

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: October 19, 2009

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive
Jeanette Diakoff, Town of Algoma
Rick Satterlee, Ayres Associates
Loanne Owens-Flaig, Hwy Dept. Office Manager

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Sievert, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2009 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0. Supervisor Albrecht entered the meeting.

Chairman Robl asked for input from anyone who wanted to address any item listed on the agenda. Ms. Diakoff distributed copies of a drawing to the Committee members representing the intersection of CTH E at Oakwood Road. Ms. Diakoff is requesting the addition of pavement markings westbound on CTH E at the Oakwood Road intersection. She stated that there are signs directing the two lanes of traffic from Witzel Avenue across Oakwood Road, but the right lane transitions into the left through lane causing two vehicles traveling westbound to be in conflict as the lanes merge. Pavement markings would designate the middle westbound lane as the only through lane, while the right and left lanes would be designated as left turn or right turn only. This would prevent vehicles in the right lane from traveling westbound and coming in conflict with the center lane through traffic. Commissioner Haese stated that he will investigate this matter. Ms. Diakoff then left the meeting.

Rick Satterlee, Ayres Associates, greeted the Committee members and thanked them for the opportunity to work with them. He then gave brief updates regarding the projects his firm is designing on CTH T and the CTH K Bridge in Eureka. Commissioner Haese stated that right of way acquisition for CTH T may begin next spring with construction in 2011-2012, including roundabouts at CTH GG and CTH Y. Mr. Satterlee noted the CTH K Bridge in Eureka will be rebuilt as a four lane span with construction scheduled for June of 2011. Commissioner Haese stated that before the project begins there must be a study conducted regarding the protection of certain species of mussels living in the Fox River.

Commissioner Haese asked if any of the Committee members had questions regarding the proposed 2010 Highway Department budget before it is presented to the full board. He stated that the County Executive made the decision to transfer \$100,000 from the Highway Fund to offset the tax levy of the department. The County Board members will begin their budget meetings next week.

The proposed Assembly Bill 464 was discussed. This bill would require that an employer permit an employee who is a volunteer fire fighter, emergency medical technician, or first responder to be late or absent from work if the lateness or absence is due to the employee responding to an emergency. Supervisor Sievert stated that she does not feel it should be a blanket policy, but should be based on each employee's assignment at the time and if their absence negatively impacts the department. Supervisor Albrecht also stated he feels it should be up to the department's administrators to make the determination. Mr. Albrecht stated this item will be addressed by the Legislative Committee also.

General Operations:

- The Town of Utica has decided to contract with the Highway Department to provide their snow removal again in 2009-10 rather than hire a private contractor. The Town of Nepeuskun will be voting on that same item soon and the Commissioner will keep the Committee informed.
- As of date the Highway Department has expended 77% of their total 2009 budget.
- Beginning today the WisDOT will be closing the ramps at USH 41/WIS 44 for one week for repairs.
- Chairman Robl questioned if the Highway Department has the ability to remove the old buildings at Pleasant Acres. Commissioner Haese stated he will be meeting with Mike Elder, Facilities Department, to see what is involved but stated he would like his department to have the opportunity to raze these buildings. Supervisor Hamblin stated he believes there may be grant money available for the asbestos abatement.

A motion was made by Supervisor Hamblin, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary