

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: March 20, 2023

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Andy Dana, Ayres Associates
Andy Maracini, Land and Water Conservation Dept.
Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel
Sid Opperman, 4608 County Rd. E, Oshkosh
Howard Miller, 5468 Grandview Rd., Larsen
Matthew Olson, 8303 Sauby Rd., Larsen

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Nussbaum, seconded by Supervisor Egan to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2023 meeting as written. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Albrecht asked for public input on the agenda items. Matt Olson, Town of Winchester, stated that he is in attendance to support changing the wording in General Code Section 7.14.

Sidney Opperman, 4608 CTY E, informed the committee that he would like the water issue along CTH E resolved. He hopes a maintenance plan can be put in place to reduce the cattails and drainage issues.

Andy Dana, Ayres Associates, addressed the committee to give an update on the CTH P project from Midway Road to STH 47. He distributed copies of the project overview and plans. He stated that the drainage for this area will be directed into a detention pond that was constructed by the WisDOT adjacent to Hwy 10. The typical roadway sections were explained, including sidewalks, terrace, curb and gutter, bike lanes, and left turn lanes. He stated that a small amount of right-of-way may need to be acquired, along with some temporary easements. They must avoid any cemetery disruption. Construction of this project is scheduled for 2025. The Village will be doing some sanitary sewer work first. Ayres has been in contact with property owners in the area and there will be another public involvement meeting in a month or two. Mr. Dana stated the biggest problem with this project is the fact that the price has increased substantially. He stated that this project was originally estimated at \$6-7 million-dollars in 2017-18. He stated that the scope of the project has not changed, but due to the cost of materials and total industry price increases, the price is now up to \$9.2 million, and could increase more by 2025. Mr. Dana stated that he and Commissioner Doemel have looked at every option to reduce the costs. Tom Egan asked why the project wasn't done in 2017. Mr. Dana stated that they are still working on the environmental study. He stated that there are many steps that must be followed per Federal law to complete a project of this type. This project will be cost shared between the Village of Fox Crossing, the City of Menasha and Winnebago County. Commissioner Doemel plans to set up a meeting with the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) to see if there are any options. Mr. Dana left the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

Andy Maracini, GIS Specialist, Land & Water Conservation Department, addressed the committee. He stated that the DNR requires an MS4 annual report showing illicit discharges and a storm water management plan. The plan also encompasses the Parks Department regarding fertilizer rates, etc., and Planning & Zoning for erosion control. The Highway Department is responsible to report street sweepings and how much salt and brine is used during the season. Mr. Maracini stated that Winnebago County is in fairly good shape to meet their goals. He will be working with Commissioner Doemel to stay within the MS4 requirements. Mr. Maracini left the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

Changing the wording of General Code Section 7.14 (8) was brought forward. A revised copy of the ordinance created by Supervisor Miller updating Section 7.14 (8) was distributed. A motion was made by Supervisor Nussbaum to move ahead with amending the General Code Section 7.14 (8). The motion was seconded by Supervisor Farrey. Howard Miller stated that the only thing he changed from what was presented at the last meeting was the word "should" to "shall" on line 24. Commissioner Doemel stated that this is the first time there has ever been an issue. He asked how the Highway Department will determine on a town road what is "legally compliant". Supervisor Miller stated that every town has ordinances that a phone call can determine. Supervisor Egan stated he does not think it should be the Highway Department's responsibility to determine the town requirements. It was noted that the landowner should have to contact the town, and get a town permit if necessary. Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel, stated that the wording change is legal, but there are ramifications to the change, and they make the commissioner's job more difficult. Commissioner Doemel stated that this just adds one more issue to the access policy. He stated that the whole policy needs to be updated, including site stopping distances and other safety issues. The motion was carried 4-1. Supervisor Harrison voted nay.

The drainage issue along CTH E was discussed. Commissioner Doemel stated that the department agreed to mow and spray the area to control the cattails. Supervisor Egan noted that every time he goes by this area there is standing water. He realizes tiling will be expensive, but something needs to be done. Commissioner Doemel stated that there have been discussions with the Algoma Sanitary District in the past and they insist they are not to blame for the drainage problems along CTH E. Commissioner Doemel stated that no solution has been determined. He noted the county has water issues in other parts of the county as well. Supervisor Farrey asked if a professional study could be done. Supervisor Harrison asked if the area could be cut more often or excavated more. It was noted that the easiest solution for now would be to keep spraying with herbicides.

The following were reported as general operations:

- Highway Department crews are starting to remove wings off of the trucks since there is no frost left in the ground.
- There will be a PIM (Public Involvement Meeting) held on the CTH I project from south of Ripple Avenue to Waukau Avenue. The meeting will be held on April 6, 2023 at the Wittman Regional Airport at 5:00 p.m.
- Commissioner Doemel stated that two-way radios will be addressed at the County Board Meeting tomorrow night. He stated that the Highway Department's current portable radios are hard to hear. He said that it is necessary to have hard mounted radios for safety reasons. Mr. Doemel stated that the crews using their cell phone to communicate is dangerous and with three violations, they could lose their CDL. Mr. Doemel does not feel comfortable asking the drivers to violate that law. Supervisor Egan stated that Mr. Doemel should make a strong case at the County Board meeting. Commissioner Doemel stated that he would appreciate some support on this issue from the Highway Committee as well.
- Supervisor Farrey stated that the signs for CTH GG and Green Valley Road were brought to the Town of Vinland meeting. The Town of Vinland decided what they wanted installed there and said they will be paying for everything going in. Supervisor Farrey stated that he was unaware of this.
- Supervisor Egan stated he would like an item added to the next agenda regarding getting approval to purchase trucks if they become available. Mr. Egan stated that he checked out the fleet and saw how bad of shape many of the trucks are in. He suggested the rest of the committee walk into the shop to view them for themselves. He believes a contingency fund is necessary to make purchases without the time delays. Many vehicles are sold the same day as they become available so there is no time to waste. Mary Anne Mueller stated that she will check with the Finance Department to see if something like this is possible.

The next meeting of the Highway Committee is scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2023.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nussbaum, seconded by Supervisor Harrison to adjourn. The motion was carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.