

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: March 12, 2013

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

EXCUSED: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Chairman

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive
Glenn Armstrong, Town of Neenah Supervisor
Harrison Sturgis Jr., Town of Neenah resident

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Hamblin at 9:00 A.M. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2013 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0.

Vice Chairman Hamblin asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address any agenda items at this time. Harrison Sturgis stated he was attending today's meeting to find out the locations of the street lighting and stop signs that were requested by the Town of Neenah as referenced in agenda item #7. Mr. Armstrong stated he was in attendance as a Town of Neenah representative to listen to that discussion as well.

Commissioner Winters distributed some information to the committee members on the CTH FF mill and pave project. The project is five miles long running from STH 44 to the south county line. The project will consist of milling 4" off the old roadbed and replacing with a 4" mat of asphalt including paved shoulders, and ditching. Commissioner Winters stated the road is in rough shape and needs to be repaved. Mr. Winters will be making a presentation to the full county board next week to explain the project.

The CTH I mill and pave project was also discussed. This project is three miles long running from CTH N to CTH Z. Commissioner Winters stated this road is also in bad shape and after milling will be repaved as 11' driving lanes with 3' paved shoulders on each side. Mr. Winters will also be presenting this project to the county board next week. Supervisor Albrecht stated he has no problem with these projects since it's important to keep the County's infrastructure up.

Commissioner Winters presented the committee with a draft copy of a resolution naming April 15-19, 2013 as Work Zone Safety Awareness Week. Commissioner Winters stated he would like to share this information with local schools and media and in the past has worked with Driver's Ed programs. Work Zone Safety Awareness week will be dedicated to the memory of Marc Neumeyer and Dan Melhorn, two highway department employees fatally injured while working along USH 41 on March 7, 2006. A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Egan to approve this resolution. Motion carried 4-0. The resolution will be presented to the full county board for approval at their next meeting.

Commissioner Winters stated that action on agenda item #6 regarding the conveyance of 6.5 acres of right of way to the WisDOT is no longer necessary. He informed the Committee that the WisDOT called him yesterday stating they had made an error, and the property in question that was purchased in 2008 for a road project is already owned by the State not Winnebago County. No action is required on this item.

The requests from the Town of Neenah for street lighting and stop signs were discussed. Street lights were requested at the intersection of CTH O and CTH CB. Commissioner Winters stated the County generally does not install street lighting, that they are statutorily only responsible for the roadway, drainage, and curb and gutter. He stated he does not recommend changing the policy to install lights. Supervisor Albrecht stated that it should be looked at but he does not think street lights should be installed due to the tremendous amount that will be requested and the huge cost associated with it. Town of Neenah Supervisor Armstrong asked if the town would be allowed to install lights if they were to cover the associated costs. Commissioner Winters stated the Highway Department would work with the town to install lights if the town were to fund them. Supervisor Egan asked if it would be possible to create a policy that would allow any towns who would like to install lights and may be short of funds, to borrow the money from the County and reimburse them later.

Commissioner Winters stated that he intends to review the intersection of CTH CB with Oakridge Road to determine if additional stop signs are necessary. He stated a study was performed in the past but another analysis will be conducted including accident history, traffic volume, sight distances, etc. to see if these intersections meet the warrants for additional stops. He stated that while safety is very important, the purpose of an arterial is to move traffic, not stop frequently. Supervisor Albrecht stated that since the Governor supposedly increased the number of engineers on the WisDOT staff, why not request they do these kinds of studies. Commissioner Winters stated he can make that request to the DOT but since it is not a state road, chances are they would not be able to assist. Supervisor Albrecht also suggested having Mead & Hunt, who originally designed CTH CB review it. Commissioner Winters stated these topics will be brought back to a future meeting for more discussion.

General Operations:

- Commissioner Winters stated that a meeting on the CTH K Bridge project is scheduled for March 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the Rushford Town Hall. Letters will be mailed out this week to locals and interested parties inviting them to attend. The meeting will address the project dates and detour route.
- Due to the severe winter weather, Commissioner Winters stated the department's winter budget is depleted. He will be bringing a request for a budget transfer for additional funds to a future meeting.
- Commissioner Winters informed the committee that tomorrow he will be attending a seminar put on for the county and towns hosted by Contech. Mr. Winters will be giving a presentation on bridge aid, town contracts, etc.
- Commissioner Winters informed the committee that the Town of Algoma wants a bridge replaced under the culvert aid program on Oakwood Road. The County's half of the project would be approximately \$120,000. The Town of Algoma Planning Commission is also contemplating placing a four-way stop at the intersection of Omro Road and Oakwood Road to address issues they have with school buses.
- Supervisor Albrecht stated that he and Supervisor Warnke recently attended a NACO convention representing our state at Congressman Petri's office. Several things were discussed including cutting funding for two-lane highways. This is a problem for Winnebago County since STH 26 is one of the deadliest highways in the state. A suggestion was made to have the WisDOT make available an early warning system located on Hwy 41 and Hwys 151/26 giving travelers forewarning of detours due to accidents, etc.
- Supervisor Egan asked if the Commissioner had heard anything from the City of Oshkosh on the proposed West Side Arterial. Commissioner Winters stated that he has not but is hoping to invite the DOT and representatives from the City of Oshkosh and Towns to a meeting this spring to discuss. No date has been set for a meeting.

The next regular Highway Committee Meeting will be held on April 1, 2013. A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.