

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: November 15, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Chairman
Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member
Joel Rasmussen, Highway Committee Member
Tom Eagan, Highway Committee Member
Ben Joas, Highway Committee Member

ALSO

PRESENT: Jon Groth, Highway Maintenance Superintendent

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Egan to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2021 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0.

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

Jon Groth, Highway Maintenance Superintendent, stated that he is filling in for Commissioner Doemel today. Mr. Doemel is out completing a bridge inspection on the Eureka Bridge. These are federally mandated inspections, and have to be done when the State-owned specialty inspection truck is available. Mr. Doemel is currently the only employee licensed to do bridge inspections at the Highway Department.

Jon updated the committee on the loader rentals for the winter season. Normally, the Highway Department rents four loaders from November through April. Three units are kept at the outlying sheds at Winchester, Fox Crossing, and STH 26 to load the trucks with salt. The loaders normally rent for approximately \$3,200/month each. No vendors replied to the request for quotes this year. The department was able to secure only three loaders, ranging in cost from \$5,310 to \$6,120/month each. Jon noted that another loader may become available at a later date, or there may be one available to use from the Parks Department.

The CTH Y project was discussed. Mr. Groth stated that the project has been completed, with no carry over anticipated into spring. He noted the closing out, and billing of the project will be done by Commissioner Doemel.

Jon updated the committee on the CTH JJ and CB roundabout project. He stated that the house demolition in the area has been completed. He noted that the contractor is doing utility work, which may include an open cut to complete. Some trees may need to be removed this spring to complete construction.

Highway Department staffing needs were discussed. Mr. Groth stated that the department is currently down two operator positions. They are anticipating interviews to be performed soon. He also stated that Commissioner Doemel's previous position of Engineering/Bridge Supervisor has not been posted yet. Commissioner Doemel continues to do both jobs, which is why he was unable to attend this meeting. The committee noted that vacated positions should be posted immediately. This issue appears to emanate from the Human Resource Department.

The following were reported as general operations:

- Highway Department staff have been busy setting up the equipment for winter. Approximately 2/3 of the trucks have been fitted with the plows, wings and spreaders. The bridge decks were treated yesterday for the first snow of the season.
- The capital equipment was discussed. Mr. Groth noted that three tri-axle dump trucks are proposed as part of the 2022 budget. The vendors are stating their inventory is down by 40%, and it is possible there may not be any trucks available in 2022. Jon stated that one of the trucks scheduled for replacement has a cracked frame and is unusable. The department may be forced to use the Oshkosh trucks or graders on lesser traveled roads, although they do not have the ability to apply salt. The department may also look into getting snow pushers for the skid steers. Chairman Albrecht asked if the department could work with the City of Oshkosh. Mr. Groth stated currently there are some routes that are shared with the city, and there may be a possibility to expand that.

The next regular meeting of the Highway Committee is scheduled for December 20, 2021.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate