

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: September 17, 2012

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive

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 September 6, 2012 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. Supervisor Albrecht informed the committee that he received a request to install flashing stop signs at the intersection of CTH Z/CTH I following an accident at that location recently. The lights would be similar to those installed at the intersection of CTH I/CTH N.

The County Trunk Highway Access Control Ordinance was discussed. Commissioner Winters stated he made some additions to the ordinance including addressing private roads, farm access points, and converting farm accesses to residential. Supervisor Egan questioned if existing accesses would be grandfathered in under this new ordinance. Commissioner Winters stated they typically are grandfathered in as long as they do not create a traffic or safety hazard. If that is the case then each access would be addressed on a case by case basis. Commissioner Winters asked the committee to continue reviewing the ordinance changes and contact him with any questions or comments. It will then be brought to a future meeting for approval before being presented to the full county board. Commissioner Winters stated Corporation Counsel Bodnar is also reviewing the document.

The Proposed Highway Capital Improvement Program for 2013 was discussed in length. Supervisor Albrecht asked how the budget review meeting went with County Executive Harris. Both Mr. Winters and Chairman Robl stated they felt the meeting went well. Commissioner Winters stated that last year over \$500,000 was deducted from the Highway Fund to offset the tax levy. This year he was able to get that number reduced to \$150,000.

Supervisor Albrecht inquired how the towns who don't sign the maintenance agreement will be handled. Commissioner Winters stated that even if a town does not sign a contract, the department will assist them whenever possible where staffing and equipment levels allow. Chairman Robl stated he is 100% in favor of working with the towns whenever possible. Supervisor Egan stated that even though the Town of Rushford does not contract with the Highway Department, that they are pleased with the cooperation and good working relationship between the town and both Commissioner Winters and Superintendent Groth.

After reviewing the Equipment Capital Outlay Summary for 2013 Supervisor Egan asked what happens to the department's old equipment. Commissioner Winters informed them that the equipment is first offered for trade-in on the new purchases and if that's not feasible it is sold, sometimes to other departments or at auction.

General Operations:

- The Committee discussed sending a letter to the property owner along Rockwood Lane requesting they produce their copy of a driveway permit they claim to hold permitting that access. The Committee agreed that if the permit is not provided, the department should go under the assumption it does not exist and proceed as usual.
- Commissioner Winters distributed the Winter Highway Conference information to the committee members.
- The WisDOT is starting design work on STH 76 between USH 41 and CTH JJ. It may be several years before the construction begins.
- The Highway Department will be holding a confrontation training course for the employees. Last winter several employees were approached by the public in a threatening manner and this training will teach them how to respond. This same training is provided to the Sheriff's Department employees.
- Commissioner Winters reported that CTH T is now open, with only small odds and ends needed to finish up the project. The projects on CTH H and CTH M are in good shape and are nearly completed as well. He stated there is also some town and county work to finish up this fall.

The next regular meeting will be held on October 1, 2012.

A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer  
Highway Secretary