

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: July 9, 2018

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

EXCUSED: Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member

ALSO

PRESENT: Bob Schmeichel, Town of Neenah Chairman

Chairman Robl 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 June 11, 2018 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Robl asked if there was any public input. Bob Schmeichel, Town of Neenah Chairman, stated he was in attendance to observe the discussion regarding the CTH O project and report back to the town board.

Commissioner Palonen asked the Committee if they previously supported a resolution regarding the "Just Fix It" campaign and the state transportation funding shortfall. Committee members stated that a meeting was held for local officials at this office by Wisconsin Counties Association when Commissioner Winters was here. Commissioner Palonen stated that he recommends if a resolution is passed it should concur with various other counties requiring the State disclose how they intend to get the money to pay for additional transportation funding.

Commissioner Palonen informed the Committee that he recently met with the Town of Clayton Administrator to discuss possible jurisdictional transfers of CTH T and Pioneer Road. Mr. Palonen stated the Town is very supportive of the idea and wishes to work with Winnebago County. This item will be brought back to a future meeting as more information comes forward.

Commissioner Palonen updated the Committee on the general and winter maintenance budgets. He stated that as of the end of May the general fund has approximately \$1,698,000 remaining for 2018. The winter budget has a remainder of approximately \$213,000 after the large blizzard in April. He stated that if the remaining winter funds are not sufficient to cover November and December he may have to request additional funding to finish off the year.

The WisDOT made an offer to purchase a high capacity brine maker. The DOT would initially purchase the brine maker, and after it's fully depreciated it would become the property of Winnebago County. It comes with a stipulation that Winnebago County commits to reducing their salt usage by 20% and agrees to spray only brine at certain locations. The County would have to purchase additional equipment to accommodate this change. Commissioner Palonen stated he informed the WisDOT that he is not comfortable with this agreement and feels that with the high volume of traffic on I-41 and other state highways reducing salt usage could hinder the safety of the traveling public.

The Wisconsin County Highway Association is asking all 72 counties for their input on where to hold future highway conferences. Most of the meetings in past years have been held in Wisconsin Dells. After discussion, Supervisor Albrecht stated he thinks the meetings should remain in the Dells since they can accommodate large groups. No other opinions were stated and no preference as to which resort in the Dells.

Commissioner Palonen informed the Committee that the design engineering cost for the CTH O project (from I-41 to CTH II) came in over the estimated amount. To account for the shortfall a budget transfer can be made to use funds remaining in the CTH CB (Shady Lane to CTH BB) design budget. Supervisor Egan questioned if the money in the CTH CB fund will be needed for future construction work on the CTH CB project. Commissioner Palonen explained there are different cost pools for engineering work and construction work. Discussion was held regarding the proposed CTH O project specifications, to include an urban section on the north side with curb and gutter, and a rural section on the south side to minimize the property impacts. Supervisor Farrey stated that it is more cost effective to keep as many ditches along the roads as possible in terms of stormwater runoff. Bob Schmeichel, Town of Neenah Chairman, stated that the plans for a detention pond will be directly affected by the CTH O project. A maintenance agreement for the pond will be drawn up and signed by the affected municipalities. After discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Chairman Robl to approve a budget transfer of \$70,000 from CTH CB (Shady Lane-CTH BB) to CTH O (I41-CTH II). Motion carried 4-0.

General Operations:

- STH 21 is closed at the Omro Bridge. The detour is STH 116 to CTH K to STH 21.
- The WisDOT announced the eastbound US 10 to northbound I-41 and northbound I-41 to westbound US 10 ramps are opened as of July 7th.
- The paving on CTH N will be started this week.
- The new salt shed in the village of Fox Crossing is on hold until the WisDOT is able to work out permitting with the Village.
- The roundabout at the Secura Insurance building on CTH CB is starting today, July 9th. CTH CB is closed from Shady Lane to CTH BB during construction.
- Commissioner Palonen has been speaking with City of Oshkosh representatives regarding the City taking back jurisdiction of urbanized portions of county highways falling within city limits. Supervisor Farrey expressed his concern about the cost to the County to upgrade the highway before turning it over. Commissioner Palonen explained that once turned over there will be no additional maintenance costs.
- Supervisor Farrey asked if Commissioner Palonen could check into the timetable of the Highway Department performing work for the towns.

The next regular Highway Committee meeting will be held on Monday, August 6th. The schedule is to have a meeting the first Monday of every month, and if needed, a meeting on the third Monday also. Supervisor Egan asked to be excused from the August 6th meeting.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Farrey to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.