

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: October 19, 2020

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Chairman
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
Joel Rasmussen, Highway Committee Member
Ray Palonen, Highway Commissioner
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member (via phone)

EXCUSED: Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member

Due to technical difficulties with the Zoom connection, Supervisor Warnke joined the meeting via phone. Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2020 meeting as written. Seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen and carried 3-0.

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

Commissioner Palonen distributed a list of the remaining bridges in Winnebago County that require federal inspections by the end of October. This is normally done in-house by the Engineering Manager, but due to an unexpected surgery the inspections could not be completed. Commissioner Palonen stated that in order to meet the statutes he is forced to hire a consultant to finish them. Supervisor Egan asked what the cost will be for the consultant. Commissioner Palonen stated the estimate was approximately \$700 per inspection. Supervisor Warnke asked if another county could be of assistance. Commissioner Palonen stated that the other counties are busy trying to get their own inspections done, and would not have staff available.

Commissioner Palonen distributed the 2020 Capital Improvement Project Balance worksheet as of October 14th. He went over each line item, and stated that due to project delays and extra work the Crisis Center job went over budget by approximately \$22,000. He stated that the CTH G project also went over budget slightly, but that the remainder of the projects were completed within budget. He stated that some of the budget balances seem large because invoices will have to be subtracted when they are received. Commissioner Palonen noted that the project on CTH A from Indian Point Road to CTH GG is complete and open to traffic, and turned out nicely. He also distributed a breakdown of the County Trunk Highway System budget through the end of September. He noted that there is approximately \$576,000 remaining in the non-winter budget, and \$323,000 in the winter budget for the remaining months of 2020.

Commissioner Palonen stated that he was able to secure an additional \$347,000 of funding for the CTH CB/JJ roundabout project. This was due to the fact that original MLS funding amounts were reduced by the Governor, then overturned after the legislature filed a lawsuit. That brought the available funds back to the original 90 million dollars. The funding program was renamed LRIP-S (Special). By Winnebago County receiving the additional \$347,000 in funding it brings the total to one-million dollars.

The purchase of traffic counters and light towers was discussed. After doing some research Commissioner Palonen stated that he narrowed it down to two models of traffic counters, the Omega G and Omega X3, from Diamond Traffic Products, ranging in price from \$1,400 to \$1,700. He stated that besides counting traffic, the units will gather other statistical data including classifying the type of vehicle. He also stated that it would be beneficial for the department to have a couple light towers for night work. Currently towers have to be rented, and aren't always available when needed. Supervisor Warnke stated he feels the necessary equipment should be purchased since it is for safety reasons. He advised Commissioner Palonen to get an adequate number of them. Supervisor Egan said he agrees with the purchases, but suggested the two traffic counter models be compared to see what the difference is. Commissioner Palonen stated that there is sufficient money remaining in the equipment fund to cover the purchases. He will work with the Finance Director.

The following were reported as general operations:

- The CTH "O" project will be completed this week.
- The department has two last minute town projects for next week.
- There is some mill and patch work to be done at the Hwy 45 boat landing and Coughlin Center repairs.
- There is a large crack filling job for the WisDOT.
- Equipment is being mounted on the trucks for winter. They should all be complete by the end of the month.
- COVID-19 has hit the Highway Department. There are currently three employees out, and at one time there were 15 who were either sick or exposed.
- CTH A is now open from Oshkosh to Neenah.
- The STH 76 project has been completed and is open.
- Commissioner Palonen is putting the finishing touches on the Capital Improvement Project list and will submit to County Executive Harris for review. He will bring back to the Committee upon approval.
- Supervisor Egan asked if the large drop off issue at CTH K and CTH E has been addressed. Commissioner Palonen stated that he will have something done before winter.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2020.

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

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate