

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: August 3, 2020

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
Joel Rasmussen, Highway Committee Member
Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member

ALSO PRESENT: Ray Palonen, Highway Commissioner
Cindy Ostrander

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

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2020 meeting as written. Seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen and carried 5-0.

Chairman Albrecht asked for public input on agenda items. Victoria Olson stated that she was in attendance via Zoom to discuss the current distance between driveways, but that she would have Cindy Ostrander take the lead. Cindy Ostrander distributed handouts and maps to the committee members. She stated that she was in attendance to ask the committee to consider changing Ordinance 7.14 (10) Spacing and Frequency from 600' to 300' between driveways. She stated that she and her family would like to build a small house on property they own along CTH F near the main house, but due to the driveway access ordinance and the Town of Poygan regulations they were finding it difficult. Supervisor Rasmussen asked Chairman Albrecht to move onto agenda item #3 so this could be discussed further.

Supervisor Rasmussen stated that he would not agree to change the existing Access Control Ordinance since additional access points are a safety issue and hinder traffic, and county roads are in place to move traffic. He stated that they could consider requesting a variance before the Board of Adjustment through the Zoning Department. Supervisor Egan asked if there was any way to divide the property. Ms. Ostrander stated they have looked at several options, and are trying to work within the town's guidelines. Supervisor Farrey suggested they might consider a shared driveway and culvert. After further discussion, Commissioner Palonen instructed Ms. Ostrander to submit a new driveway application for his review to install a shared driveway, and eliminate the existing access. Ms. Ostrander exited the meeting.

Commissioner Palonen stated that he received a request from the Town of Winneconne requesting improvements on STH 116 at several intersections, including CTH "M", CTH "S", and several town intersections. He replied to the town that he does not have the jurisdiction to do so since it's a state highway, but that he would forward the request to the WisDOT, and would support if the crash data warranted. Mr. Palonen stated that he also spoke to the WisDOT who informed him that the crash history does not warrant using Highway Safety Funding for those improvements.

The Highway Department pre-final draft of the 2021 operating budget was discussed. Commissioner Palonen stated that it appears the tax levy will be impacted even less than in past years. The increase in wages was partly due to the addition of the four new positions, including wages and fringe benefits. The actual wage amounts will be reflected in the budget book. Commissioner Palonen stated that some of the wages of the new employees are paid by the county and locals, but the majority are paid by the state. Supervisor Egan asked if they could get a breakdown of how much of the new employees' salaries are paid by the state vs. any other entity.

The following were reported as general operations:

- CTH “FF” project – the mainline paving is done. Crews are working on the driveways today, then the shouldering will be completed. Commissioner Palonen noted that the hot mix supplied from the Ripon plant was very tender. He stated it was a struggle to ensure none of the trucks or rollers left impressions in the road.
- CTH “O” project – the grading is complete on the west half and curb and gutter are being installed on that portion. That section will be landscaped and paved in the next 1-2 weeks. Then grading will begin on the east half. The project is expected to be complete by the end of September or early October.
- CTH “A” project – EBS of 1 foot so far. The soils have been poor and silty under the asphalt with no base course. Currently installing geo-grid and breaker run. The extra costs should be covered by the State funding since the bid came in under budget. Supervisor Farrey asked about the portion of CTH “A” from CTH “GG” to Neenah. Commissioner Palonen stated that the northern portion will have a mill and overlay in two years to improve the drainage and ride. Supervisor Farrey asked if that project could possibly be moved ahead.
- CTH “G” project – aluminum box culverts are being installed. The western culvert will be done first, then the eastern culvert. While the culverts are being installed the east end of CTH “G” from I41 to CTH A will be pulverized and paved.
- CTH “JJ and “CB” Roundabout project – the design has been started. There is one property on the SE quadrant that will need to be acquired. It is currently listed for sale as a commercial property.
- CTH “II” project – safety upgrades are nearly completed.
- Commissioner Palonen has been coordinating with Corporation Counsel regarding contracts and municipal agreements, and the fact that State Statute 83 gives the commissioner authority to sign contracts. Currently municipal agreements with cities and villages need to be signed by the Commissioner, County Executive, and County Clerk.
- Commissioner Palonen stated that Winnebago County may be receiving more funding for the CTH CB/JJ roundabout project. This was originally an MLS project but since the Supreme Court ruled Governor Evers’ line item vetoes invalid, the funds changed back to LRIP discretionary funds. Funds could go from \$75 million to \$90 million.
- The new tri-axle truck chassis arrived on Thursday. It is currently at body builders to install the winter equipment.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate