

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: February 15, 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 Rasmussen, seconded by Supervisor Egan to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2021 meeting as written. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Commissioner Palonen stated that he received a request from the Town of Clayton to approve a portion of CTH "T" from CTH "II" to Larsen Road as an ATV/UTV route. After the jurisdictional transfer is complete, this portion of CTH "T" will belong to the Town of Clayton. Commissioner Palonen stated that he would recommend approving this request, since it will be their road anyway. The small portion of CTH "T" on the curve, just west of Pioneer Road was discussed. The committee asked what the traffic counts were for this portion. Mr. Palonen stated that he would need to check the WISLR site for counts. After discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Farrey to approve the entire length of CTH "T" from CTH "II" to Larsen Road if the small section meets the criteria. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Egan. Supervisor Rasmussen stated that he would like to amend the motion to approve the entire section of CTH "T" from CTH "II" to Larsen Road, contingent upon the traffic data showing less than 1,000 cars per day to meet the county ordinance. Supervisor Egan seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Palonen stated that he was contacted by the WisDOT regarding CTH "S" from STH 116 to CTH "Y". He was told they'd like to do a safety review on this segment as it may be a potential candidate for the HRRRP (High Risk Rural Roads Program), at no cost to Winnebago County. A DOT consultant will meet with Commissioner Palonen to identify areas that could use safety improvements, including beam guard, chevrons, rumble strips, painting, etc. The study would identify what is needed and a cost estimate. If the upgrades are made the State pays 90%, and Winnebago County 10%. This money would be budgeted for 2022 or 2023. The Committee asked how the DOT decides which roads to choose. Commissioner Palonen stated that it is based on state-wide crash history. Supervisor Rasmussen stated he feels there are highways that could use the upgrades more than CTH "S".

Commissioner Palonen informed the committee members that he met with representatives from the Neenah School District, the Town of Neenah, and Village of Fox Crossing to discuss the roadway improvements for a new Neenah High School. Commissioner Palonen stated that he is concerned with the intersection of CTH "II" at the Kimberly Clark campus. At the meeting Mr. Palonen explained the need to have a consultant design the road to state standards, and that the cost would be that of the school district. Those in attendance at the meeting agreed. It is anticipated more information will be forthcoming within the next six months and Commissioner Palonen will share at a future committee meeting.

The following were reported as General Operations:

- Due to the very cold weather, the crews have been busy scraping ice off the roads, and clearing the snowbanks. The goal is to limit the amount of exposure to the extreme cold as much as possible.
- The new tri-axle truck was delivered last Friday. This unit was ordered one year ago, but due to COVID it took much longer to build than normal.
- Supervisor Egan stated that he's received quite a few complaints about the work the department did in the Town of Rushford (CTH "E" & CTH "K") not pushing the snow back far enough when plowing. Commissioner Palonen stated that he will investigate.
- Commissioner Palonen stated that much of the \$100,000 allotted for parking lot maintenance will be used at the Sheriff's Department this year. He stated that the parking lot needs seal coating and paint marking. Any remaining budget will be used on the balance of the county's parking lots for maintenance.
- The CTH "Y" project should be bid out by the end of the month. Since this project is funded with CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) money, Commissioner Palonen intends to have it verified that all Federal requirements are met.
- The CTH "T"/Pioneer Road right of way plat is almost complete. A firm should be hired by the end of March to do the right of way acquisition. Construction is planned for 2022.

The date of the next regular Highway Committee meeting will be on Monday, March 15, 2021. Supervisor Warnke stated that he might be unable to attend that meeting.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate