

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: April 7, 2014

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

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive  
Robert Keller, Supervisor Elect  
Jamey Gosz, Highway Equipment Superintendent

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 A.M. A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Egan to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2014 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.

Commissioner Winters stated he is seeking approval to purchase a trailer using some of the money remaining in the Highway Capital Equipment fund. A couple of the other 2014 purchases came in under budget, and/or brought a larger than expected trade-in allowance, allowing there to be a surplus of funds in that account. Jamey Gosz, Highway Equipment Superintendent, explained that the department needs a tilt-bed trailer capable of hauling the chip spreader, rollers, and other pieces of equipment. He stated it would make more sense and be more cost efficient than making several trips to the job sites hauling equipment. After discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Egan to approve a budget transfer from the Capital Equipment fund of up to \$25,000 for purchase of a trailer. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Warnke and carried 5-0. Superintendent Gosz left the meeting.

Commissioner Winters distributed copies of the plat book and plan sheet showing a parcel of land along CTH D where there is a piece of right of way that is being requested by the adjacent property owner. Mr. Winters suggested the approximate 15,000 sq. ft. piece of property be turned over to the resident either by vacating or a quit claim deed to get it on the tax rolls. Mr. Winters stated he wasn't sure if the County should give the parcel to the property owner or charge them. Supervisor Warnke stated he feels the adjacent property owner should pay for the survey work and legal description costs. Chairman Robl stated that before anything is done with this property the committee members should view the parcel. The committee will take a tour at their next regular meeting to view this site.

CTH CB right of way pertaining to access control was discussed. Commissioner Winters explained that back when CTH CB was constructed a piece of land was severed leading into the industrial park. At that time the County paid the property owner more than the land was valued at with the understanding that no access would be allowed to that parcel. Since that time the property owner has been informed that if they want access they'll have to pay the County back the additional funds they received. Commissioner Winters stated that in terms of highway safety there would be no issues with allowing them access. He also stated it would get the property back on the tax roll. He asked the Committee members if there are any conditions other than repayment under which the County would change that stipulation. Supervisor Albrecht stated that if it's documented that way, then they must repay it. Commissioner Winters stated he and Corporation Counsel Bodnar are continuing to look at the issue and he will follow up at a later meeting.

General Operations:

- Commissioner Winters informed the Committee that recently federal laws changed that will impact the CTH G bridge project. The project is in the design phase right now, with construction planned for 2015. The new laws require “complete streets” which means the DOT wants sidewalks on the bridge. To update the design to include sidewalks at this point may cost an additional \$30,000 in design costs. Commissioner Winters will bring this item to a future meeting.
- This week is National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week. The Highway Department sent press releases out to the media and Commissioner Winters did a couple interviews trying to draw attention to the issue.
- Commissioner Winters distributed information on the TIME (Traffic Incident Management Enhancement) program. These sessions deal with how emergency responders, including Highway Department personnel, react to accidents and incidents and coordinate them on a statewide basis.
- The Summer Highway Conference materials were distributed to the Committee members.
- Commissioner Winters stated he is working with Supervisor Egan regarding vacating some right of way on Liberty Street in the Town of Rushford. This is necessary due to the Eureka Bridge project that was constructed last year.

A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0.  
The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer  
Highway Secretary