

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: November 19, 2012

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Chairman
Tim Hamblin, Highway Committee Member
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member
Dave Albrecht, Highway Committee Member
Tom Egan, 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 Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to approve the minutes of the November 5, 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 stated he was informed about concern that the highway meeting agendas are not substantial enough.

The CTH M project was discussed. Commissioner Winters stated that Fond du Lac County will be reconstructing their CTH M from Winnebago County's south boundary line to the Village of Rosendale. The CTH M project located in Winnebago County is a 1.3 mile section from STH 44 south to the Fond du Lac County Line that will serve to correct curve alignment, cut down some hills, and replace the deteriorated pavement. Winnebago County's portion has been designed and the right of way acquisition completed. It is the goal to combine the two county projects in hopes of obtaining better bid prices. Discussion was held regarding whether or not additional funds are required to construct the highway in a stronger fashion to withstand the heavy truck traffic generated by the large dairy located along CTH M. Generally, the committee feels that overweight haulers like the dairy should be asked to participate in costs to repair any damage their operation causes the roadway. Supervisor Hamblin asked if a general policy should be established regarding all overweight vehicles. Commissioner Winters stated he will talk to the design engineers to see if they believe CTH M needs to be constructed heavier and what the associated costs for additional design work and construction would entail.

Highway Department insurance claims were discussed. Commissioner Winters stated that at the last County Board meeting he was questioned about the department's claims activity. AT&T submitted claims to the County where their pedestals were struck during mowing operations. Often the pedestals are not visible since they're green in color and usually hidden in tall grass. The Highway Committee members stated that there should be a policy that states it is the responsibility of the utility company to ensure that all boxes are marked appropriately.

General Operations:

- The bid opening for the CTH K Bridge in Eureka will be conducted by the WisDOT in December. There will be pre-construction meetings held in the area to notify residents of the upcoming project and planned detour. Commissioner Winters stated he plans to send out letters this winter to those that will be effected. Supervisor Egan suggested that he also mail letters to the surrounding town boards.
- The remnant parcel of property along Koeller Street near STH 21 was discussed. Commissioner Winters stated the WisDOT will work with the developer interested in the parcels after the USH 41 project is completed. If the piece now owned by the County was originally purchased by the State it will be signed over along with the State's parcel if they decide to sell. If the County purchased it on their own they will have the option to sell or retain. Commissioner Winters will bring this item back to a future meeting.
- Commissioner Winters stated the access ordinance he is updating has been reviewed by Corporation Council Bodnar. The final changes are being made and it may be for ready for review by the next Highway Committee meeting.

- There will be a Local Officials meeting regarding the Highway 21 Corridor held on November 28th from 1-3 p.m. at the Fox Valley Technical College. Commissioner Winters invited the committee members to attend.
- Commissioner Winters stated he will be attending the Legislative Committee meeting to speak about legislative issues concerning highways.
- The Sheriff's Department will be providing confrontational avoidance training in December to Highway Department employees. Employees have been subjected to a higher degree of rage by the public in recent times, especially during winter maintenance activities. The training will include verbal judo and instruct them to call sheriff's officials when they are threatened.
- Supervisor Egan stated after reading the minutes from last meeting, he's not happy that the County has to subsidize the State who's not providing enough funding to cover state maintenance. Commissioner Winters stated he's hopeful that the amount the State allocates will be increased in 2014.
- Supervisor Egan stated that he's thankful that Commissioner Winters brought his staff up to speed, and they are now working exceptionally well with the towns. He stated that Supervisor Jon Groth did an excellent job resolving some road issues for the Town of Rushford.

A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary