

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: October 17, 2022

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

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Farrey to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2022 meeting as written. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Albrecht asked for public input on the agenda items. There was none.

Commissioner Doemel updated the committee members on the drainage issues at #532 and #533 CTH E that were discussed at their previous meeting. He stated that Supervisor Farrey had the Land and Water Conservation Department review the issue. They concluded that there is no easy solution for the drainage problems at these locations. Commissioner Doemel stated that originally a nearby landowner was willing to allow the water to collect on his property, but has since changed his mind and wants nothing to do with it. Commissioner Doemel stated that at some point there will need to be a reconstruction project completed in this area. Supervisor Farrey stated that representatives from the Land and Water Dept. stated that there is no viable way to move the water except possibly a tile system. An engineering firm may need to determine if drainage tile will work. Commissioner Doemel stated that he can approach the neighbor to see if he would allow tile through their property.

Commissioner Doemel stated that the jurisdictional transfer approved at the previous meeting for County Rd. T/Pioneer Road has some minor discrepancies on the linear footage amounts stated. The jurisdictional transfer was referred back to Corporation Counsel for editing and will be brought back before the Highway Committee for approval after adjusting.

Commissioner Doemel stated that the three Freightliner trucks that were on order have been cancelled by the manufacturer due to changes to the chassis. These trucks were recently rebid. The department plans to order Western Star trucks from Quality Truck, but delivery will not take place until 2024. Supervisor Harrison asked if it is possible to order more units since it is so hard to acquire them. Commissioner Doemel stated that is determined by how much money is budgeted for capital purchases.

Winter maintenance of county parking lots was discussed. In past years, the Highway Department plowed several county parking lots and the Facilities Department shoveled the sidewalks. Since both departments are currently short staffed, it was decided to request bids to have contractors perform the functions this year. Supervisor Egan inquired if this violates the policy stating that the Highway Department must perform any parking lot work for the county. Commissioner Doemel stated that he will discuss this with Mike Elder and see if a resolution is necessary.

Commissioner Doemel informed the committee that he'd like to purchase a P1 player for the lunchroom. This unit will attach to a TV monitor to post information for the employees. Every day it will list each employee's job for the day, which piece of equipment they're using, which foreman they are assigned to, etc. This will expedite the morning process and get employees moving in a faster manner. Commissioner Doemel stated that several other counties are using this method and are getting positive results. A budget transfer of \$2,832.44 from the contingency fund will be used for the purchase. After discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Nussbaum, seconded by Chairman Albrecht to approve the budget transfer. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Doemel updated the committee on the proposed CTH FF/Zoar Road intersection project. He stated that this project was started years ago and some right-of-way has been acquired. The project contains a steep hill which limits vision. This hill needs to be cut down for site stopping distances to accommodate a 25-mph curve. If a faster speed limit is preferred, more right-of-way will need to be purchased on the north side. This project was planned for 2023 construction, but additional time will be needed to acquire additional right-of-way. Supervisor Egan stated he feels that this project needs to get done. Supervisor Farrey agreed, stating we should purchase the right-of-way and get it done as soon as possible.

The following were reported as general operations:

- The repairs to truck #99 that had the blown motor have been completed and the unit was returned last week. There are still a few minor issues to complete.
- Commissioner Doemel reported that crews are getting the trucks ready for the winter season. Before they're all switched over, there is quite a bit of paving to finish for the county, towns and the Park View parking lot. Last week crews did a scratch coat on the Pioneer Road/CTH T project. The county still needs to do the finish grade on Pioneer and the binder coat. The contractor still has a lot of work to finish. It is too late in the season for the seed to germinate.
- The employee status was reviewed. Commissioner Doemel stated that there is one equipment operator retiring in December, and one employee resigned to work for Fond du Lac County. The Highway Department was able to hire one mechanic and one more should be coming onboard. The administrative staff is reviewing other applications at this time.
- Commissioner Doemel introduced Corey Merckx, who joined the meeting today to observe. Corey started in the office a few months ago and has been a real asset to the department.
- Supervisor Egan inquired what the status was for the truck that caught fire out behind the building. Commissioner Doemel stated that it was submitted for insurance.

The next regular meeting of the Highway Committee will be on Monday, November 28, 2022.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Chairman Albrecht and carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate