

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: December 17, 2018

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Member
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member
Raymond Palonen, Highway Commissioner

EXCUSED: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Chairman

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive

Vice Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. The first item on the agenda was the election of Officers to the Highway Committee. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan to nominate Supervisor Albrecht as Chairman. There were no other nominations. The motion was seconded by supervisor Farrey and carried 4-0. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan to nominate Supervisor Warnke as Vice Chairman. Motion seconded by Supervisor Farrey and carried 4-0. A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Egan to nominate Supervisor Farrey as Secretary. Motion carried 4-0.

With elections being closed, a motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Egan to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with no additions or corrections. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Albrecht asked if there was any public input. There was none.

Commissioner Palonen reminded the Committee about the upcoming Winter Highway Conference. It will be held January 14-16, 2019 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. He stated that the County Clerk's office has all the registration forms if any of the committee members are interested in attending.

Commissioner Palonen distributed copies of Wisconsin 2017 Senate Bill 883. Mr. Palonen informed the committee that he recently met with Representative Gordon Hintz and County Executive Harris to discuss. Section 86.51 of the bill updates the requirements for local projects, stating that funds that were previously provided by Federal sources for bridge replacements, STP projects, etc. will now be swapped with State funds. Projects will no longer have to follow Federal regulations, but must follow State design requirements. This change could save local governments up to 30% on projects. This essentially took the State roll out and placed the responsibility onto the Highway Commissioners. Commissioner Palonen stated that there are some concerns still to be worked out, like making sure the funds remain in the correct place. He also stated that most counties do not have the engineering staff to do this work, that it will be necessary to bring in consulting firms to meet the requirements. Item #4 of section 86.51 also states that the projects must be put out for bids, thereby excluding county staff from doing the work.

Changes in the Management Consultant role with federally funded projects was discussed. Commissioner Palonen stated that years ago the State did all the reviewing of projects for the counties. Later the State hired Management Consultants for each region to oversee all projects falling under State/Federal programs. The State has now eliminated the Management Consultant roles and took over some of the duties. The rest of the responsibility will fall on the Highway Commissioner to review and approve all project designs. Commissioner Palonen stated that he has already informed the consultants he works with that they'll have to provide affidavits stating that they've followed all the requirements and standards before he'll sign off on a project.

The following were reported as general operations:

- Installation of the covered storage bins behind the shop to meet MS4 requirements is nearing completion.
- The crews have been out cutting brush, installing beam guard, and snow fencing.
- Supervisor Farrey asked the status of the new Supervisor position. Commissioner Palonen stated that he just got the job description from HR and expects to post it after the first of the year.
- Commissioner Palonen stated that the wash-down system has been installed in the shop. This will provide four locations down the center isle to hose off the trucks after storms.
- Commissioner Palonen stated that he'll be going before the County Board in February to present the 2019 CIP, and make the request for funding in March.

The next meeting of the Highway Committee is scheduled for Monday, January 7, 2019.

A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate