CTH H paving job is coming along well.
- ❖ The CTH T project is progressing ahead of schedule. The paving should commence by the end of the month.
- ❖ Commissioner Winters met with representatives of GRAEF & Assoc. regarding the CTH G project. If the County Board approves the project the bridge design will start in the next couple weeks.
- ❖ Supervisor Egan stated he was contacted by some constituents regarding a walking bridge that was removed in Waukau on Hwy 116. They asked if they did the work themselves if they could put the bridge back in. Commissioner Winters stated that he would have to check with the WisDOT since it is on a state highway.

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

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary