

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

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

Chairman Albrecht asked for any input from the public. There was none. Supervisor Egan informed the committee about an email he received from a constituent. The email was requesting that the speed limit be reduced down from 55 mph near 6769 STH 44. Commissioner Palonen stated that since this a state highway he will have to address with the WisDOT.

The 2020 equipment revenues were discussed. A list of each piece of equipment owned by the Highway Department was shared noting which made money, and which lost money. Overall, the spreadsheet showed a total of \$478,372 of revenue over expenses for 2020. These totals are based on many factors, including whether the equipment is totally depreciated, the number of hours they are used, how much repair work is necessary, and shop labor. Commissioner Palonen stated that when he started at the Highway Department four year ago the numbers looked much different and he's happy to report that the equipment is now generating a profit.

The 2020 year-end reports were reviewed. These included the following:

- Machinery and equipment purchased and sold.
- Machinery and equipment traded-in or discarded. Supervisor Egan asked if old equipment is sold at auction or disposed of. He suggesting trying to get something for them before discarding, like at auction, i.e. a pallet of wings, etc.
- Land and land improvements.
- Buildings and property values.
- Buildings and grounds operations.
- Other improvements.
- Shop operations. Commissioner Palonen stated that the current overhead rate is 83.54%, vs. 135% four years ago. He stated that currently the department does repair work for the Parks Department, Human Services, Facilities and a few other departments.
- Administration costs.

Discussion was held regarding the following project updates.

1. Commissioner Palonen stated that he is looking for input on the Waukau Avenue project as to the scope, and what type of project the committee would like to see (urban section, boulevard, etc.). Chairman Albrecht stated that EAA should be consulted and asked to participate. Commissioner Palonen stated that the intersection of Poberezny Road and Waukau Avenue would be an ideal location for a roundabout, but the city and town would have to participate. Supervisor Rasmussen stated that he'd be content with Waukau Avenue being a standard urban section. After discussion, it was decided that Commissioner Palonen should reach out to see if EAA and the city and town would like to participate, and perhaps invite them to a future meeting to discuss.
2. CTH "Y" – this project is funded with CDBG money. It is currently out for bids and will be opened on March 25th.
3. CTH "CB/JJ" roundabout project – the design work is currently 65-75% completed. Right of way acquisition is taking place. Construction is planned for 2022.
4. CTH "P" – Midway Road to STH 47. This is a three-party contract with the Village of Fox Crossing, City of Menasha, and Winnebago County.
5. CTH "I" – Ripple Avenue to Waukau Avenue. This is also a three-party contract. Design will take place this year.

The following were reported as general operations:

Commissioner Palonen informed the committee that he received a phone call from the Winchester Town Chairman who is requesting to lower the speed limit from 45 to 35 mph along CTH "II" at the town limits, down the hill to near STH 45. The Chairman is concerned about increased traffic with a new development in the area. Commissioner Palonen informed him that is regulated by State Statues and that he cannot lower the speed limit without an engineering speed study and approval by the WisDOT.

Being no further business, a motion was made by Supervisor Rasmussen to adjourn. Motion seconded by Supervisor Egan and carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate