

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: January 21, 2013

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Chairman
Tim Hamblin, Highway Committee Member
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member
Dave Albrecht, Highway Committee Member
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
Ernie Winters, Highway Commissioner

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 A.M. A motion was made by Supervisor Hamblin, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2013 meeting as written. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Robl asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address any agenda items at this time. There was no public input.

The Committee discussed the Winter Highway Conference that was held last week in Wisconsin Dells. Commissioner Winters stated he brought back the following topics from the conference for discussion:

- The WisDOT provided a 2011 Traffic Crash Facts Calendar showing accident data compiled from 2011. Mr. Winters posted it in the conference room and invited any of the Committee members to view it if they wish.
- The Transportation Policy Group may recommend raising the gas tax and/or implementing a user tax in Wisconsin to raise money for the transportation fund. This measure would have to be approved by the State Legislature and Governor.
- The Wisconsin Secretary of Transportation had proposed a 50 million dollar increase in routine maintenance funding from the state if a memo of understanding was signed by the WisDOT, the Counties and the Road Builders Association. Now rather than increase the DOT budget routine maintenance funding the State is proposing to reduce the majors program by 37%. It appears unlikely the memo of understanding will be signed.
- The State is projecting a 5 billion dollar funding gap in the next 10 years if things continue as is. There are plans to include a Constitutional Amendment on the 2014 ballot asking citizens to decide whether or not to protect the transportation fund.
- Supervisor Hamblin stated he attended a meeting at the conference regarding overweight trucks hauling on the highways. He stated according to the WisDOT there are many oversize loads running without being permitted. Commissioner Winters stated he and some other Commissioners will be meeting with a specialist on farming to discuss hauling of oversize loads.

Commissioner Winters advised the Committee that fleet #43, a one-ton truck, recently suffered a major engine failure. According to cost estimates received it will cost approximately \$16,000 for the parts plus labor to repair the unit, possibly totaling \$30,000-\$35,000. Commissioner Winters is instead requesting a budget transfer of \$50,000 to purchase a new truck as a replacement rather than fix the existing unit that is already fully depreciated. No new money is necessary as the funds are available from a savings realized when the asphalt paver came in under budget. A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to approve a \$50,000 budget transfer. After more discussion regarding repairing the existing unit vs. purchasing new Supervisor Warnke withdrew his motion. This item will be addressed at a future meeting.

A budget transfer to address an accounting issue regarding the expense and revenues listed on the Capital Projects from 2012 was discussed. Commissioner Winters explained that this is an accounting adjustment where the purchase of asphalt was not correctly listed when the 2012 budget was submitted. He stated this is only an offsetting entry, that no additional funds are necessary. Loanne Owens-Flaig, Highway Accountant, joined the meeting to explain to the Committee the need for the budget transfer. After discussion a motion was made by Chairman Robl, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to approve a budget transfer to cover a shortfall in materials expense and revenues on the Capital Projects from 2012. The motion was carried 5-0. Ms. Owens-Flaig left the meeting.

General Operations:

- Commissioner Winters informed the Committee that last Friday the Federal Appeals Court voted to uphold Act 10 as initiated by Governor Walker. He stated there is a 75 page opinion yet to be analyzed on the subject.
- Recently there was an article in a Calumet County newspaper regarding delaying the USH 10/441 project. There will be a resolution brought before the County Board tomorrow night to urge the WisDOT to not delay the project.
- East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission is hosting a mini-conference titled “Keeping Wisconsin Moving – Smart Transportation Investments & Measurable Results”. The conference will be held on Friday, January 25th from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Liberty Hall in Kimberly.
- Commissioner Winters distributed the recent issue of “The Connector” newsletter published by the WisDOT to the Committee members.

The next regular meeting will be held on February 4, 2013.

A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0.
The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary