

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: December 16, 2013

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive
Mike Exferd, Mead & Hunt
Larry & Debra Last, Town of Nekimi citizens

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 A.M. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2013 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. Mike Exferd, Mead & Hunt, stated he stopped in to today's meeting to thank Winnebago County for past work and stated his firm is willing to assist on any future projects. Mr. Exferd wished everyone Happy Holidays and exited the meeting.

Commissioner Winters distributed a summary regarding the Performance Based Maintenance Project being initiated by the state. Mr. Winters informed the committee that this topic will probably be discussed at length at the Winter Highway Conference in January. He stated that he recently met with representatives from the DOT and they seemed more willing to work cooperatively with the counties than they originally had. The DOT plans to begin a pilot program this spring with work to include crack filling, shouldering and other maintenance duties. A snow removal pilot program may begin during the winter of 2014/15. Commissioner Winters stated much more information on the PBM project will be forthcoming.

Commissioner Winters stated he recently attended a public informational meeting in Rosendale regarding the STH 26 project. He stated the project is focused in Fond du Lac County and the timeframe has been moved forward into 2015. This project is considered a safety project, including flattening slopes and improving intersections. The DOT has nothing planned within Winnebago County on STH 26. The committee members agreed that STH 26 in Winnebago County should not be ignored because it is a very dangerous highway. They would like to bring this issue to the attention of local legislators. Commissioner Winters will draft a letter.

The proposed propane fueling project was discussed. Commissioner Winters distributed an outline of where the project is to date. The Sheriff's Department is intending to convert eight of their new squads to run on both unleaded gasoline and propane. There is a considerable cost savings to purchase propane fuel over gasoline and the miles per gallon is approximately the same. Supervisor Albrecht stated that before the highway invests funds to build a propane fueling station there should be a contract with the Sheriff's Department stating that they will purchase from Highway, not private vendors. Mr. Winters stated that to work on the equipment fitted with propane you must be certified by the EPA. He would like to have one of the Highway Department employees certified to meet that requirement should this project move forward. Chairman Robl asked if many other counties are using propane. Commissioner Winters stated this is cutting edge technology and there is additional research to be done before any decisions are made. Supervisor Albrecht suggested contacting Juneau County to get their opinion on propane use.

General Operations:

- There is a public hearing scheduled on December 19th for the Fox Cities Regional Transit Authority.
- Commissioner Winters reported there may be 2 million dollars available statewide for Highway Safety Grants. The applications are due by mid-February and must be used for safety improvements. He will research if there are any areas in Winnebago County that would be eligible under the grant requirements.
- Commissioner Winters reported that the department has been busy with the onset of winter weather. The employees have been out numerous times performing winter maintenance but reported that the winter budget is OK so far.

A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0.
The meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary