

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: July 19, 2010

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

ALSO

PRESENT: Mark Harris, Winnebago County Executive
John Bodnar, Winnebago County Corporation Counsel
Mary Krueger, Winnebago County Treasurer
John Fink, Assistant to County Executive
Karon Kraft, Human Resource Director
Loanne Owens-Flaig, Highway Dept. Office Manager
Jen Folske, Town of Nekimi resident
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 Warnke to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2010 meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

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

John Bodnar, Corporation Counsel, and Mary Krueger, Treasurer, addressed the committee regarding questions they have regarding legal and tax issues on right of way obtained through delinquent taxes that is now owned by Winnebago County. Ms. Krueger stated that there is several road right of ways that are owned by Winnebago County due to delinquent taxes. She stated that if a parcel of land is involved in a foreclosure, she does a field review of the property in order to determine if Winnebago County should accept jurisdiction. She stated that the county is not obligated to accept ownership of the property if the parcel does not meet zoning regulations and construction standards. Ms. Krueger stated that Frontier Road in the Town of Winneconne was foreclosed on in 1983. The previous owner did not dedicate the right of way for highway purposes and the road did not meet current roadway standards. She stated that the taxes have not been paid on this property since 1977.

Mr. Bodnar stated that Frontier Road does not have a CSM and is not dedicated as a roadway even though area residents utilize it as such. He stated Winnebago County has no obligation to maintain this road. Mr. Bodnar stated it would be in the county's best interest to deed the property to the town of Winneconne. However, adjacent land owners previously informed him that they were not interested in contributing funds to improve the road to the required standards. This included widening the road to standard town road width, adding base aggregate and resurfacing with hot mix asphalt.

Winnebago County Executive Harris stated that he met with the adjoining land owners in the past who indicated to him that they would be supportive of finding a solution to this issue. Mr. Harris noted these residents pay county and town taxes, but are not given any tax based funding to maintain the road. Mr. Harris recommended Winnebago County propose a compromise to cost share in bringing the road up to town standards and then transfer jurisdiction of the roadway to the Town of Winneconne.

Supervisor Albrecht recommended referring any future questions on Frontier Road to the town since offering to cost share on upgrading Frontier Road will set a precedent for other similar situations. After further discussion it was determined that this issue should be addressed at the next highway committee meeting. Mr. Bodnar and Ms. Krueger left the meeting.

Karon Kraft, Human Resource Director, informed the committee that the county has a tentative agreement with the Bridgetenders union for 2010-2012. The agreement mandates that anyone hired as a bridgetender after 01/01/09 is required to maintain a commercial driver's license and will be expected to plow snow for the highway department on an as-needed basis in winter emergencies. A similar agreement must also be approved by the highway union and is part of their current contract negotiations. If approved, the bridgetenders would provide four additional personnel who would be available to plow snow when highway department employees are off work due to illness, workers compensation, etc. Commissioner Haese stated that by 2014-2015 the department will need four more positions to provide winter maintenance duties on the additional miles of state highways. The WisDOT informed Mr. Haese that they likely will only be able to fund the positions for winter maintenance only. After discussion Supervisor Warnke stated he would like to see all county employees cross trained and able to report to other departments when necessary. Ms. Kraft stated there will be a closed session at the upcoming county board meeting dealing with that issue.

The proposed 2011 budget was discussed. Commissioner Haese distributed copies of the 2011 County Road Maintenance and Highway Fund budget worksheets. Several line items were reviewed with the committee members. Mr. Haese stated he will have this item on all future agendas for the next several months in order to allow committee members to review and comment on the budget for 2011. County Executive Harris stated that he made a conservative effort to arrive at the 2% budget decrease in the best interest of Winnebago County. He stated that the 2011 budget may reflect the maximum for future budget years and due to less state funding budgets may be further decreased.

General Operations:

- The Highway Department is continuing this week to install an asphalt binder mat on CTH E from STH 116 to the county line.
- The CTH D project will begin today.
- The department continues mowing operations and will address the median areas prior to EAA next week.
- Winnebago County will continue chip sealing work with Outagamie, Manitowoc, Kewaunee, Door and Waupaca County.
- Commissioner Haese stated that he will be meeting tomorrow with staff from East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the City of Oshkosh and Town of Nekimi to discuss the latest map regarding the proposed Oshkosh area West Side Arterial. He will provide any new information at the next highway meeting.
- Supervisor Warnke questioned the four-way stop at the intersection of CTH I and CTH N. Commissioner Haese stated there are solar powered stop ahead and stop signs on CTH I and solar powered stop ahead signs on CTH N and Fisk Avenue. He stated the current set up is working well and that there is adequate signage. Supervisor Albrecht stated he was told by a constituent that installing a four-way stop at this location was the best thing the county could have done.
- Chairman Robl asked the County Executive if a meeting had been scheduled between the Highway and Facilities Departments regarding the paving of county owned parking lots. Mr. Robl stated he believes the Highway Department should do all maintenance on any county owned parking lot. The Highway Department has the expertise and is capable of providing the labor and equipment necessary to complete these projects. Mr. Harris stated that the bid for restoration of the administration building parking lot was separated from the overall bid in order to allow the Highway Department to submit an estimate on the project. Commissioner Haese requested that his department at least have the courtesy and opportunity to submit quotes on these projects.

Being there was no further business; a motion was made by Supervisor Hamblin, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.