

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: August 19, 2013

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

EXCUSED: Dave Albrecht, Highway Committee Member

ALSO

PRESENT: Mike Exferd, Mead & Hunt Inc.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 A.M. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to approve the minutes of the August 5, 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. Mike Exferd, Mead & Hunt Inc., said he stopped in to say hello to the committee. He stated the firm of Mead & Hunt has enjoyed working with Winnebago County in the past and is willing do any design, construction, or maintenance projects for them in the future. Mr. Exferd then left the meeting.

Commissioner Winters distributed a letter written by the Chairman of the Racine County Government Services. The letter outlines their support for using State transportation dollars for transportation issues only. It also voices their concerns that the State does not provide enough funding to the counties to perform maintenance on the current state highway system. Commissioner Winters asked the Committee if he should draft a letter to the Governor echoing the fact that additional routine maintenance funds are necessary. After discussion the Committee members agreed letters should be sent from the Highway Committee and the full County Board emphasizing the economic importance of maintaining the local infrastructure.

A WisDOT study of overweight vehicles was discussed. Commissioner Winters stated a detailed study was conducted with the agricultural industry showing the impact of hauling overweight loads and the damage it does to roads. The study could possibly lead to a certification or permit process for oversize vehicles with fines being charged for non-compliance. In the future the Highway Department may model a County policy after the State program.

General Operations:

- Commissioner Winters reported the Canadian National Railroad will have the railroad bridge closed in Oshkosh this week. Since there will be no train traffic they decided to fix the crossing on CTH "GG" at the same time. CTH "GG" will be closed through the end of this week.
- Recently when the Town of Winchester had some survey work completed to redo their fire station/town building in Larsen they discovered two very small right-of-way encroachments to CTH "T". Commissioner Winters stated the town may be required to submit a revocable occupancy permit, which holds the County harmless. The paperwork has been sent to Corporation Counsel Bodnar for his review. Supervisor Egan questioned if a quit claim deed could be done. Commissioner Winters informed him the County may need the land when CTH "T" is upgraded in the future.
- The USH 41 interstate conversion study has been completed. There are some upcoming meetings scheduled including one in Fond du Lac on September 11th. The largest impact in Winnebago County will be to businesses located along the corridor, where signing upgrades will be necessary.

- Commissioner Winters reported that he will be attending a Town Plan Commission meeting in the Town of Rushford on September 25th. At that time the Eureka Bridge on CTH "K" will be viewed. Supervisor Egan questioned why an additional \$13,500 was added to the project. Commissioner Winters explained that the scope of the project changed slightly with additional work necessary around the piers. He stated there were also some deductions for unused sheeting. He stated any time you have a large project like this there are often adjustments to be made but that this project is still within budget. The project is scheduled to be completed by late October or early November.
- The CTH "M" project is progressing. Commissioner Winters stated there were a couple issues, including encountering rock, but those are being addressed. He also reported that a portion of CTH "M" will be closed this week just south of the Winnebago County line for a box culvert replacement.
- Commissioner Winters informed the Committee that the HR Director has completed the draft of the new work rules. They should be coming before the County Board in the next couple months. Mr. Winters stated there are a few minor issues he hopes will be addressed.
- Supervisor Warnke stated he attended the STH 26 Controlled Access meeting in July. He suggested that the Committee write a letter to Congressman Petri and Senator Baldwin reminding them that something should be done to improve the safety on STH 26, including message boards. He also suggested that Commissioner Winters address this issue with the Safety Commission.
- Supervisor Egan asked if there are any updates on the proposed West Side Arterial. Commissioner Winters stated he is waiting to hear from the City of Oshkosh. Supervisor Egan stated perhaps if no progress is made by the City of Oshkosh the County should pull their funding for this project.

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, September 5th at 9:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary