

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: April 19, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Chairman
Joel Rasmussen, Highway Committee Member
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member
Ray Palonen, Highway Commissioner

VIA ZOOM: Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member
VIA PHONE: Rose, Poyganeers

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Yancy, Fox River Wheelers

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 March 15, 2021 meeting as written. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Tom Yancy, Fox River Wheelers, thanked the Committee for working with their group. He then addressed them with suggestions on how they'd like to see Winnebago County's ATV/UTV Ordinance updated. He stated that the Legislature gave the municipalities and counties jurisdiction to assign bridges that are 1,000 feet or less, and connect to roads or trails, as ATV/UTV routes. A few of his suggestions include:

1. Adjust so the route does not have to connect to an existing route or trail to be eligible. Fond du Lac County's ordinance allows routes to connect to services also.
2. The current ordinance allows for daylight hours only. They'd like to have it adjusted to mirror the town's ordinance, perhaps from 6-7 a.m. until 10-11 p.m. This allows for more time, especially during winter hours.
3. The current ordinance limits speeds to no more than 35 mph. Mr. Yancy stated that approximately 6-12 counties are using the posted speed limit for ATV/UTV's.

Mr. Yancy stated that he is willing to help however necessary to get these changes implemented. He stated that at a minimum, they would appreciate if they could get the bridge issue, and not requiring that routes end at an existing route changed, as well as the hours of operation extended. Rose, from the Poyganeers group, called in to express how critical it is for their group to have the Winneconne routes approved. Discussion followed. Commissioner Palonen stated he feels that the current ordinance is fair and protects the traveling public. Supervisor Rasmussen questioned if all the county roads that meet the ordinance could be approved, and the committee would only have to review anything exceeding the ordinance, rather than each request separately. Commissioner Palonen explained that it's not until after a town requests a route be added, that the research and traffic data is accumulated.

A request by the Town of Winneconne to approve the following list of roads as ATV/UTV routes was discussed:

- CTH "S" (south town line to STH 116) – 1,800 cars per day
 - CTH "B" (west town line to Lakeshore Road) – 770 cars per day
 - CTH "D" (west town line to Mueller Road) – 660 cars per day
 - CTH "G" (CTH "M" to Rustic Oaks Drive) – 1,050 cars per day
 - CTH "M" (STH 116 to existing route on CTH "M" and Lasley Pt. Road) – 2,100 cars per day.
- Commissioner Palonen stated that other than the ADT numbers, there were no issues noted for these locations. A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey to approve the routes along CTH "B" and CTH "D" as ATV/UTV routes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen.

Supervisor Egan asked to amend the motion to include CTH "G" since the ADT was so close to the maximum number of cars. Chairman Albrecht seconded. Supervisor Egan asked when the traffic data was collected, and where on CTH "G" it was performed. Commissioner Palonen stated that the data came from the WisDOT site, but he wasn't sure of a date or exact location. Supervisor Rasmussen asked for an amendment to approve CTH "B" and CTH "D", and table the motion adding CTH "G" until an actual traffic count be taken. This motion was seconded by Supervisor Farrey and carried 5-0.

A request by the Town of Black Wolf to approve the following county highway segments as ATV/UTV routes were discussed:

- CTH "I" (Fisk Avenue to Old Oregon Road) – 2,000 cars per day
- CTH "Z" (Old Oregon Road to Little Evergreen Avenue) – 250 to 400 cars per day
- CTH "R" (Lone Elm Road to East Fisk Avenue) – 1,000 to 1,200 cars per day

Supervisor Egan asked if the ordinance could be adjusted to allow a higher ADT. Supervisor Farrey asked if the traffic count could be performed before the Highway Committee meeting. Commissioner Palonen stated that it takes one week at each location for an accurate count. After discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Chairman Albrecht to approve the routes along CTH "Z" and CTH "R". It was noted that the segment of CTH "R" encompasses the whole section, and does not meet the ADT requirements. Mr. Yancy stated that he believes the town would be happy with the northern section from STH 45 to Nekimi Avenue. Supervisor Rasmussen requested an amendment to approve CTH "Z" and table the approval of CTH "R" until a traffic count is performed. Motion seconded by Supervisor Farrey and carried 4-1. Supervisor Egan voted no.

A request by the Town of Utica to approve the following county highway segments as ATV/UTV routes was discussed:

- CTH "M" (Mountain Road north to Nepeuskun town line)
- CTH "FF" (James Road to Utica maintenance line)
- CTH "M" (STH 44 to 35 mph zone in Pickett). The actual traffic count for this portion is 1,039 cars per day.

After discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Farrey to approve the CTH "M" portion from Mountain Road to Nepeuskun town line, and CTH "FF" from James Road to Utica maintenance line. The portion of CTH "M" from STH 44 to Pickett was denied. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen and carried 5-0.

A request to approve the following segments of county highways as ATV/UTV routes was requested by the Town of Nekimi:

- CTH "N" (Clairville Road to James Road)
- CTH "Z" (Old Knapp Road to Old Oregon Road)
- CTH "FF" (Utica town line to Owens Drive)

A motion was made to approve these routes as requested. Motion seconded by Supervisor Egan and carried 5-0. Supervisor Warnke asked who enforces this ordinance, and if a driver license is required to operate an ATV/UTV. Commissioner Palonen stated the Sheriff's Department is in charge of enforcement, and a driver license is required to operate these machines. He also stated that infractions are handled through the DNR rather than the DMV. Supervisor Rasmussen asked if they could get a map showing the approved ATV/UTV sections in the county. Commissioner Palonen informed them that the Highway Department webpage has a list and map.

Commissioner Palonen stated that he is working with the Finance Director to purchase a 20' jon boat with 50 HP motor for the bridge crew. He stated that the current 12' wide boat is very old and unstable. The small size makes it unsafe for the crew to haul heavy equipment. The committee asked if revenue will be charged for the use. Commissioner Palonen stated this is considered a field tool, not a rated piece of equipment, but he will investigate with the WisDOT. The funds are savings from the purchase of a tow plow that came in under budget.

The following were reported as general operations:

- Commissioner Palonen distributed the project summary for the Pioneer Road project, from CTH "T" to CTH "II". He stated the full plan is available for viewing on the Highway webpage, along with a comment page. Construction is planned for summer of 2022.
- Chairman Albrecht asked if there's any information on a Summer Highway Conference. Mr. Palonen stated the conference is in the middle of June, and that he will send the information to the County Clerk's office for distribution.
- Commissioner Palonen updated the committee on the budget numbers. He stated that the non-winter budget expended is 25.5%, with approximately \$2,182,000 remaining for the year. The winter budget expended is only 56.8% due to a mild winter.
- The bridge aid letters were sent to the towns recently. Requests for assistance are due back by July 2, 2021.
- The CTH "Y" project bids were opened. The bid was awarded to Radtke Construction for \$320,498.28. This project is funded by CDBG funds.
- The 2022 budget process has begun. Commissioner Palonen is in the process of checking the highways to prepare his CIP budget.
- The new tow plow was delivered today.
- The Supervisors have been working on the annual town road surveys.
- A building architect and Mike Elder will be coming this week to talk about the highway facility building updates.
- Supervisor Rasmussen informed the Committee that in the town of Algoma, there will be temporary traffic lights installed at the intersection of STH 21 and Leonard Point Road this week. This is due to the Omro Road reconstruction project.

The next meeting of the Highway Committee will be held on May 17, 2021.

A motion was made by Supervisor Rasmussen, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate