

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: August 23, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

EXCUSED: Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member

ALSO PRESENT: Jill Prah, Highway Office Supervisor  
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 Egan, seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2021 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Albrecht asked for input on agenda items from the public. Mr. Opperman thanked the Highway Department for cutting down the cattails near his residence, at 4608 County Rd. E, Oshkosh. He stated that the water is draining better now. Mrs. Silva noted that there is still an issue with algae and mosquitos in the area.

Commissioner Doemel stated that the Highway Department did some mowing in the CTH "E" area, and sprayed out to Fenzl Road. The department will mow again this fall. Mr. Doemel stated that he intends to have an engineering firm shoot some grades and make a determination on long term plans. Supervisor Egan asked if the Algoma Sanitary Sewer could be held responsible for the issues. Commissioner Doemel stated that he will speak to Corporation Counsel on that matter.

Highway Department crews have been busy doing clean up after the recent storms. There are four crews chipping the brush on county roads, then moving to the town roads. It's estimated to take about a month to complete the work.

Commissioner Doemel gave an update on the CTH "Y" project. He stated that the contractor finished the base course last week, and is working on the cross culverts now. There were a few issues with the driveway culverts that had to be remedied. The Highway Department crews will be doing the final grade work, then begin paving. The portion from STH 76 to I41 will be widened out and raised about 4-6" to prevent flooding in that area. The project is expected to be completed by the end of September.

The intersection of CTH "II" at Kimberly Clark was discussed. Commissioner Doemel notified the committee that originally there were no signals at this location. He stated that the Village of Fox Crossing and the Neenah School District are requesting traffic signals. There will need to be acquisition of right of way for these signals to be placed. Kimberly Clark is working on the property acquisition. The Neenah School District will be responsible for the costs. Winnebago County had originally planned to do a mill and overlay on CTH "II", but this project will be postponed until next year after the construction is complete.

Commissioner Doemel updated the committee on the WisDOT's choice of CTH "S" to receive funding from the High Risk Rural Road Program. He stated the criteria used to determine which roads are selected is based on crash history. If Winnebago County chooses to apply for this funding, it will be responsible for 10% of the project, and the WisDOT will pay 90%. All the work would be contracted out. Mr. Doemel stated that this road has a narrow right of way, and several large trees that would have to be removed, which is never popular with the homeowners. He stated that at some point this road will need to have a mill and overlay, and perhaps this could be done in conjunction. The Committee asked Mr. Doemel to do some more research on the accident data, and if some of the trees could be left, and whether or not if an application is submitted and approved, if the county could opt out of the program.

The following were submitted as general operations:

- Commissioner Doemel updated the committee on the condition of the fleet of trucks. He stated that several of the trucks have major issues, including one cracked frame and two that have the frame rails and boxes rotted through. He stated that keeping these trucks for 14 years, with the heavy daily use is too long. Two of the trucks can be repaired next week for \$7,000 each. These trucks should have been discarded 2-3 years ago.
- Two new trucks were ordered earlier this year, but due to the chip shortage, are not expected to arrive until February or March of 2022. The new tow plow has been received, but we do not have a truck to pull it.
- Mr. Doemel stated that the service of the vehicles is not up to speed either. Previously, the 2<sup>nd</sup> shift mechanic position was eliminated, and trucks were being kept too long. He stated that it's imperative to get the fleet back on track now, and try to catch up. He also stated the we have to preserve what we have now, to include more frequent washing habits and spraying to prevent corrosion. Chairman Albrecht asked how much money is in the Highway reserves. Jill Prah stated that she would have to check.

The next meeting of the Highway Committee will be held on Monday, September 20, 2021.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 am.

Laura Spanbauer  
Administrative Associate