

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: June 17, 2019

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

EXCUSED: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Member

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive
Chris Blazek, Tom Buchholz, Will Dorsey, and Brian Brock from WisDOT
Andy Maracini, Winnebago Co. Land and Water

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Farrey to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2019 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Albrecht asked if there was any public input on the agenda. There was none.

Will Dorsey addressed the Committee to give them an overview of the NE Region of the WisDOT. He stated that an increase in transportation funding looks promising and is encouraging news. He stated that Governor Evers proposed a \$600 million increase in funding, whereas the Joint Finance Committee a \$480 million increase, but whichever amount it ends up to be, it will be a healthy boost and much needed increase in transportation funding for the State. One of the most needed projects in the NE region is adding additional lanes to I41 from Appleton to DePere. Depending on how the project enumeration process goes, it's likely the soonest that project could start would be 2027.

Tom Buchholz then addressed the Committee. He distributed an outline and map of proposed state projects to be done in Winnebago County from 2019-2022. He gave an overview of each project listed. Discussion followed.

Brian Brock reminded the Committee on the importance of early treatment of roads, such as crack filling and bridge deck maintenance to prolong their life. He also stated the WisDOT is very appreciative of the good work, and long hours put in by the Highway Department providing winter maintenance during what proved to be a challenging winter season. He specifically mentioned the assistance and clean up provided after the 120+ car pileup on I41 in February during white-out conditions.

Chris Blazek stated that after the bad winter, the entire state is over budget and will have to cut back on other projects to make up the shortfall. He stated last winter's salt shortage is being addressed and hopefully will not be a repeat issue. He stated that as in the past, the State has more needs than funding so things will have to be prioritized. Commissioner Palonen informed the DOT representatives that he has one tow plow ordered and hopes that will increase efficiency on the state system for future winter events.

Supervisor Egan questioned why some roadside grass and weeds are cut more often than others. He was told State policy allows for only one mowing per road/per season because of the expense. If some counties choose to do it more often they cannot charge the State.

The Committee thanked the WisDOT representatives for joining today's meeting and found their reporting helpful. The State representatives left the meeting.

Andy Maracini, Land and Water Department, addressed the Committee regarding the MS4 stormwater runoff policy provisions. He stated that the DNR has a new revised permit coming. Andy stated that while the Illicit Discharge Ordinance passed last year, and construction of a covered storage area here at the Highway facility were helpful, the DNR is changing the amount of phosphorus limits allowed. He stated that working with the Highway Department to construct ponds in conjunction with road projects will help reduce the amount of sediment and phosphorus getting into the system. Mr. Maracini exited the meeting.

Commissioner Palonen distributed the final draft of a jurisdictional transfer with the Town of Clayton to cost share in the design, right of way acquisition, and construction of CTH T (Pioneer Rd. to CTH II), and Pioneer Road (CTH T to CTH II). Mr. Palonen stated that the town has tentatively agreed to the terms, but has not returned the signed agreement yet. Once agreed upon, the design is proposed for 2020 and construction in 2021.

Commissioner Palonen distributed copies of the draft agreement made with the Town of Neenah regarding the detention pond on CTH O. He stated that he is waiting for a final cost estimate for the project, roughly estimated at one million dollars.

Commissioner Palonen informed the Committee about drainage issues along CTH E between Clairville Road and Miller Drive. He stated that property owners on the north side within this corridor have had an issue with standing water in the ditches since the Town of Algoma Sanitary District building was constructed around the year 2000. After doing some research, Commissioner Palonen discovered that Commissioner Winters previously had hired a firm to study the issue but no resolution was found. Ray stated that he's met with Corporation Counsel Mueller to discuss.

The State funding entitlement list was discussed. Commissioner Palonen stated that after review it was determined that the STP rural account has a negative balance of approximately \$150,000. Most of this funding was used on the CTH A project. He stated that the bridge entitlement fund has a larger balance but currently there are no bridges eligible for replacement.

The following were reported as general operations:

- The department is starting to pulverize CTH K at Hwy 116. The paving is expected to begin next Monday.
- Chip sealing is scheduled to begin tomorrow with the County roads, then proceed to the town projects.
- Commissioner Palonen stated that the forestry mulcher was delivered. He stated it works very well, and is being used today on Bonnie View Road in the Town of Utica if any of the Committee members wish to see it in action.
- Supervisor Farrey questioned the parameters of the CTH A and GG intersection project. He stated that the town of Vinland has a fire hydrant located near that intersection, which will have to be accessed. Mr. Farrey stated that he will set up a meeting with the Fire Chief, himself and Commissioner Palonen to discuss.
- Supervisor Egan asked if the next meeting agenda could include discussion of ATV/UTV access on roads.

The next regular meeting of the Highway Committee will be held on July 1, 2019. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Farrey to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer, Administrative Associate