

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: August 15, 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: Ron Miller, 4638 9th Street Rd., Oshkosh
Sidney Opperman, 4608 County Rd. E, Oshkosh
Harry & Jackie Silva, 4688 County Rd. E, Oshkosh
Mary Klemz, 4676 County Rd. E, Oshkosh
Richard White, 4670 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 Harrison to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2022 meeting as written. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Albrecht asked for public input on the agenda items. Sidney Opperman stated that he and his neighbors are in attendance regarding the CTH E drainage issue. He thanked the Highway Department for the work they recently did out there, but he said something needs to be done with the water issue, perhaps drain tiles. Mary Klemz, another resident on CTH E, stated that ever since the Algoma Sanitary District was built, the county has to come every spring to thaw her culverts. She stated that in times of heavy rains, the water comes up to her home, and has entered twice. She has sent videos of the destruction that occurs after the water plant was built. Harry Silva stated that these residents try to help the county by keeping the ditches mowed to keep the water flowing, but agreed something more permanent needs to be done. He also thanked the Highway Department for the work they did recently. Ron Miller stated that this issue has been going on for 13 years and that there has been a formal study done once already. Richard White noted that since the Sanitary District project was done, his sump pump runs 365 days per year, and he also had to add another sump hole to combat the water.

Commissioner Doemel stated that the Highway Department recently did some ditching out along CTH E in the area of the drainage issues. He stated that the county cannot go onto private property and must work only in the right of way. He noted that he gets hundreds of calls per year from people in other areas of the county who also have water in their ditches each year. He stated that in general Winnebago County is very flat, and often there is nowhere for the water to go. Commissioner Doemel informed the committee that whatever remedy is done in the CTH E location, will have to be done for everyone. Supervisor Farrey stated he feels the only solution to the CTH E issue would be installing a tiling system. This would require the whole area be surveyed. Supervisor Egan recommended that the study that was performed in 2013 be given to Corporation Counsel to see if there are legal avenues, including securing the as-built documents from construction of the Sanitary District. Supervisor Farrey agreed.

Commissioner Doemel updated the committee on the CTH CB/JJ roundabout project. He stated that some of the materials have been difficult to get, including steel cages and pipe. He reported that the mainline paving is done, and the engineer even commented what a nice job Vinton Construction did. The remaining work includes hand work on the curbs and islands. The project is expected to be done by September 23, 2022. It was reported to Commissioner Doemel that the biggest problem on the project was the disrespectful drivers. Traffic would not obey the posted signs.

The CTH T/Pioneer Road Project was discussed. After cutting down the hill on CTH "II", there was 1.25" of base material added, a binder coat paved, and one layer of shoulder material laid. It is now open to traffic. The contractor is working on Pioneer Road, but they've run into bad subsoils. The contractor is working with a limited crew so Commissioner Doemel had to reinforce the time deadlines to them. The project is estimated to be completed in October.

Commissioner Doemel reported that the City of Oshkosh wishes to have a bike lane added to Harrison Street from New York Avenue to Bowen Street. Technically Harrison Street is a county highway (CTH "AA"), so Winnebago County has jurisdiction of the road. Commissioner Doemel stated that the easiest way to accomplish bike lanes would be by signage and pavement marking. He stated there is plenty of right of way available to do so. The City would do the painting and sign installation, as well as maintenance after the fact. Commissioner Doemel stated that since all that Winnebago County does on this road is winter plowing, he would like to have the city take ownership by a jurisdictional transfer.

Commissioner Doemel updated the committee on the Wis 76/Larsen Road intersection improvement project. The new Neenah High School is being constructed along CTH "II". There will also be a driveway to the school along Larsen Road, which will then funnel traffic to Wis 76 or CTH CB. Per the WisDOT, an intersection improvement of Wis 76/Larsen Road is tentatively scheduled for the summer of 2026.

The following were reported as general operations:

- The department took delivery of a tri-axle dump truck that was ordered two years ago. Recently, one of the other trucks blew a motor. It was a 2012 model with approximately 6,300 hours. The department is currently looking for quotes for a new motor. Initial estimates are approximately \$50,000. Commissioner Doemel will take this issue to the Personnel and Finance Committee when the repair estimates are all received.
- There will be interviews held today for mechanics. The Highway Department currently has two openings for mechanics and five equipment operator positions open. Human Resources recently gave the department permission to do more of the hiring process in-house to speed the process up.

The next regular meeting of the Highway Committee will be held on September 26, 2022.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nussbaum, seconded by Supervisor Harrison to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate