

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: August 21, 2023

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

ALSO

PRESENT: Sid Opperman, 4608 CTH E, Oshkosh
Ken Nodolf, 533 CTH E, Ripon

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2023 meeting. Motion carried 4-0. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2023 meeting. Motion carried 3-1, Supervisor Nussbaum abstained.

Chairman Albrecht asked for input from the public on agenda items. Ken Nodolf stated that he is in attendance regarding flooding in his barnyard due to neighbors filling in their ditches with dirt and grass clippings. Mr. Nodolf has taken photos as well as video. He said he refuses to hire an attorney as suggested, and that if a resolution is not made, he will apply his own solution to keep things fair. Sid Opperman in attendance regarding ditch issues near his property. He states the hole has grown bigger on the shoulder part of CTH E. Mr. Opperman also requested that the ditches be mowed two additional times this year.

Commissioner Doemel provided an update on the mill and overlay project on CTH II from USH 45 to west county line. He stated the crews have finished shouldering and center-lining, the project has been completed.

The four-mile mill and overlay project on CTH F will begin on September 11, 2023. Commissioner Doemel stated that is the soonest the mill machine is available from Northeast Asphalt. After milling, a complete overlay will be done.

The mill and overlay will then start on CTH JJ as soon as CTH F has been completed. Commissioner Doemel stated this will be from STH 76 to the roundabout that was constructed last year. Supervisor Nussbaum questioned how long the project will take. Commission Doemel stated this should be completed in a day to a day and a half.

Commissioner Doemel explained that at last week's County Board meeting, the funding was approved for the overage on the CTH T project. He will be contacting the engineer today to set up a meeting with Radtke to coordinate finishing the project. The project should take around three weeks, but Radtke does have punch list that needs to be addressed on the project as well. Commissioner Doemel has been in contact with the homeowners and has a copy of the punch list items that will be added in the finish of the project. Supervisor Farrey inquired about drainage that is running into the new intersection of CTH T and Pioneer due to a big hole that has been dug. Commissioner Doemel explained that there are pipes installed under the road and the roadway will be contoured to run into the pipe. Commissioner Doemel has been working with the Finance Department looking at updates every few months regarding price increases. Supervisor Farrey suggested at a future meeting to discuss the contract process, the impact of change orders and how it impacts the contract. A general overview of how these change orders can be put in place and added to the contract. Supervisor Egan questioned if Commissioner Doemel has spoken to Radtke and what happens if Radtke's does not get the project done. Commissioner Doemel has been in contact with Radtke's, but a firm date has not been set, funding approval was required before a date could be set. Commissioner Doemel stated that monetary fines may be issued if Radtke does not finish the project. Supervisor Egan questioned if the county would be able to finish the work if Radtke's does not. Supervisor Nussbaum stated that the road is like a rollercoaster, 6-8 bad bumps. Commissioner Doemel explained that the road is elevated in areas because of curb & gutter that were placed for storm sewers.

Design of the W. Waukau Avenue/Poberezny Road to airport tower project was discussed. Correspondence dating back to 2015 between Commissioner Winters and David Patek with the City of Oshkosh, was found in the files. At that time the city had no desire to take over Waukau Avenue until a reconstruction was done. Supervisor Farrey stated that years ago it was a common practice that the county fixed/updated roads that were adjacent to the city and then they would turn the roads over to the city. Over the years he has developed a very strong concern about that process. He thinks it's better to update the road and keep it or turn it over to the city and let them update it. In Supervisor Farrey's opinion, the county has other priorities that should be looked at before that. Commissioner Doemel stated the design plans were to eliminate islands at Poberezny and Waukau, widen the road to a 4-lane urban cross-section, and have pedestrian accommodations. Chairman Albrecht stated that the farm and tractor show tore up the sides of the road. Commissioner Doemel stated that his recommendation is to meet with the City of Oshkosh, EAA, and Airport to find out everybody's needs and wants within this area, and if any funding is available. Supervisor Egan inquired if this item could be on the next agenda. Commissioner Doemel will try to get some answers before the next committee meeting for an update.

Supervisor Egan stated that CTH E has had ongoing drainage issues for years. Commissioner Doemel provided photos from Chad Casper, Land and Water, who noted "isn't a good solution to this issue". A 2012 email from Cary Rowe in Zoning noted this area is not under county jurisdiction since the town's Planning Department approved the building of the house in that location. He stated that the drainage used to go under pipe and to this area, but after the house was built it blocked the waterway. Commissioner Doemel stated the biggest issue at play is waste from a barn in the ditch. Commissioner Doemel stated there was a potential idea to disperse some of the water but there is a lot of animosity out there between neighbors. Supervisor Nussbaum questioned why we can't just clean out the ditch. Commissioner Doemel showed the photo to Supervisor Nussbaum explaining that even if the ditch was cleaned, the house and the mound system are blocking the natural flow of the water. Supervisor Nussbaum mentioned to clean out the ditch and questioned why we are allowing him to fill in the ditch. Supervisor Nussbaum questioned if there are drawings on how deep the ditch was originally. Commissioner Doemel is not aware of any design plans for CTH E. Supervisor Farrey explained private property vs. municipal property and that ditches are under municipal rules. The law states that ditches are not to be filled in. If someone filled in the ditch it is a violation of the law, it is our responsibility to enforce the ordinance, and they need to clean out the ditch. Supervisor Egan stated that the township should not have given this property owner a permit to build the house, but it is still the county ditch. Commissioner Doemel stated that the department went out there in good faith and talked to the surrounding property owners but there is bad blood out there. He does not feel it is safe to send his crews out there. There will be law enforcement necessary as this is not a good situation. Supervisor Nussbaum stated that the department should put the ditch where it is supposed to be. Supervisor Farrey agreed. He then asked if the focus of the committee is that the Highway Department goes out and cleans out the ditch. Commissioner Doemel stated that he doesn't think we want to put our crews in that position. Supervisor Nussbaum ordered Commissioner Doemel to send crews to clean out this ditch. Supervisor Farrey stated to just take a couple of squads along and that should take care of it. After further discussion, Supervisor Egan suggested that the ditch be returned to its original level. He suggested to have Mary-Ann Mueller draft a letter to the property owners informing them the county will be coming out because they filled in the ditch. Commissioner Doemel stated that would be the best route because this will be a legal issue out there.

The following were reported as general operations:

- A new truck has arrived. This is the second of the two trucks that were ordered over two years ago.
- On Tuesday, August 29, 2023, there will be a public informational meeting, at the Fox Crossing Community Center in the Maple Room from 4:30-7:00 p.m. regarding the CTH P project. This is the second and final meeting for this project. Environmental study is waiting for approval from the DOT.
- The DOT will be purchasing a high-capacity brine maker for our department. Our old brine maker is 15-17 years old. The state will purchase the brine maker then after 10 years we will purchase from the DOT for \$1.00. The old unit will be kept as a backup until they're sure the new unit functions properly.
- Supervisor Egan asked if the department had been out to look at the culverts on CTH E in the Town of Algoma. Commissioner Doemel stated that they had been there and there is a lot of the damage from woodchucks digging holes. He stated that at some point the culverts will need to be replaced or have slip liners installed. He also stated that the sink hole will be addressed.
- Supervisor Farrey stated that as a reminder, he had asked for signage on CTH GG west of the railroad tracks. He stated that a farm would like a "Farm Crossing" sign as well as some signage for the horse barn on the west side of the intersection of Woodenshoe Road & CTH GG.

The next meeting of the Highway Committee will be held on September 18, 2023.

A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Corey Merckx
Financial Associate