

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: October 7, 2013

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

EXCUSED: Tim Hamblin, Highway Committee Member

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive
Harry Sturgis, Town of Neenah citizen

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 A.M. A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Egan to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2013 meeting as written. Motion carried 3-0.

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. Supervisor Albrecht joined the meeting.

Commissioner Winters informed the committee that a developer is requesting a drainage easement to the Highway Department property located on CTH Y. A letter in the file shows that this same request was made approximately 10 years ago and denied from the previous commissioner. The Committee viewed a map showing the proposed multi-family development with storage units would be built running from STH 76 westerly to the back lot line of the Highway property. The plan shows that water from the development would drain west to a pond and then to the wetlands located along CTH Y. Commissioner Winters stated he is concerned because CTH Y is so flat and has a previous history of flooding. He stated that roadside ditches are intended to drain water from the roads, not from developments. Mr. Winters informed the Committee that he will continue researching the issue and may bring back to a future meeting.

The intersection of CTH CB and Oakridge Road was discussed. Commissioner Winters stated that he received complaints regarding this intersection so a traffic safety analysis was ordered to view the changes from the study performed 5-6 years ago. The current study showed an increase in traffic volume as was expected. The accident history for this location had declined earlier but is rising again. The data still does not meet warrants for traffic signals at this location. Commissioner Winters stated that eventually something may have to be done at this intersection including possibly cutting down the hill for visibility, or adding additional signage. Mr. Winters stated that his recommendation at this time is to monitor the location and perhaps in a year or two lower the hill or add signals if problems persist.

Commissioner Winters informed the Committee that when the WisDOT offered to provide an additional 50 million dollars of routine maintenance funding to the counties, it had a memo of understanding attached stating the counties agreed to support the DOT doing Performance Based Maintenance Projects. Commissioner Winters stated he is not really in agreement with this and is now part of an oversight committee. Mr. Winters stated this practice has the potential to severely change how counties have interacted with the State over the last 80 years. Mr. Winters stated he understands the DOT wanting to receive the most cost effective service for their maintenance dollars but fears the relationship between the counties and State could change in the future when they try to regionalize work. Supervisor Egan stated if any changes must be made in the future he believes top priority should be given to Winnebago County before the State. Supervisor Warnke applauded Commissioner Winters for standing up for what he believes in on this issue. Commissioner Winters stated he will keep the committee updated on this issue.

General Operations:

- Commissioner Winters distributed copies of letters that were sent to Congressman Petri and Governor Walker regarding transportation issues.
- There will be a public hearing on the reconstruction of the Winneconne Bridge. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9th at Winneconne Elementary School in Winneconne.
- The CTH K Eureka Bridge project is on schedule and expected to be done by the projected completion date of mid November. Supervisor Egan questioned why the lights are not operational. Mr. Egan also asked if town residents could hold a small grand opening for locals upon completion of the project. Mr. Winters stated he didn't see a problem with this but will verify with the WisDOT.
- Chairman Robl asked Harrison Sturgis if he had anything to address the Committee on. Mr. Sturgis stated he was attending for the CTH CB/Oakridge Road intersection item. He also distributed copies of letters he had written to Commissioner Winters regarding the CTH CB/Rockwood Lane intersection. Mr. Sturgis requested formal approval of the intersection he recently had constructed at CTH CB and Rockwood Lane. Commissioner Winters informed him that the approved permit issued by the Highway Department should be sufficient but stated he will put something in writing for Mr. Sturgis showing the intersection was built to standard.
- Commissioner Winters distributed copies of a summary from WisDOT on the Oneida St. project at CTH AP.
- A formal dedication for the Wiouwash trail crossing Lake Butte des Morts along US 41 will be held on Saturday, October 12th.
- Chairman Robl stated he attended a meeting hosted by the WisDOT regarding the 441/10 project. He stated the project is scheduled to begin in May 2014 and will include adding a new bridge on the south side of the existing structure.
- Supervisor Albrecht asked that the proposed Oshkosh area west side arterial be included on the next meeting agenda for discussion.

A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary