

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: November 2, 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
Bill Demler, Highway Maintenance Superintendent
Jon Groth, Highway Maintenance Superintendent
Bob Doemel, Highway Bridge Superintendent
Jamey Gosz, Highway Shop Superintendent

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2009 meeting as written. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Haese stated he would give his report and then excuse himself to allow the superintendent's time to give their reports. He stated that to date the Highway Department has expended nearly 80% of their total 2009 budget. Supervisor Hamblin questioned if Commissioner Haese had been made aware that additional CHIP-D funds were available. Mr. Haese stated that this Wednesday he will be meeting with the other commissioners from the northeast region to discuss the 2010-11 CHIP – D funding, but is not aware of any 2009 funds that were not allocated. Commissioner Haese then left the meeting.

Bill Demler, Highway Maintenance Superintendent, gave an overview of current highway department operations. His report included three major projects:

- Paving 9.5 miles of CTH B from CTH D to STH 116
- Paving 2.25 miles on CTH AH from CTH H to River Trail Drive
- Seal coating CTH CB from CTH JJ to CTH BB

He also updated the Committee regarding mowing operations, work performed for other departments and municipalities, and the staffing shortage issue facing the department for snow plowing. Supervisor Albrecht questioned if any progress has been made to fill vacancies with bridgetenders during snow emergencies. Mr. Demler stated that Commissioner Haese is working on that but because it involves two separate unions it has to be handled through contract negotiations with the Human Resource Department. Superintendent Demler also stated that salt for the upcoming winter season has been delivered, and the department may be experimenting with a different sand product this year manufactured from washed stone that is supposedly cleaner to use and less costly than traditional sand. Mr. Demler fielded questions from the committee members regarding operations.

Bob Doemel, Bridge Operations Supervisor, informed the committee on bridge deck sealing operations. He stated besides sealing county structures that he contracted work from the City of Oshkosh to seal all of their structures every three years and will also be contracting work from other municipalities including the cities of Neenah and Menasha, and the town of Black Wolf. Mr. Doemel stated the sealing process works very well to keep salt and other contaminants out of the concrete bridge decks.

Mr. Doemel also reported that the navigation season for this year ended on October 11th, but there have been 20 post-season bridge openings for local contractors, etc. Supervisor Albrecht questioned if the new Wisconsin Street Bridge was having mechanical issues. Mr. Doemel stated that there are some electrical issues with faulty switches that the contractor is replacing as needed.

Mr. Doemel also advised the committee members that all permits including utility and driveway access are handled through his office. He stated he is also working with Oshkosh Corporation regarding securing the proper permits to test their large vehicles on county roads. He stated they are particularly concerned about the intersection at CTH I and CTH N, but that should be addressed with the construction of the roundabout in the next couple years.

Jon Groth, Highway Maintenance Superintendent, stated the county tried a new type of seal coat this year called slag seal. He stated it is a darker colored aggregate manufactured as a by-product from a Waupaca foundry. Supervisors Albrecht and Warnke asked if the department had considered using more concrete products. They stated they were informed at a past highway conference by industry representatives of that option. They stated they'd have the reps call on the Highway Maintenance Superintendents.

Jamey Gosz, Highway Shop Superintendent, updated the committee on shop operations. He stated during the past year 153 new overhead lights were installed at the highway facility that are more cost effective to run. The department will also be installing new lights in the cold storage facility soon. He also stated the building specs for the satellite shed in Winchester are near completion and should be put out for bids around the first of the year. That building will be placed adjacent to the current salt shed after permission is granted by the WisDOT and the zoning is approved.

Mr. Gosz stated the department received three new trucks in 2009 with removable underbody blades that can be converted to tri-axle chassis with the addition of pusher axles. He stated his staff consists of three mechanics, one welder/mechanic and one night mechanic. Superintendent Demler added that several of the road crew with mechanical skills are assigned to work in the shop installing the hitches, plows, etc. preparing for winter. Chairman Robl questioned if the department does much work for outside sources, such as other county departments. Mr. Gosz stated that the Highway Department has been requested to do very little work by other departments with the exception of some routine servicing and brake repairs.

After the discussions ended Supervisor Albrecht thanked the Superintendents for attending today's meeting and providing them information regarding Highway Department operations.

A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary