

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: February 21, 2022

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Chairman
Joel Rasmussen, Highway Committee Member
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
Ben Joas, Highway Committee Member
Robert Doemel, Highway Commissioner

VIA ZOOM: Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member

Secretary Farrey 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 10, 2022 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0.

Secretary Farrey asked for input on agenda items from the public. There was none. Chairman Albrecht joined the meeting.

Commissioner Doemel updated the committee on the STH 76 and Larsen Road intersection. He stated that he received resolutions from the towns of Neenah, Clayton, and Village of Fox Crossing regarding this intersection and how the new high school will impact traffic in the area. He stated that he discussed this issue with the WisDOT who informed him there is a roundabout planned for construction in 2026, possibly sooner if funding becomes available. He also stated that he has been in contact with the school district who stated that the main driveway for the high school will be off of CTH "II", so no traffic issues are anticipated. Commissioner Doemel stated that he will continue to monitor this issue going forward.

Commissioner Doemel reported that the Town of Winchester requested to have "No Engine Braking" signs posted along CTH "M" north as you approach CTH "II". The town is making this request because they've received noise complaints from local residents. If signs are approved and installed it becomes an issue for law enforcement. After discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Rasmussen to approve the installation of "No Engine Braking" signs on CTH "M" south of CTH "II". Motion was seconded by Supervisor Joas and carried 5-0.

The Town of Poygan requested to open CTH "B" (Quigley Road to LaBelle Shore Road) as an ATV/UTV route. This process would connect exiting routes within the town. Commissioner Doemel stated that after investigating, the traffic counts are 770 vehicles per day, and there was no significant crash history in the area per the Sheriff's Department. After discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Egan to approve CTH "B" from Quigley Road to LaBelle Shore Road as an ATV/UTV route. Motion carried 5-0. Supervisor Rasmussen stated that it has been discussed in the past to have Highway Department staff draw up a map, and based on the ordinance and traffic data, make the determination which roads are eligible rather than bringing each request to the Highway Committee. Commissioner Doemel stated that he will look into that.

The Town of Wolf River submitted a request to connect existing routes within their town by approving the following as ATV/UTV routes:

- CTH "AH" (Tri-County Road to Waupaca County line) – this section carries approximately 190 vehicles per day. No major accidents reported.
- CTH "H" (Waupaca County line to Alpine Road) – this section carries approximately 760 vehicles per day. No accidents reported.

After discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Joas to open the county highway segments along CTH "AH" and CTH "H" within the Town of Wolf River as ATV/UTV routes as noted. Motion seconded by Supervisor Egan, and carried 5-0.

Commissioner Doemel informed the committee that the WisDOT has offered to provide funding of up to \$30,000 for a truck mounted attenuator for several counties in the NE region, including Winnebago County. The department currently has two other crash cushions attached to Oshkosh V-plows, but both are reaching their life expectancy. Commissioner Doemel stated that he would like the new attenuator to be solar powered. This would mean the truck would not have to remain running all day to power the unit, thereby saving fuel. Choosing the solar option would cost an additional \$960, which would be paid by the county. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan to accept WisDOT funding of \$30,000 to purchase an attenuator, with the remaining \$960 funding for the solar option to be paid from the Highway Fund. Motion seconded by Supervisor Joas, and carried 5-0.

Proposed budget transfers were discussed. Jill Prah, Office Manager, joined the meeting to explain these informational transfers:

- 1) A budget transfer of \$11,448 was used to purchase a message board in 2021 that will be installed on the new sign truck being purchased in 2022. These funds were generated as savings from the GPS survey equipment that came in under budget last year.
- 2) A budget transfer for \$117,500 will be used towards the purchase of two additional tri-axle trucks. The vendor provided a limited time offer that if Winnebago County ordered three trucks now for delivery in 2023, they will provide a cost savings of \$143,500. The funds are available due to the fact that we are unable to purchase the two patrol trucks budgeted for 2022 due to lack of availability.
- 3) A budget transfer of \$80,000 is a savings created by postponing the truck parking epoxy job, and instead repairing the faulty shop drains.

The following were reported as general operations:

- ✓ Commissioner Doemel's previous position of Bridge/Engineering Manager is now posted.
- ✓ Highway Department administrative staff recently conducted interviews for the four Equipment Operator 1 openings. They are hopeful to find some good candidates. Also, a long-time employee will be retiring the first week of March. That will open up an Equipment Operator 2 position.
- ✓ In between winter events, the crews are completing state highway guardrail repairs. They have also removed a lot of trees for the CTH CB/JJ roundabout project.
- ✓ Employees are doing a good job at shop cleaning and organizing neglected building areas. They also completed repairs and service to small equipment such as generators, pumps and steamers to get them on a regular rotation.

The next regular meeting of the Highway Committee is scheduled for March 21, 2022.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Farrey to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate