

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: December 13, 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  
Robert Doemel, Highway Commissioner

VIA ZOOM: Ben Joas, Highway Committee Member

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 November 15, 2021 meeting as written. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Commissioner Doemel informed the committee about an incident that happened in Fond du Lac County. On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, one of their roller operators was nearly hit, but avoided injury by jumping off the machine as it was struck, deflecting the vehicle away from other workers. The person who hit him was charged with his 5<sup>th</sup> OWI, and drove right through the flagged work zone. The Fond du Lac County Highway Commissioner is looking into having body cams for the employees. Supervisor Farrey stated that there is a bill in the works to enhance penalties for such infractions.

Commissioner Doemel stated that when the CTH "Y" project was started by the previous administration, some of the requirements of the CDBG funding were not adhered to. One of the items was to have the committee approve the selection of the observation consultant. Without the committee's approval, the county stands to lose \$55,000 in funding. After discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Farrey to approve Ayres Associates as the responsible party for the observation of the CTH "Y" project. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen and carried 5-0.

Commissioner Doemel noted that he missed the last committee meeting because he was completing a bridge inspection on the Eureka Bridge. He stated that currently he is the only person in the department certified to act as project manager/team leader for bridge inspections. There is one more staff member who has helped him do the inspections in the past, but is not certified. Other counties have outsourced their inspections, but that is very expensive, usually \$800-\$1,000 per structure. Mr. Doemel stated that he would like to keep this work in-house and get one more person trained. These bridge inspections are Federal/State mandated. He intends to see if there are any employees interested in becoming certified. Commissioner Doemel also stated that he intends to make changes to his old position in the future.

The vacation of old CTH "W" near CTH "II" was discussed. Commissioner Doemel stated that the Town of Winchester is requesting this action. There are two retail establishments who wish to open stores in that location. They are asking to divide old CTH "W" down the center between the two. Commissioner Doemel informed them that they must provide exactly what they want via a legal description, and he will work with the WisDOT. If this is approved, it will help to clean up old parcels still belonging to the county that serve no purpose. A motion was made by Supervisor Rasmussen, seconded by Supervisor Farrey to vacate the two noted parcels on old CTH "W". Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Doemel informed the committee about a recent incident that occurred in the repair shop. While several employees were using the overhead crane to lift a truck box, something gave way causing the box to fall. One of the employees suffered a broken collar bone. The crane was immediately locked out from use. A company came in to inspect the crane and found worn parts. The first purchase order for parts totaled \$19,000. The crane has since been repaired and certified as safe to operate. A budget transfer is necessary to move the \$2,000 from savings realized from the purchase of unit #41 to complete the crane repairs. A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey to approve the \$2,000 budget transfer to repair the crane. Motion seconded by Supervisor Rasmussen and carried 5-0.

The following were reported as general operations:

- There have been a few smaller snow events. All of the trucks are ready to go. The department is still battling COVID. Last week there were two men out. Social distancing is required, and hopefully no further infections occur.
- The LRIP project applications are being finalized. Mr. Doemel stated that Jill, the Office Manager, did a great job assisting and learning the process.
- Last week our truck #91, with a V-10 motor, developed severe mechanical issues. It is believed the engine may be inoperable. It will be determined how to proceed, if a new motor is feasible, and where the funding would come from.
- The truck purchased last year from the Town of Black Wolf has issues with the hydraulic box ram. One of the mechanics is going to try to repair in-house.

The next regular meeting of the Highway Committee will be held on Monday, January 10, 2022.

A motion was made by Supervisor Rasmussen, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer  
Administrative Associate