

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: January 10, 2022

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Chairman
Joel Rasmussen, Highway Committee Member
Robert Doemel, Highway Commissioner

VIA ZOOM: Ben Joas, Highway Committee Member
Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member

EXCUSED: Tom Eagan, Highway Committee Member

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Joas to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2021 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0.

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

Commissioner Doemel updated the committee members on the LRI (Local Road Improvement) Program. There is approximately \$100,000 of state funding available this biennium. He noted that after applications were submitted, he met with the towns to discuss. The LRIP Committee chose the following projects to be funded equally three ways:

- Town of Neenah – Woodenshoe Road (CTH G to Breezewood Lane)
- Town of Omro – Springbrook Road (Reighmoor Road to Rivermoor Road)
- Town of Black Wolf – Howlett Road (CTH Z to E Black Wolf Avenue)

Mr. Doemel stated that the following county projects are being submitted for funding as well:

- CTH HH – pulverize and pave a one-mile stretch
- CTH AP – "Road Diet"
- CTH A – remaining section of roadway from CTH GG to S. Park Avenue. This portion has deteriorated badly and needs constant patching. If funding is available, an overlay will be performed until the road can be reconstructed. If there are funds available from ARPA, they could be used for this project.

Commissioner Doemel updated the committee on the CTH T/Pioneer Road project. He stated that the design is 98% complete. There is a small amount of right-of-way acquisition to be done. Once that has been finished, this project can be put out for bids. County crews will be doing the signing, detours, hauling stone, paving and shouldering work for this project. A private contractor will do the dirt work. Construction is scheduled for 2022.

The CTH JJ/CB Roundabout project was discussed. Commissioner Doemel reported that the design work has been completed. Utility crews finalized the necessary utility work, and Highway Department crews razed a house from the property. Crews will begin cutting trees and brush this week. The project will then go out for bids. Construction is planned for 2022.

The following were reported as general operations:

- ❖ Covid-19 has hit the Highway Department again. Last week there were five employees out, with an average lately of 3-4 per week. Fortunately, there was enough staff available during the recent snow storms.
- ❖ Commissioner Doemel reported that there were a few equipment breakdowns during the recent storms. He said much of the equipment ran for 36 hours straight. This week employees are doing truck checks and minor repairs on the equipment.
- ❖ Commissioner Doemel stated that the department is waiting for the winter equipment to be installed on the new chassis received earlier in 2021. He stated there is a longer than normal build time due to parts shortages.
- ❖ Commissioner Doemel reported that the 2022 bids came in recently. He stated that only one tri-axle chassis bid was received, instead of the three that were requested. He intends to discuss with the Finance Department to see if the remaining two chassis should be carried over into next year's budget. He also stated there were no replies on the other two truck bids that were posted. He stated that the only solution at this time is to try to keep the existing fleet operational.
- ❖ Recently Mr. Doemel met with Mike Elder of Facilities to discuss the possible Highway Department building upgrade. There is limited space available around the building perimeter for expansion. They are now waiting for the firm who conducted the feasibility study to present their options. Supervisor Rasmussen stated to keep in mind that due to staffing shortages, rather than add on the building, services may have to be cut back.
- ❖ Commissioner Doemel reminded the committee that next week is the Winter Road School in Wisconsin Dells from January 17-19.

The next regular meeting of the Highway Committee will be held on Monday, February 21, 2022.

A motion was made by Supervisor Rasmussen, seconded by Chairman Albrecht to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate