

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: March 21, 2022

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Chairman  
Joel Rasmussen, Highway Committee Member  
Tom Eagan, Highway Committee Member  
Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member  
Robert Doemel, Highway Commissioner

EXCUSED: Ben Joas, 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 Rasmussen to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2022 as written. Motion carried 4-0.

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

Commissioner Doemel informed the committee that the Wisconsin County Highway Association is revising their Utility Accommodation Policy. The last revision was made in 2000, adopted by the Highway Committee on February 7, 2000. The policy is used by all 72 counties to ensure that utility companies perform their work uniformly along county highway right-of-way. The Highway Department will continue using the policy revised by the WCHA after updating their permit applications and forms. A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey to approve adopting the revised WCHA Uniform Utility Accommodation Policy. Motion seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen and carried 4-0.

Commissioner Doemel informed the committee that National Work Zone Awareness week is scheduled for April 11-15, 2022. He distributed posters he created depicting our crews in work zones. He is hopeful this will be more impactful to the crews to keep safety as a top priority. He stated that the County Executive is planning to do a proclamation for Work Zone Awareness Week, and will come to the Highway Department to sign it. He also noted that April 13<sup>th</sup> is "Go Orange Day" to wear orange in support of safety. Commissioner Doemel noted that it has been 16 years since two of our employees, Marc Neumeyer and Dan Melhorn, were fatally injured on I41, and worker safety is of utmost importance to the department.

The Pioneer Road/CTH T/CTH II project was discussed. Commissioner Doemel informed the committee that there were quite a few trees to be removed before the project could move forward. He stated that by installing a mountable curb they tried to save as many trees as possible. He also stated that the crest of the hill at CTH II and Pioneer Road will be cut down to reduce vision hazards. Supervisor Farrey questioned what the detour will be. Mr. Doemel stated that he'll be working with the WisDOT, but traffic will likely be detoured onto Hwy 10. CTH T will be repaved through Larsen at Winnebago County's expense this summer. The town will be paying for the curb and gutter portion. Mr. Doemel stated he's had a lot of interest in the project from contractors so hopes to receive favorable bids.

Commissioner Doemel updated the committee on the CTH CB/JJ roundabout project. He noted that crews finished cutting trees in the area, and utility companies finished their work. He stated that when the house is removed they may have to blast since it sits on 4-5 feet of solid rock. The project should be out for bids by the end of this week. Construction is planned for the first week of May if all goes right.

Commissioner Doemel informed the committee that when the WisDOT offered the truck mounted attenuators (crash cushions) recently, one of the counties declined. The WisDOT asked if we could use a second unit. Since both of our current units are nearing the end of their useful life, Commissioner Doemel informed them that we are interested in taking the second unit. The WisDOT is working on the process, and hopeful they are available from the vendors.

The following were reported as general operations:

- Supervisor Farrey asked if there's anything that can be done to get the roundabout at STH 76 and Larsen Road done sooner. Currently it is planned for 2026. Commissioner Doemel stated that he will forward the resolution to the WisDOT safety engineer to see if funding could be moved up, but anticipates that right of way property acquisition could be an issue. It was recommended that the school district use one of the controlled accesses to reduce traffic issues. The possibility of using ARPA funds for this project was mentioned.
- Commissioner Doemel stated that the department will be starting their four 10-hour days on April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- There is one mechanic position open. There were two interviews, one offer was made but declined due to pay and benefits offered.
- There is still one Equipment Operator 1 position open. Within the last two weeks, the department had three new EO1 employees start. There was also an Equipment Operator 2 who retired the first week of March. Commissioner Doemel is hopeful these open positions will be filled shortly.
- Commissioner Doemel's former position, the Bridge/Engineering Manager is posted. Hopefully applications will be reviewed soon.
- One of the Road Supervisors will be retiring in June. Commissioner Doemel wants to have his replacement hired early enough to get more transition time into the position. Supervisor Egan asked if the additional supervisors that were put into place are needed. Commissioner Doemel stated that they are, but that the positions were not rolled out properly. He is working on a plan to remedy that.
- The navigation season will run from April 20<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup> this year. Bridge inspections are scheduled for the first week of April, and washing will be done later in April. The Oshkosh Avenue bridge will be operated remotely this year by bridgetenders stationed on the Wisconsin Street Bridge. The WisDOT is planning to add additional cameras on Main Street bridge before that bridge can operate remotely.
- The 5-yard truck has been received. This truck has a power broom attachment underneath. That will make responding to clean up after accidents more efficient.

No future meeting date was set since elections will be held in April and some of the current committee members are not running for re-election, including Supervisor Rasmussen. Commissioner Doemel thanked Supervisor Rasmussen for serving on the committee and sharing his knowledge after working for the Highway Department for many years.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Farrey to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer  
Administrative Associate