

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: September 20, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

VIA PHONE: Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member

ALSO PRESENT: Jon Doemel, County Executive

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2021 meeting as written. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Albrecht asked for input on agenda items from the public. There was none. Supervisor Egan joined the meeting via phone.

Commissioner Doemel updated the committee regarding the CTH "II" intersection with Kimberly-Clark Corp. and the Neenah High School. He stated that to accommodate a larger intersection and install traffic signals at this location, there is additional right-of-way required. A Quit Claim Deed has been granted by Kimberly-Clark to provide the necessary right-of-way (approximately 5,248 square feet). After discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Farrey to approve the acceptance of the right-of-way. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen and carried 4-0. After approval by the Winnebago County Board, it is KC's hope to get the signals installed as soon as possible.

The High-Risk Rural Road Program was discussed. Commissioner Doemel stated that it would cost approximately \$400,000, of which Winnebago County would be responsible for 10%, to install rumble strips, cut trees, and upgrade the signs along CTH "S". He said he spoke to the WisDOT who advised him it is an all or nothing agreement, but that if Winnebago County declines the offer at this time, they can reapply again. Commissioner Doemel stated he feels there should be more public involvement, and that the property owners who would be impacted deserve more notice. Mr. Doemel stated that the crash data shows most accidents along CTH "S" are car vs. deer, and not overly serious. Supervisor Farrey suggested that Mr. Doemel coordinate with the Town of Oshkosh on this project. Supervisor Rasmussen stated he feels that the state should not be handing out money for county roads, when they won't pay for traffic lights at the intersection of STH 21/Leonards Pt. Road, which is their road.

Commissioner Doemel updated the committee on the project on CTH "CB" from Shady Lane to CTH "JJ". He stated that the mill and overlay, and shouldering have been completed. Centerlining remains to be done. He noted that it was challenging at times due to the fact that the CTH "II" intersection was closed, causing additional traffic. Mr. Doemel stated that the paving crew did a nice job. The project is expected to be completed by the end of September.

Commissioner Doemel gave an update on the CTH "Y" project. He stated that crews are currently working on the portion in front of the Highway Department. He stated that due to continual flooding, 10" of millings were added to build up the base, as well as replacing culverts at the lift station. This should alleviate any future issues there. The road will be widened to 24' to accommodate the landfill truck traffic. The west end of the project being done by Radtke's has been delayed due to driveway culvert installations, and slower than anticipated progress. The entire road should be paved by the end of the month.

The following were reported as general operations:

- Highway Department crews have been working nights on I41. That work should be finishing up next week. Crews have been running day and night.
- Crews should be finishing up the work at the Winchester salt shed. The driveway was regraded and will be repaved. The existing ponds will remain in place.
- Supervisor Farrey asked if anything changed with the personnel issue. Commissioner Doemel stated the department is still short staffed, and that nobody is applying for the open jobs. He stated that he brought a few retired employees back to work as bridgetenders, but the department continues to have openings. It was discussed that employee shortages are a problem everywhere. If this issue continues long term, the department may have to reduce its services.
- Commissioner Doemel informed the committee that the two trucks that had the hinges and box rails rotted out will be fixed and back soon. He stated these vehicles should have been disposed of two years ago. He stated that there has been no word on when the two new trucks ordered in the beginning of 2021 will be delivered, but it could be March of 2022. The plan is to order three more tri-axles, but most likely they would also be another year out.

County Executive Doemel stated that he had the last item added to the agenda. He stated that according to State Statutes, the Highway Commissioner was supposed to be reappointed every two years unless a different term was established by the county board. Going back nearly a decade, no reappointments were found. A request will be made to allow the Highway Commissioner to serve at the pleasure of the County Executive. This is a technical fix to past practice. This request will be presented to the full county board next month.

The next meeting of the Highway Committee will be held on Monday, October 18, 2021.

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

Laura Spanbauer  
Administrative Associate