

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: July 19, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Chairman  
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member  
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member  
Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member  
Joel Rasmussen, Highway Committee Member  
Robert Doemel, Acting Highway Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT: Ron Miller, 4638 9<sup>th</sup> Street Road, Oshkosh  
Sidney Opperman, 4608 County Rd. E, Oshkosh  
Jackie Silva, 4688 County Rd. E, Oshkosh  
Harry Silva, 4688 County Rd. E, Oshkosh

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2021 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0. Supervisor Farrey abstained since he was absent from that meeting.

Chairman Albrecht asked for input on agenda items from the public. Several residents spoke regarding a drainage issue on CTH E west of Oshkosh. They stated that since the Algoma Sanitary District constructed their new building there has been issues with the water not draining properly from the ditches. Land & Water was contacted two years ago regarding this issue, and the Highway Department was called a few times requesting that the cattails be cut down. Some of the issues noted were flooding, stagnant water, algae growth, and mosquitos. Supervisor Rasmussen stated that since this item is not on the agenda today, no discussion can be held. He stated it could be added to the next meeting and addressed.

A discussion was held regarding the WisDOT's intersection improvements along WIS 21. The WisDOT advised that the following alternatives will be included in their project:

- WIS 21 & CTH FF/Reighmoor Rd. (construct a single lane roundabout)
- WIS 21 & Sand Pit Rd. (construct a single lane roundabout)
- WIS 21 & Oakwood Rd. (construct slotted left turn lanes)
- WIS 21 & Westhaven Rd. (construct slotted left turn lanes)

Mr. Doemel stated the WisDOT advised that construction is tentatively planned for 2027, with the possibility of advancing into 2026 if funding becomes available.

The Town of Algoma is requesting Winnebago County's support for traffic improvements at the intersection of STH 21 and Leonard Point Road. Supervisor Rasmussen advised that the Town of Algoma has been in discussions with the WisDOT regarding this intersection. He stated that this location has been determined to be a safety concern, and stated that there are over 600 acres of property south of there that will need access. WisDOT informed the Town of Algoma that they will need to have a TIA (Traffic Impact Analysis) funded before they will proceed. The Town of Algoma pushed the DOT to get the intersection designed and done as soon as possible. Supervisor Rasmussen stated that the town will contribute funding, and thought Winnebago County may have funds available to contribute also. Bob Doemel stated that he spoke with a DOT official at a recent meeting who was adamant that the Town of Algoma must provide the TIA before the State will do anything. Supervisor Egan suggested that the town have all the dollar figures available when this item is brought before the board. It was discussed whether inviting the local legislators to a future meeting to discuss would have an impact. After discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Farrey to bring a resolution before the full County Board encouraging the WisDOT to begin the necessary traffic improvements at the STH 21 and Leonard Point Road intersection. Motion seconded by Chairman Albrecht, and carried 5-0.

A request was received from the Town of Neenah to install flashing beacons as part of the CTH CB and CTH JJ roundabout project to provide pedestrian safety. Bob Doemel informed the committee that the right of way acquisition is underway for this project. He stated that he will talk to the design firm to see what type of crossing is needed, and if this may be eligible for HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program) funding. Chairman Albrecht also inquired if there would be funds available through the Safe Routes to School program. Bob Doemel stated that he will speak to the engineering firm and East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to get recommendations.

The following were reported as general operations:

- Bob Doemel reported that the Highway Department is struggling to find people to fill their vacancies, both for outside crews, and the bridgetender positions. Currently there are three Highway Department employees who are filling in on the bridges. He stated that every day there are approximately 15 people out of the workforce (workers comp, sick, vacation), making it difficult to schedule work. He stated that he understands it is a tough market right now, but believes that Winnebago County must get creative on their hiring efforts. One option may be to recruit individuals without their CDL, and provide training to secure it. Mr. Doemel stated that even with the shortage of personnel, the staff are doing a great job.
- Bob reported that the department is still on track for their projects. He stated that the seal coating projects were completed last Friday.
- The job posting for the Highway Commissioner position came down last Friday. There have been no interviews yet.
- Supervisor Farrey noted that while driving through other parts of the state, that their concrete slab repairs are not done to the level of those in Winnebago County. He stated that repairs in Fond du Lac and Dodge County are left with bumps, whereas ours are flush with the road. Bob Doemel stated that our concrete crew does a great job.
- Supervisor Warnke asked Bob Doemel for his input on a truck wash at the facility. Bob stated that he believes there are much bigger issues to address first, like the mold issue that the office staff is exposed to for 10 hours per day, and the potential health concerns.

A motion was made by Supervisor Rasmussen, seconded by Supervisor Farrey to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 am.

Laura Spanbauer  
Administrative Associate