

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: March 18, 2024

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Chairman  
Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member  
Donald Nussbaum, Highway Committee Member  
Ralph Harrison, Highway Committee Member  
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member  
Robert Doemel, Highway Commissioner

ALSO

PRESENT: Steve Binder, Winnebago County Board  
Sid Opperman, 4609 CTH E, Oshkosh

1. Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Harrison to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2024, meeting as written. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Chairman Albrecht asked for input from the public on agenda items. Sid Opperman stated that he is in attendance regarding CTH E drainage. He would like to see this item put on next month's agenda and have the committee members view the site. He asked if CTH E will be part of the capital projects for next year and if the weeds can be sprayed again this year. He stated that he does appreciate what the department is doing on this matter. Mr. Opperman then exited the meeting.
4. Commissioner Doemel informed the committee members that April 15-19, 2024, has been selected as National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week. He stated that the County Executive will be making a proclamation instead of a resolution by the committee. He stated that there will be social media and news coverage initiated by the WisDOT. After discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Harrison to approve the draft resolution designating the week of April 15 through April 19, 2024, as Work Zone Safety Awareness Week in Winnebago County. Motion carried 5-0.
5. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan to approve the recommendation of naming the Highway Department lunchroom after retired employee John Schnyder, and the mezzanine meeting room in memory of Paul DeLap. Mr. Egan stated the Facilities Committee has already approved this item and is waiting on approval by the Highway Committee. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Nussbaum and carried 5-0.
6. Commissioner Doemel updated the committee on the Highway Department front office renovation/mold remediation project. He informed the committee that the bids came in approximately \$205,000 higher than budgeted. He has been working with the Facilities Director and said this item will appear on the county board meeting tomorrow night for approval of the additional funding. Once the funding is approved the project can move forward. Several committee members stated they are unhappy with how much time elapsed between the initial approval and start of this project, which normally contributes to the higher costs. Commissioner Doemel stated that the bidding is handled through the Facilities Department and the whole county bidding process is slow and cumbersome. He also stated that the next issue will be the back building and lack of space for the ever-increasing size of trucks, tow plows, etc.
7. Shoulder damage to county roads was discussed. Commissioner Doemel informed the committee that several county road shoulders have been destroyed due to heavy trucks hauling feed, manure, etc. from the mega farms. He stated that this is the price of doing business in this area. Some of the most severely damaged shoulders are along CTH M, K, and H. A budget transfer will be presented to the county board tomorrow night to approve \$266,400 from the general fund balance to cover the overage.

8. The following were reported as general operations:
  - State and County Salt: Due to the lighter winter weather, salt usage was down this year. The Highway Department recently received 1,500 ton of seasonal salt ordered under the State of Wisconsin contract.
  - Equipment: Crews have been removing the snow wings. The department recently ordered two foremen's trucks and a one-ton truck off the State of Wisconsin contract. The equipment shortages and delays are starting to ease up.
  - State I-41 Construction: Starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be construction work along I-41 from Breezewood Lane to CTH BB to replace concrete panels and do sewer and sound barrier work. This project was contracted out by the WisDOT. There will be lane closures during the work. Starting the end of May, work will begin on the Butte des Morts bridge. The weigh-in-motion steel plates have issues and need to be replaced.
9. The next meeting of the Highway Committee is tentatively scheduled for April 15, 2024. Due to the election on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the time needed to assign supervisors to their respective committees, the date could be changed.
10. Before the meeting adjourned, Supervisor Egan thanked Chairman Albrecht for his many years serving Winnebago County. David was celebrated with thanks and a round of applause. A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Nussbaum to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer  
Administrative Associate