

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: May 17, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member
Robert Doemel, Acting Highway Commissioner

VIA ZOOM: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Chairman
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member

EXCUSED: Joel Rasmussen, Highway Committee Member

ALSO PRESENT: Jon Doemel, County Executive
Jill Prah, Highway Dept. Office Supervisor
Doug Weihert, Highway Equipment Superintendent
Mary-Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel
Bill Topel, Human Services
Phil Ramlet & Mike Malcom, Westwind

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Egan to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2021 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0.

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

Phil Ramlet, from Westwind, updated the committee on the CTH JJ/CB roundabout project. He stated that there was one parcel of real estate to be purchased. This parcel contains a rental property with a tenant that needs to be relocated. One of the occupants of the home is a child who is medically challenged. The difficulty in finding a new rental for the family has been the location, as they need to stay in the Appleton school district to meet the disability issues. Mr. Ramlet stated that all state statutes have been followed for attempting to locate a suitable replacement rental for the family. Mr. Topel stated that Human Services is able to provide assistance to help relocate this family. County Executive Doemel stated that Winnebago County would consider supplementing the rent for two years if that is the barrier, and that he expects the team to find a way to help this family. After discussion, Mr. Ramlet telephoned the relocation specialist, Laura Sadler, to have her answer questions. Ms. Sadler was asked what financial obligation the county has for the relocation. She stated that the county has to provide replacement housing payments for up to 48 months (not to exceed \$49,232), as well as moving expenses. After the first payment of \$8,000 is provided, the relocation specialist does an inspection of the new rental property to ensure the housing is safe and sanitary and to certify before the lease is signed. If the housing is sufficient, there is no follow-up necessary by the county, and after six months the tenant may claim the remaining balance of funds. The relocation specialist stated that the tenant emailed her earlier today that they were able to find suitable housing. Mr. Ramlet stated that he will contact Bob Doemel to negotiate with the property owner. The committee stated that they'd like this item included on the next agenda as an action item.

Bob Doemel, Acting Highway Commissioner, gave an update on the CTH Y project. He stated that because this project is funded with CDBG funds, they have to be very specific on all the details. Bob is working with representatives from MSA Professional Services to ensure all the necessary details are met. Due to the increase in steel prices, Radtke Contractors is anxious to get started on the project and is awaiting a signed contract. Mr. Doemel stated that prior to him taking on this position, there was no oversight on the project. He stated that Andy Dana, Ayres Associates, has agreed to do part-time observation on the project.

An update was given on the CTH T and Pioneer Road project. Bob Doemel stated that he met with property owners who are unhappy that so many large trees were scheduled to be cut down. Bob met with the designer, GRAEF, who stated some of the trees could be saved by adding curb and gutter rather than acquiring right-of-way. The additional cost of adding the curb and gutter should be no costlier than acquiring the property. Mr. Doemel stated that all the trees cannot be saved, that those located in the right of way will have to be cut. He also stated that Winnebago County will require something in writing stating that the county is not liable if the trees die down the road. Mr. Doemel stated that they are working on a new plan set to determine which trees can be saved. He also stated that some of the public mentioned that they were unhappy the project wasn't brought to their attention sooner. Supervisor Farrey stated that the Town of Clayton did have a public hearing regarding this project, and all legal procedures were followed.

The CTH "G" project from USH 45 to CTH M was discussed. This one-mile section of road was supposed to begin today, but due to the fact that Northeast Asphalt is behind, the pulverizing will start tomorrow. It's planned to get the binder mat down before the Memorial Day weekend.

Bob Doemel updated the committee on the Winchester storage shed facility project. He stated that he spoke with the equipment operators who are assigned to that shop, and they felt there is adequate room to get in and out of the sheds as it currently stands. Mr. Doemel stated that he doesn't see the need to spend the money to change the pond locations. He stated that when that facility was originally constructed, it was done so on poor soils, and the biggest problem is that the parking lot is not graded properly. Mr. Doemel stated it would be more cost effective to utilize what is currently there by doing a mill and pave project on the current parking lot. This work would be reimbursed by the state. He said the site could also use some aesthetic updating. Supervisors Egan and Farrey agreed that this sounds like a better option.

The Highway Department renovation project was discussed. The Facilities Director has informed Mr. Doemel that this project has been put on hold. Mr. Doemel stated that the building does have a mold issue. It's possible it is in the carpeting, around the windows, and could be between the block walls. Mr. Doemel stated that three times he has had public enter the building, only to leave since the mold smell made it difficult for them to breathe. He is planning to have one of the carpenters from the facilities department come to investigate as soon as they get time.

Doug Weihert, Highway Equipment Superintendent, updated the committee on the status of the equipment. He stated that the department has approximately 40 plow trucks, most are model years 2000-current. He stated that one of the 2006 models has a cracked frame, and a 2010 model needs body work due to the door hinge rusting off. Mr. Weihert stated that due to the fact that many of the trucks are between 2005-2007 models, we could be facing similar problems on more of the fleet in the near future. Previously, trucks were only being replaced at two per year, when three or four is what's necessary to bring the fleet current. Mr. Weihert stated that another problem is the long wait time to receive equipment and parts. He stated that due to COVID-19, a truck ordered today would not arrive until February or March of 2022. Mr. Doemel stated that it is imperative to have all the equipment on a maintenance program, and he feels that getting the fleet current needs to be addressed now rather than later. The committee members discussed using money from the reserves to purchase additional trucks, and it was agreed that it should be looked into.

The next meeting of the Highway Committee will be held on June 14, 2021.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.