

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: June 11, 2012

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

ALSO

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

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 May 21, 2012 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. Harrison Sturgis asked what the discussion regarding county access control ordinances entails since he still has unresolved issues on the CTH CB project from years earlier. Commissioner Winters stated that this item is on the agenda because he recently noticed a couple ordinances in the General Code that deal with access control and he thought there should only be one. Mr. Winters stated he talked with Corporation Counsel Bodnar who stated Ordinance 7.04 had been repealed and replaced with 7.14 but that it was not noted that way. Mr. Bodnar has since corrected it. Commissioner Winters stated that he intends to update the Access Control Ordinance and will bring it back to the committee at a later date and then to the full County Board for approval.

Commissioner Winters distributed a draft copy of his guideline for L.E.D. sign installation for the committee members to review. He stated that most of the document follows the State's MUTCD (Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices) language to determine what criteria needs to be met for sign installation. Mr. Winters stated that the intersection of CTH I and CTH N does meet the criteria so his staff will be installing the flashing stop signs at that intersection soon. Mr. Winters noted that one of the current flashing signs was recently stolen, and they cost approximately \$1,700 each. The Committee questioned if they will be included in the decision making to install flashing signs or if the Commissioner will make the sole decision. Commissioner Winters stated he will make the decisions but will work together with the committee to resolve any issues. The committee members stated they approve of the guideline and agreed that Commissioner Winters can make the sign placement determination.

The County Access Control Ordinance was discussed. Commissioner Winters stated that the original access control ordinance that limited the number of driveways and spacing distances on certain highways was repealed and changed to include all county highways back in 2000. Mr. Winters stated he is in the process of editing that ordinance and will bring it back to the committee to discuss any suggested updates prior to going to the County Board.

Supervisor Hamblin questioned if while Mr. Winters is re-writing the ordinances that he should include wording that would prevent oversize trucks from damaging county roads by hauling heavy loads. Commissioner Winters stated he is planning on addressing that issue after he completes the driveway access issues.

Commissioner Winters informed the committee that he was recently invited to a meeting by Outagamie County staff to discuss a proposed project to improve CTH CB north of CTH BB. Mr. Winters stated that this was the first he had heard of the project so there is no money budgeted for this project in 2012. He stated that if the intersection and approaches of CTH CB and CTH BB need improvement then it makes sense for Winnebago County to do their portion at the same time as Outagamie County.

Mr. Winters stated that it may cost approximately \$250,000 for design work and new traffic signals at that intersection. This item would have to be added to the 2013 Capital Improvement Program for consideration by the County Board. Supervisor Albrecht stated that he would have questions on this project including amount of truck traffic, vehicle counts, etc. before he'd approve it. Supervisor Hamblin suggested adding the project into the Capital Improvement Program as a placeholder until a determination is made.

General Operations:

- Commissioner Winters stated that an additional \$80,000 of construction funds have been approved for the CTH K Eureka Bridge project. This amount will be enough to cover the local share of the project. Supervisor Egan noted that he was recently contacted by constituents who stated that when the water levels were high they could not get a pontoon boat under the current bridge.
- The WisDOT will be requesting bids for a wetland mitigation project on CTH II west of Larsen.
- Commissioner Winters stated that the CTH T project is coming along well and is ahead of schedule. He said there were a few minor issues, normal for this type of project.
- Chairman Robl asked if the department has started chip sealing. Mr. Winters stated they have done some smaller projects for the towns so far.
- The Personnel and Finance Committee approved the design and construction for the CTH G bridge project. This item will be included on the next County Board meeting agenda.
- Highway Department staff is beginning work shortly at Park View. They will be doing a mill and pave project on the asphalt roadway behind the old building.
- Supervisor Egan stated that he heard last week the department had problems with water contaminating the chip seal oil. He asked how that issue is remedied. Commissioner Winters stated that the vendor is required to stand behind their product.
- Supervisor Egan stated that he got a response from the Chairman of the Towns Association regarding a cap on the dollar amount or size of culverts in the county aid program. He was told that the State has no cap on the amount of county aid that can be requested. Mr. Egan stated he feels many are confused, and that it is a misconception that Winnebago County pays one-half of the aid. The money is actually paid by the towns that participate in the program and billed back through the county.
- Supervisor Warnke inquired how the existing Highway Department budget is doing. Commissioner Winters stated the current budget is in good shape at approximately 51%. Supervisor Albrecht stated he wants to ensure that too much funding is not taken from the Highway Fund for the general levy. Loanne Owens-Flaig, Highway Department Accountant, joined the meeting and reported that currently the equity in cash is at \$600,000. She stated that amount is lower than where she feels comfortable but that the capital purchases are complete for this year and it is generally the time of year that receivables come in.

The next meeting will be held on June 25, 2012.

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

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary