

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: June 20, 2022

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Chairman
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member
Ralph Harrison, Highway Committee Member
Donald Nussbaum, Highway Committee Member
Robert Doemel, Highway Commissioner

ALSO

PRESENT: Andy Maracini, Land & Water Department
Tim Rank, Tom Buchholz, Colleen Harris, Matt Ternes, and
Scott Nelson from WisDOT, NE Region
Sid Opperman, 4608 County Rd. E, Oshkosh

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 from the May 31, 2022 meeting as written. Motion carried 5-0. Supervisor Farrey noted at that meeting the committee approved the night pay incentive of \$6.00/hour on state highways, but had heard that Personnel and Finance Committee amended the amount to \$12.00/hour. He asked if a resolution had to come back before the Highway Committee for approval. Commissioner Doemel stated that Corporation Counsel advised him that was not necessary since it was amended by P&F.

Representatives from the WisDOT Northeast Region addressed the committee:

- Colleen Harris stated that the WisDOT likes to stay in touch with each of the counties in their region, and keep open communication and a good relationship. She informed the committee that there's been many changes in their office as staff keep evolving and moving positions. She stated that she will be retiring in a few weeks and be replaced by Tom Buchholz as Director. She asked the committee to let the DOT know if something is not syncing up like it used to.
- Tom Buchholz reported that the NE region received seven million dollars of extra funding. The main project will be the I-41 corridor from the Timber Rattlers stadium north to Scheuring Road in DePere. This is a 23-mile highway upgrade. Construction is expected from 2025-2029. It's possible the project could be moved up to 2024.
- Scott Nelson updated the committee on the traffic issues. He thanked the Highway Department for working together with them, and specifically mentioned that Jon Groth does an outstanding job for them.
- Matt Ternes thanked Winnebago County for cooperating with the DOT. He stated that the county used less than average routine maintenance money the last few years, including using less salt and brine but still keeping the roads clear in the winter. He informed the committee that the state has a policy of mowing 15' back on state highways. He stated that every three years they can be mowed back farther. Vision corners can be mowed more often.
- Tim Rank reviewed the six-year outline that was distributed and fielded questions on the projects. Supervisor Farrey asked them to consider moving the roundabout project at STH 76/Larsen Road up from 2026 to 2024 since it's a dangerous intersection.

Sid Opperman asked the WisDOT if they were aware of the accident from the previous week where a truck entered the work zone injuring several Highway Department staff. He asked what can be done to protect the workers, and wondered if the speed limit can be reduced further than 10 mph. Scott Nelson, WisDOT, informed him they are aware of the accident and are waiting for the investigation results. He stated that speed zones are adjusted to what is considered reasonably accepted by the traveling public. They will check the State Statutes for further information. Commissioner Doemel and the committee thanked the WisDOT for attending the meeting and they exited.

Andy Maracini, Land & Water Conservation Department, provided a presentation on MS4 permit updates. He provided a list of Highway Department requirements including reporting their winter salt use and street sweepings. He also noted that staff should stay trained about storm water issues. He stated that he will be taking drone pictures of the Highway Department campus.

Commissioner Doemel updated the committee on the CTH JJ/CB project. He stated that Collins Engineering was hired to do the construction management. Vinton Construction is dealing with supply chain issues, but intends to start the project next Monday and anticipate it will be completed on time.

The CTH T/Pioneer Road project was discussed. Commissioner Doemel stated that Radtke Contractors is the prime contractor, with GRAEF acting as construction management. The first phase will begin at CTH II by cutting the hill down. Approximately 700' of concrete has been removed uncovering poor soils. The contractor will be moving forward after applying geogrid. Utilities are being moved on Pioneer Road now. After the contractor puts the base down, the Highway Department will place the stone and do the paving for the project.

The following were reported as general operations:

- Commissioner Doemel reported that last week along Hwy 45 a truck was rear-ended and pushed into our work zone. One of our employees was airlifted to the hospital with injuries, but should recover. It is very fortunate this didn't end worse. Supervisor Farrey stated that this committee needs to offer direction on how to improve safety. The biggest hurdle is getting traffic to slow down. They feel law enforcement needs to be present and cite those who do not obey the signs. Commissioner Doemel stated that the department is faced with very dangerous jobs, and does provide employees with training. Chairman Albrecht suggested inviting the Sheriff and new DA to a future meeting to discuss.
- Commissioner Doemel informed the committee that both the Bridge/Engineering Manager and Maintenance Superintendent jobs have been filled. He feels both employees are a good fit for the department.
- Gears for the Oregon Street Bridge are in the process of being repaired. It is anticipated to take nine weeks for the job to be completed.
- Recently, the Financial Associate 1 at the Highway Department retired. Her replacement is scheduled to begin next Monday. There are still several staff openings for highway crews that remain unfilled.

The next regular meeting of the Highway Committee will be held on July 18, 2022.

A motion was made by Chairman Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Farrey to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate