

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: April 2, 2018

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Chairman
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member
David Albrecht, Highway Committee Member
Raymond Palonen, Highway Commissioner

ALSO

PRESENT: Mike Collard, Director of Human Resources
John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive

Chairman Robl called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Egan to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2018 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Robl asked if there was any public input. There was none. Supervisor Albrecht joined the meeting.

Commissioner Palonen stated that he is recommending the County Board approve a budget transfer of \$227,401 to amend the Highway Department table of organization and asked for the Highway Committee's support. He stated that he hopes to answer all the questions the Committee had from their previous meeting and supply all the details they requested. To do that, Mike Collard, Director of Human Resources, joined the meeting today. Mr. Collard stated the request is to provide four new positions in the Highway Department table of organization, including three Highway Supervisors and one Engineering Technician to work directly under the current Highway Superintendents and Bridge/Engineering Manager. He stated that the current management staff in those positions have too much asked of them and cannot possibly get all the work done. Mr. Collard stated it is their hope that three of the existing foremen would apply and move into the Supervisor positions. The remaining two foremen would be put into Equipment Operator positions with no loss in pay, but could be assigned as crew leaders on an as-needed basis with a temporary increase of wages while performing those duties. Supervisor Farrey stated that he has some concerns with this plan, specifically about disrupting the current Foreman's positions. Commissioner Palonen stated changes are needed to correct problems and make the workload commensurate with hours worked. After a lengthy discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Egan to recommend the County Board approve a fiscal transfer of \$227,401 to adjust the Highway Department table of organization with the stipulation that the current Foreman positions will be continued until such time as the positions become vacated, and at that time be changed to Equipment Operator positions. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Farrey and carried 5-0. Commissioner Palonen also informed the Committee that he will be coming to a future meeting requesting that the current Superintendent's pay grade levels be increased to bring their salaries in line with neighboring counties. Mr. Collard left the meeting.

The 2018 Summer Highway Conference was discussed. Commissioner Palonen reported that the conference is scheduled for June 4-6, 2018 at the Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells. Copies of the agenda and registrations were distributed.

The Northeast Region Commissioner and Committee Members meeting was discussed. Commissioner Palonen stated that the meeting will be held on May 10th in Manitowoc County at The Golf Course at Branch River. Copies of the registration were distributed.

Commissioner Palonen reported on the following as project updates:

- CTH CB and Oakridge Road intersection – The design plans are 60% done, right of way acquisition will be negotiated this summer. Construction is scheduled for 2019.
- CTH A – from Indian Pt. Rd. to CTH GG – The design is 30% complete. Commissioner Palonen stated that the WisDOT notified him that the project cannot exceed the funding agreement. After the design work has been completed funding the cost of a separate recreation trail vs. paved shoulders will be discussed. Construction is planned for 2020.
- Highway crews are getting prepped for the paving season, and will begin on CTH AH.
- The CTH R project will include upgrading the beam guard to include crash ends.
- The CTH K project will require base repairs before paving.
- The projects on STH 116 in Omro and Winneconne are underway. Roads in that vicinity have been logged so the County can be reimbursed for any damage.
- Commissioner Palonen passed around a photo of the type of storage building he is proposing to place over the dumpsters behind the highway building to reduce storm water runoff and make them compliant for the MS4. He stated highway crews can do the installation work of the building and it comes with a 25 year warranty.
- Commissioner Palonen asked the Highway Committee to consider reducing their meeting frequency from two to one per month. The fact the agenda has to be sent out so early makes it difficult to plan that far in advance. Mr. Robl stated that the number of meetings are decided by the Chairman. After discussion it was decided that generally one meeting per month would be sufficient. Commissioner Palonen will communicate with Committee Chairman to determine if a second meeting is necessary.
- Supervisor Egan reported that he spoke with representatives from the Town of Nekimi who stated they did not approve a West Side Arterial project. Commissioner Palonen stated that he will invite all the concerned municipalities to a future meeting to discuss further.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Albrecht to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.