

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: February 1, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Chairman  
Joel Rasmussen, Highway Committee Member  
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member  
Ray Palonen, Highway Commissioner

VIA ZOOM: Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member  
Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2021 as written. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Albrecht asked for any input from the public. There was none.

Commissioner Palonen stated that he is requesting approval of a budget transfer for \$20,000 to have a design and estimate developed for a building upgrade at the Highway Facility. This study would provide a better idea of what is necessary, and how much the costs would be to move forward on this project. Commissioner Palonen stated that several board members suggested adding an auto truck wash to the shop to keep the trucks clean and free from salt. Supervisor Rasmussen stated to keep in mind that washing and maintaining the trucks are projects the crew do between storms to keep them busy. Commissioner Palonen stated that he would get a cost to add this option, and it can be decided upon later. Chairman Albrecht stated that he would not be in favor of a truck wash at this time. Commissioner Palonen stated other building upgrade options include:

- Enlarging the downstairs conference room by expanding the footprint to the west. The current room is too small and the upstairs meeting room is not ADA compliant.
- Expand the truck storage. Currently there is not enough parking room for the large trucks with wings, plows, etc. The east side of the building could be expanded to accommodate this.
- The office needs to be updated. There have been no upgrades since the building was constructed in 1995. There is currently wallpaper peeling off and a mold issue that needs addressing.
- The building HVAC system is outdated and inefficient.
- The shop needs a facelift to include a coat of paint to lighten up the entire area.

Commissioner Palonen stated that since the facility is fully depreciated, now is the time to do the upgrades. After discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Egan to approve a budget transfer of \$20,000 for the Highway Department to develop a conceptual rendering and estimate for building upgrade design and construction. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen and carried 5-0.

Commissioner Palonen stated that he is requesting approval of a budget transfer of \$350,000 to pave the second phase of the parking lot at the Oshkosh Highway Facility. The funds would also be used to complete the parking lot at the Winchester Shed by paving in front of the doors which was never completed at the time of construction. He stated that currently there are two smaller detention ponds at that location. He would like to expand the smaller pond into one, and change the parking area to accommodate the large trucks. This work would require a permit from Zoning. A motion was made by Supervisor Rasmussen to approve a budget transfer of \$350,000 to complete phase 2 of the Oshkosh facility parking lot and for the completion of the Winchester Shed parking lot. Motion seconded by Supervisor Egan and carried 5-0.

The following were reported as general operations:

- Commissioner Palonen informed the committee members that the City of Omro posted their portion of CTH F to a weight limit of 6,000 lbs. Large trucks are forced to back up and use the town roads to go around. The Omro Town Chairman asked Commissioner Palonen if Winnebago County would be interested in taking that portion of CTH F over. Mr. Palonen stated no because the road is not up to standards and the town would have to pay to bring it up to standards. Commissioner Palonen stated that this is informational only. Supervisor Farrey suggested that we install signs at the intersection of CTH D and CTH F similar to "No through trucking – City of Omro 5 Miles Ahead".
- Supervisor Warnke stated that he is concerned about a big hole in the pavement on STH 45 near Stoney Beach and Country Club Roads. Commissioner Palonen stated that he will look into it, but it may be a utility company doing work.

The date of the next regular meeting of the Highway Committee will be on February 15, 2021.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen to adjourn. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer  
Administrative Associate