

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: January 18, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Chairman
Joel Rasmussen, Highway Committee Member
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
Ray Palonen, Highway Commissioner

VIA ZOOM: Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member
Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2020 meeting as written. Seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen and carried 5-0.

Chairman Albrecht asked for public input on agenda items. There was none.

Discussion was held regarding having the Finance Committee approve a budget transfer of \$6,609,000 for the 2021 annual bridge and road paving program. Supervisor Rasmussen stated that the Finance Committee had already discussed this topic. A motion was made by Chairman Albrecht to recommend the Finance Committee approve a budget transfer of \$6,609,000 for the 2021 annual bridge and road paving program. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen and carried 5-0.

A recommendation to have the County Board approve a budget transfer of \$6,609,000 for the 2021 annual bridge and road paving program was discussed. The resolution would authorize the program be funded with \$2,031,720 from outside sources and a transfer of \$4,577,280 from the undesignated general fund. This money would be used to fund infrastructure improvements. A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Egan to approve recommending the County Board approve this resolution. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Palonen informed the committee about an intergovernmental agreement between the northeast counties for mutual aid as needed. The agreement includes Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Sheboygan, and Winnebago County. He stated that assisting other counties in the region has always been done in the past during emergencies, but Brown County is requesting a signed agreement. Commissioner Palonen stated that he doesn't see the need for the agreement, that assistance to others could only be done after Winnebago County's services are completed where they are contractually obligated, such as with the WisDOT and most of the towns in Winnebago County. Mr. Palonen stated that if the department assists other counties they will be reimbursed the same rates as paid now including regular labor, overtime, and state equipment rates. Supervisor Farrey stated that he feels the scope of the agreement stretches too far geographically. Commissioner Palonen stated he is also concerned with liability issues should there be an accident or incident while assisting another county. After discussion, it was determined it would be in Winnebago County's best interest not to sign the agreement, but make it known that they are willing to assist as necessary and able.

Commissioner Palonen informed the committee members about the impacts to CTH II that will arise from construction of a new Neenah High School being built on a 240-acre parcel across from the Kimberly Clark complex. The traffic counts provided were taken during the COVID-19 pandemic, and do not show accurate levels of traffic that would be expected. CTH II at the Kimberly Clark entrance will need to be upgraded to improve left turn movements, including possibly widening to accommodate left turn lanes. Updates to the traffic signals will be necessary also. Commissioner Palonen stated normally the developer is expected to contribute for intersection improvements, and he made that known to them. He stated that other school entrances may be built on Oakridge Road and Larsen Road, but the main entrance would be along CTH II. He stated that the Town of Neenah is skeptical that Oakridge road is built to handle the additional traffic. Supervisor Farrey asked if there will be right-of-way acquisition necessary, and if so, stated that the 115 million-dollar bond referendum that passed should be used to cost share. He stated this location is now under the Village of Fox Crossing jurisdiction. Commissioner Palonen stated that he will be meeting with them to discuss. He also informed the committee that the resurface project planned for CTH II this year will still be performed to prolong the integrity of the road.

Commissioner Palonen stated that County Supervisor Buck requested an updated PASER pavement rating for the county highway system. Mr. Palonen stated that when he started with Winnebago County the average road rating was at a five. Since he's been here, the average rating for the county system has increased to a seven, which is considered very good condition.

The following were reported as general operations:

- Due to the fact that it's been a pretty mild winter so far, the department is getting caught up with projects such as fencing, brush cutting, crack filling and some town work.
- Commissioner Palonen stated at the last meeting that there would be approximately \$250,000-\$300,000 remaining in the general fund from 2020. He would like to request a carry-over of those funds to be used in 2021 for double chip sealing approximately 40 miles of roads. He stated that his predecessor did only a minimal amount of chip sealing, so the program fell behind. The committee recommended that he bring documentation to the county board to show why the program is behind. Commissioner Palonen stated that this would be a one-time request, with the money being used strictly for chip sealing.

The date of the next regular Highway Committee Meeting will be February 15, 2021.

A motion was made by Supervisor Rasmussen, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate