

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: November 17, 2014

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

EXCUSED: Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
David Albrecht, Highway Committee Member

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive
Chuck Farrey, Winnebago County Board Dist #30

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 November 3, 2014 meeting as written. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Robl asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address any agenda items at this time. Chuck Farrey asked if he could speak during the discussion regarding the IoH Resolution.

Commissioner Winters distributed copies of a draft resolution regarding Wisconsin Legislation ACT 377 - IoH (Implementation of Husbandry). Mr. Winters has had meetings and discussions with some of the towns in Winnebago County and come to the conclusion that Option "F" has the least negative impact to the farming community. He also distributed a list of things that need to be done to implement Act 377. He stated that the County is willing to assist the towns on this matter but that the enforcement will have to be handled by the Sheriff's Department. Corporation Counsel Bodnar has read the draft resolution and agrees with it conceptually but will tweak the language before it goes before the full County Board. Chuck Farrey stated he believes the County will see cooperation from the farming community. After discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Warnke to approve the draft resolution stating that Winnebago County selects Option "F" for county highways as it pertains to the overweight permitting and operation of Implements of Husbandry and agricultural commercial motor vehicles as outlined in Wisconsin Legislation ACT 377 and Wisconsin Statute Sec. 348.15 (3) (g). Motion was seconded by Supervisor Hamblin and carried 3-0. Commissioner Winters stated he appreciated the help he received from Chuck Farrey and Tom Snider on this issue. He stated this topic will be discussed again in spring to see how it's working and if any changes need to be made.

The County Rd. T reconstruction project was discussed. Commissioner Winters distributed an outline and reported that due to significant poor soils under the original roadbed additional work was required to provide an adequate base for the project. This caused the project to come in over budget by approximately \$170,000. Chuck Farrey stated that when he visited the site he saw large oak trees buried under the road used as base, which was common many years ago. The County will be receiving approximately \$172,000 in CHIP-D funding on this project. The \$170,000 transfer being requested has already been bonded for other projects and remains available after other CIP projects came in under budget. After discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to approve a budget transfer of \$170,000. Motion carried 3-0. Chairman Robl signed the budget transfer.

Commissioner Winters stated that he drafted a letter to State Secretary of Transportation Gottlieb recognizing and thanking the WisDOT for the work that has been done the last couple years in Winnebago County. Mr. Winters reported that he does not feel the new State Transportation budget is County friendly and includes items such as plans to raise the gas tax and add a wheel tax. Mr. Winters stated he feels the whole State budget is in bad shape. It was decided to include this item on the next agenda to have further discussion when the entire committee is present.

General Operations:

- Commissioner Winters distributed the Winter Highway Conference materials. The conference will be held the second week of January 2015.
- The WisDOT hosted a business meeting held last week regarding some maintenance improvements on USH 41 from Breezewood Lane north into Outagamie County. Work will include concrete repair, miscellaneous repairs to bridges and deck repairs. Traffic will be impacted with this work.
- Commissioner Winters stated the DOT held a meeting held last week in Winneconne regarding the new bridge project.
- Highway Department employees will be having a winter training session on Wednesday, December 3rd. Participants will include the DOT, State Patrol, and updates on spreader technology. Supervisor Warnke asked that Commissioner Winters emphasize to the staff the importance of obeying traffic laws and driving carefully to keep claims down.
- Commissioner Winters updated the Committee on the access to CTH BB for the Touchmark Retirement Community. At the time their access was granted it was done so with the stipulation that eventually the access would have to be relocated. Commissioner Winters stated that a traffic impact study will be done at this location but he believes the Touchmark Corporation must do what they committed to do.
- Commissioner Winters stated he is doing some research on the issue of “Adverse Possession” and how it might affect the department. Adverse Possession can be summarized as a neighbor who has had a fence in existence for at least 20 years. They could then possibly gain title to the strip of property the fence encloses from the abutting property owner. Mr. Winters is researching how the State Statute might affect county easements. Supervisor Hamblin stated he believes that municipalities are exempt from Eminent Domain.

Chairman Robl stated the next regular meeting will be held on December 1st. A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to adjourn. Motion carried 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary