

## WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: June 21, 2010

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Chairman  
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member  
Tim Hamblin, Highway Committee Member  
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member  
David Albrecht, Highway Committee Member  
John Haese, Highway Commissioner

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive  
Kathi Sawall, Town of Nekimi resident

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2010 committee meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Robl asked if there was input on any agenda items by the public. There was no input on agenda items.

Commissioner Haese stated that there is a .33 acre parcel of land that was originally a remnant of right of way from former CTH W that should be deeded to an adjoining property owner. He stated that the parcel is not needed for highway purposes, and is not a large enough parcel that it could be utilized for a building site. After discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Hamblin, seconded by Supervisor Albrecht to approve a quit claim deed for parcel 028015501 to Betty J.M. Wieckert. Motion carried 5-0.

County Executive Harris asked that the issue of funding construction and maintenance of undesignated county roads be discussed by the committee. Winnebago County has jurisdiction of several of these roads including Butler Avenue, which is basically considered an access drive for Park View Health Center and other county owned properties in that area; Waukau Avenue, which is located on the west side of the airport adjacent to Poberezny Road; and Frontier Road north of CTH G in the Town of Winneconne.

Chairman Robl asked if there is any funding available for upgrading Frontier Road to a town or county road standard. Commissioner Haese replied that there is no funding available for this type of project. He also stated that Waukau Avenue is the only road that the county receives state aid for maintenance purposes because it was formally a designated county road, old CTH XX. The County Board of Supervisors would have to approve a resolution that would allow funds to be utilized to upgrade Frontier or Butler Avenue. Supervisor Albrecht stated that a policy should be enacted to address this issue. The policy would include assessing the property owners living on these roads for all construction and maintenance costs. Once a policy is in place the issue could then be brought back before the committee. Chairman Robl stated that the committee should invite the Treasurer and the Corporation Counsel to the next Highway Committee meeting in order to answer questions regarding how and why Winnebago County would be responsible for accepting ownership of these properties and be liable to provide funding for the construction or maintenance of these roads.

Commissioner Haese stated that the Wisconsin County Highway Association (WCHA) is asking every county highway committee in the state to adopt resolutions requiring that an advisory referendum be placed on the November ballot in which the State of Wisconsin would be prevented from using the segregated transportation fund for purposes other than transportation. After discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht to approve a resolution requiring that an advisory referendum be placed on the November ballot prohibiting any future fund transfers from the State of Wisconsin segregated transportation fund to other programs. The resolution and referendum will be forwarded to Corporation Counsel for review and modifications prior to being placed on the July agenda of the County Board of Supervisors. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Egan and carried 5-0. A copy of the resolution will be forwarded to East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and the Legislative Committee.

Commissioner Haese informed the committee that there is a drainage issue on CTH E between Horseshoe Road and Clairville Road in the Town of Algoma. He explained to the committee that a recent project that was undertaken by the Town of Algoma Sanitary District has exasperated a situation in which residents who have homes on CTH E in the area of the project now have running water in their ditches. The ditches cannot be maintained properly due to the amount of water in the ditch. Commissioner Haese stated that the problem was created by the Sanitary District's construction project and that the Sanitary District should be responsible for correcting the situation that now exists in the ditches on CTH E.

Commissioner Haese stated that he contacted WisDoT in regards to an inquiry from Supervisor Jerry Finch regarding the no left turn condition that exists on STH 76 at the access to the Winnebago County Expo Racetrack and grounds. WisDoT has the authority to remove the sign or allow it to remain as is. Commissioner Haese explained that WisDoT will do a field review of the area in question and then make a decision regarding the removal of the no left turn sign in the future.

A discussion was held regarding installation of a four-way stop condition at the intersection of CTH N and CTH I. Commissioner Haese stated he has ordered two solar powered stop signs to be installed on CTH N at its intersection with CTH I. Message boards will be placed later this week to alert the traveling public about the upcoming change to the intersection. The four-way stop should be in place prior to the Fourth of July weekend. Supervisor Warnke requested that four solar powered stop signs be installed at the intersection. Commissioner Haese stated that the signs cost \$750.00 dollars a piece and would be an expensive maintenance issue if the signs are knocked down and damaged by vehicles or are vandalized or stolen. Supervisor Warnke requested that Chairman Robl include this item on the next meeting agenda. Commissioner Haese stated he was informed by the design consultant on the CTH I project that because of the number of accidents at this location Federal funds may be available to offset 80% to 90% of the total proposed amount of 1.3 million dollars for construction of the roundabout at CTH I and CTH N.

#### General Operations:

- The July Highway Committee Meetings will be held on July 6<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M.
- Commissioner Haese stated he received correspondence from a consulting firm suggesting that a transportation group from the Fox Cities area should consider making an effort to request that the Transportation Project Commission (TPC) meet in the near future in order to approve enumeration of the proposed STH 441 expansion project.
- The Wisconsin Department of Transportation informed Commissioner Haese that the segment of USH 41 from STH 26 to Witzel Avenue will consist of six lanes of pavement in 2011. WisDoT suggested that the Winnebago County Highway Department plan on having all the additional equipment and labor it will need in place in order to provide winter maintenance for the additional 5.5 of centerline miles of USH 41 in 2011. Commissioner Haese informed the committee that he had previously discussed this issue with the County Executive and the Highway Committee. Once the USH 41 Project is complete, the department will need approximately six additional employees and accompanying equipment in order to provide winter maintenance to the WisDoT for the new segments of roadway. Supervisor Egan asked about staffing needs. He inquired as to what happened to the staff that formerly plowed for the Town of Rushford. Supervisor Egan stated that Commissioner Haese told him that the department no longer wanted to do work for the town of Rushford. Commissioner Haese disagreed with Supervisor Egan's statement. He said, "when he met with the Town of Rushford Town Board several years ago he had told them, if the Town of Rushford made the decision to contract their snow removal operations with a private contractor that the department would reduce the number of employees needed to provide this service to the town. Once the work force was reduced and the number of employees on the chart of organization was also reduced the probability of the Highway Department ever getting authorization from the County Executive or the Board of Supervisors to increase the number of employees in the department would be highly unlikely. Therefore, once the town made the decision to contract with a private vendor for their winter maintenance services, the county would not be available to provide the service in the future".

Commissioner Haese stated that the six employee positions were removed from the table of organization several years ago. The department will now move forward with addressing the problem of staffing for future winter maintenance seasons in order to provide an adequate workforce to meet WisDOT's needs on USH 41 and other state highways. Supervisor Warnke then inquired about using current bridge tenders for these staff positions. Commissioner Haese suggested that the committee discuss this issue with him and the Director of Human Resources at a future meeting.

- The 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue overpass over USH 41 opened on Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The roundabout at the intersection of Murdock and Jackson Streets in the City of Oshkosh is scheduled to open Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Commissioner Haese received a copy of a letter written by the Mayor of Oshkosh to the WisDOT regarding the upcoming changes to the STH 21 interchange. The mayor expressed many concerns regarding WisDOT's plan regarding the concept of the STH 21/USH 41 interchange project.
- OMNNI Associates received feedback from area residents who attended the public informational meeting held recently regarding the CTH I project and proposed roundabout.
- The WisDOT will host a meeting regarding the proposed STH 21 corridor project. The meeting will be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Oakwood Elementary School from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Chairman Robl asked if the Highway Department has been doing much work for the towns. Commissioner Haese stated the department has done some chip sealing for the towns and will then be doing some chip sealing for several other counties including Manitowoc, Kewaunee, Outagamie and possibly Fond du Lac. The milling job on CTH E will begin tomorrow and should be completed by the end of July. The Highway Department is also completing the excavation at the Eureka Boat Landing.
- Commissioner Haese stated the department will adhere to the WisDOT's mowing policy of one cut per season in the highway median, but will mow any location that poses a safety/vision issue.
- Supervisor Hamblin questioned if there should be a pedestrian crossing sign installed along CTH II advising of the WIOUWASH trail. Commissioner Haese recommended he contact Rob Way, Parks Director on that issue.
- Supervisor Hamblin stated he was informed that in the 1950's additional right of way was purchased along CTH A and wanted to make sure the consultants working on the project are aware of it. Commissioner Haese explained that the City of Neenah has 100' of right of way that was officially mapped at that time, although the right of way has not been acquired as of this date. He stated that the consultants are aware of the right of way issues in this area.
- Commissioner Haese informed the committee members that the Highway Department would like to have the opportunity to provide quotes for all parking lot resurfacing projects in the future. The county will be repurposing the Oshkosh B'Gosh building for administrative offices. He would have liked to have been given the opportunity to provide a quote to have highway department crews perform the blacktopping work since they have all the necessary manpower and equipment, thereby potentially saving the county money. Because of the way the bid was written as a package, the blacktop resurface is part of the building upgrades and therefore highway is unable to quote. Supervisor Hamblin stated he will contact Mike Elder at Facilities & Property Management to request the bid be amended to separate the parking lot blacktopping from the building upgrades.

The next regular meeting of the Highway Committee will be held on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer  
Highway Secretary