

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: September 18, 2023

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Chairman
Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member
Donald Nussbaum, Highway Committee Member
Ralph Harrison, Highway Committee Member
Robert Doemel, Highway Commissioner

EXCUSED: Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member

ALSO
PRESENT: Sid Opperman, 4608 CTH E, Oshkosh
Ron Miller, 4638 9th Street Rd., Oshkosh
Helene White, 4670 CTH E, Oshkosh
Henry Silva, 4688 CTH E, Oshkosh

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Harrison to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2023 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Albrecht asked for input from the public regarding the CTH E ditches. Sid Opperman stated that even though it has been a drought year, the ditches are still holding water that will not drain. There is also an issue with muskrats in the area that have destroyed the culverts and they need to be redone, and the shoulder of the road is still falling in. He is also requesting a third mowing of the area this fall. He asked if Commissioner Doemel can apply for ARPA/Spirit funds for this issue. Ron Miller stated that he agrees and is begging that the area be cleaned out. Mr. Silva and Ms. White both stated that they agree with the previous two speakers regarding the issues along CTH E.

Commissioner Doemel informed the committee members that he met with Graef USA, the engineers on the CTH T/Pioneer Road project, and representatives from Radtke Contractors. Radtke is supposed to be putting together a schedule now so the work can start immediately. Commissioner Doemel stated that he is waiting for Radtke to get back to him.

The W. Waukau Avenue design was discussed. Commissioner Doemel stated money was previously budgeted for design of the project. He met with representatives from the Airport, EAA, and the City of Oshkosh on site. The EAA representative wants to talk to his committee. The City of Oshkosh is not interested in putting storm sewer in a four-lane roadway there. It's possible a pedestrian/bike path could be separate from the road. The road could potentially have storm sewer on one side that would daylight into an open ditch. That would alleviate deep ditches in the area. Commissioner Doemel is waiting to hear back from EAA after they speak to their committee. At that time, an RFP can be issued to begin design. Supervisor Farrey asked to see the optional designs for this road. Chairman Albrecht asked if there will be any outside funding. Commissioner Doemel stated that he has already checked and found that there is no STP funding available, but he will continue to look for other sources of funding.

The following were reported as general operations:

- Commissioner Doemel informed the committee that the 2024 budget is coming up and there are a couple items regarding capital equipment to discuss. He reported that a delay in getting equipment is still an issue, and most things take at least two years to be delivered. Capital equipment requests for 2024 are as follows:
 - Winter equipment that will be installed on the five trucks that are on order. There will be over \$900,000 budgeted for the winter equipment (dump boxes, plows, wings, and sanders) for the five new trucks that are currently ordered.
 - Three additional trucks, which will also take two years to be received. One each single axle, tandem axle, and triaxle to replace three existing units. Commissioner Doemel stated he's not sure how the auto strike may affect things.
 - A skid steer with milling head to replace the current fleet which are 15-20 years old.
 - A new mower to replace an existing unit.
 - A hotbox for patching roads
 - Two foreman's trucks
 - One patrol truck

Other things that affect the budget are the increase in fuel prices, equipment rental costs, equipment part cost increases, and wages. The contractual services, such as hiring the pulverizer and milling machines on CTH F and JJ have increased. Engineering firms are raising their rates. Nearly everything across the board has increased. It makes it very hard to budget for the following year.

- Commissioner Doemel reported that the department got very tragic news recently. Our paving foreman, Paul DeLap, and his wife Pam were fatally involved in a motorcycle accident. Paul was looking to retire next spring and will be a tough person to replace. This affected the department deeply. He reported that the County Executive, his staff, and representatives from Human Services met shortly after the accident to devise a game plan. He stated that they were all fantastic through the whole process and he can't thank them enough for their support. Commissioner Doemel thanked everyone who reached out and stated that he wishes the DeLap family the best moving forward.
- Commissioner Doemel reported that during the second week of August the APWA (American Public Works Association) held a rodeo in Appleton at the Timber Rattler Stadium. They set up courses to have drivers participate showing off their skills. This year, one of our employees, Mike Gescheidle, won first place in the rodeo. He is now going to Colorado to participate in the national rodeo. The department is very excited for Mike and wish him the best out there.
- Supervisor Nussbaum stated that he received a call requesting permission to clean up the roundabout at CTH CB and Oakridge Road. Commissioner Doemel stated that Winnebago County does not have an Adopt-A-Roundabout Program due to the liability issue. There is very limited parking, and traffic control is not the same as a normal roadway. Mr. Doemel stated that he spoke to several other highway departments. Most either had the program and discontinued it or will not participate due to the liability. Commissioner Doemel stated that Corporation Counsel would have to be consulted to create a policy if the committee wishes to do so.
- Supervisor Farrey requested more detail on what is contained in the contracts that are signed with contractors, and how the county is protected when they don't perform as stated.

The next meeting of the Highway Department will be held on Monday, October 16, 2023.

A motion was made by Chairman Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Nussbaum to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.