

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: April 16, 2012

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

EXCUSED: Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member

ALSO

PRESENT: Dick Schramer, City of Berlin Mayor  
Mike McMonigol, Berlin Boat Club  
Dave Pantzlaff, Ayres Associates  
Tony Daley, Berlin Journal Newspapers  
Matt Halada, WisDOT – NE Region  
Walt Raith, East Central WI RPC  
Robert Doemel, Highway Department  
Lt. Bill Anthes, Winnebago County Sheriff's Dept.  
Dave Peck, Friends of Fox  
Jim Bonetti, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers  
Mark Harris, Winnebago County Executive  
Guy Hegg, District #27 Supervisor

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 A.M. A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2012 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Robl asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address any agenda items at this time. Mayor Schramer stated he was here to discuss the Eureka Bridge. Mayor Schramer stated he spoke with the City of Berlin city council members regarding contributing funds to the Eureka Bridge project. Mr. Schramer stated that the City of Berlin is on hold at this time to see what other interest is shown. Commissioner Winters stated that he contacted Green Lake County and the person he spoke with showed a lack of interest in participating in a project being constructed in Winnebago County. Dave Peck stated that the Friends of the Fox and Berlin Boat Club will be meeting this Wednesday and he will approach them regarding funding for the bridge project. Mike McMonigol reminded the Committee that the Berlin Boat Club has already spent over \$300,000 of private resources on a public works project to restore the Eureka locks and navigation to the Fox River.

Supervisor Albrecht questioned Mr. Pantzlaff why Ayres did not design the bridge according to the impact from the other entities from the beginning. Mr. Pantzlaff stated they took input by way of the resolutions that were passed by the Cities of Berlin and Omro stating 10' clearance from the ordinary navigation level as acceptable for the design. Mr. Pantzlaff stated that Ayres had approval on the findings from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Coast Guard and the DNR.

Mark Harris, Winnebago County Executive, stated that he would hate to see Winnebago County be the limiting factor on the waterway. He stated he believes the new Eureka Bridge should be constructed to match the Omro bridge height.

Bob Doemel, Winnebago County Highway Bridge Operations Superintendent, stated that according to bridge inspections it was observed that the current Eureka Bridge has a low sufficiency rating. He stated that due to the fact the structure is insufficient the main goal of the committee should be to replace the Eureka Bridge soon.

Mr. Pantzlaff stated that in order to make the December bid letting a decision has to be made on this project by Friday. He stated that the estimated \$52,000 +/- total includes the cost for design engineering, construction materials, and construction administration of the new structure.

Commissioner Winters distributed a memo to the committee members with his recommendation on the CTH K bridge project. Mr. Winters stated he believes they should commit to the design changes, that while \$50,000 is a lot of money, it is not a huge increase for a structure costing over 2 million dollars that should last 50+ years. Mr. Winters stated he believes that by bidding the project this winter they will see favorable bid prices. That fact coupled with the indication that the federal cap may be raised should help to offset the \$50,000 cost of design changes. With these items he feels it makes sense to build the bridge to match the height of the bridge structure in Omro.

Chairman Robl stated that personally he is not happy how long the project is taking but feels it needs to move forward and be built as close to right as possible. A motion was made by Chairman Robl to approve the CTH K bridge project design alternatives. Supervisor Warnke stated he still would like to see some participation from other entities to show good faith on the project. Supervisor Warnke seconded the motion and it carried 3-1. Ayes – Robl, Warnke, Hamblin. Nay – Albrecht.

A three county bicycle-pedestrian study was discussed. Walt Raith, ECWRPC informed the committee that this study is a multi-jurisdictional project that will include the long range vision for the communities involved. Supervisor Albrecht questioned if ECWRPC had hired additional help for this project. Mr. Wraith stated they had not. Mr. Albrecht also questioned how the funding would work. Mr. Raith stated ECWRPC will be the financial agent and there will be no cost to Winnebago County. Supervisor Warnke made a motion to approve a Three-County Bicycle-Pedestrian Study to be done with East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission for \$150,000 in grant funds. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Hamblin and carried 4-0.

Commissioner Winters stated he was contacted by the City of Oshkosh regarding the speed limit on CTH I (Oregon Street). Mr. Winters stated the current speed limit on CTH I is 45 mph south of Waukau Avenue, and 30 mph from Waukau to 28<sup>th</sup> Street. The City is requesting that the speed limit be raised to 35 mph from Waukau Avenue to 28<sup>th</sup> Street. The City will be responsible for adjusting the signage. After discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to approve adjusting the speed limit on CTH I. Motion carried 4-0.

The request to install temporary traffic signals at the intersection of Witzel Avenue and Oakwood Road was discussed. This request is based on the increased traffic due to the USH 41 construction and the closing of the STH 21 interchange. Commissioner Winters stated he spoke with Tom Buchholz from WisDOT who stated he is willing to look at temporary signals at this location but is not excited about it since it is a very short term problem. It is assumed that when the roundabouts open on Washburn and Koeller Streets in June and school is completed for the summer, that traffic issues will be much less intense. Commissioner Winters stated that he checked with the Town of Algoma, the City of Oshkosh Police Department and Winnebago County Sheriff's Department who all agreed that temporary signals are not necessary. Lt. Anthes, Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, stated he still feels Oakwood Road should be utilized as a four-lane roadway as it was constructed. Commissioner Winters stated he's afraid if signals are installed they would be hard to remove as the public would want to retain them. Supervisor Albrecht stated they were told in the past that installing signals at Witzel/Oakwood road would not be allowed as it would be too close to those located at Westhaven Drive.

#### General Operations:

- Commissioner Winters distributed the Summer Highway Conference registration packets to the committee members.
- USH 10 meeting information was distributed. A public informational meeting is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>.

- Commissioner Winters distributed the draft agenda and registration form for the Spring Commissioner and Committee Members meeting that will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> in Oshkosh hosted by Winnebago County. Mr. Winters asked if Supervisor Albrecht will do the welcoming remarks. Mr. Albrecht stated either he or County Executive Harris will be present to do so.
- Commissioner Winters stated that the WCHA is looking to fill a vacant seat on the board of directors. Mr. Winters informed the committee members that if any of them are interested to contact him and he would get them the necessary information.
- Commissioner Winters stated that the next regular meeting will include an agenda item to discuss what Supervisor Egan learned at the Town's Association meeting regarding the Culvert/Bridge Aid program and if a cap should be set on the projects.
- Supervisor Albrecht questioned how much money is remaining in the Highway account. Commissioner Winters stated that to date there is 1.9 million dollars remaining. He stated the department is in good shape spending approximately 30% of their budget, including snow and ice control.

A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer  
Highway Secretary