

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: June 19, 2023

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

ALSO

PRESENT: Paul Kaiser, Finance Director
Sid Opperman, 4608 CTH E, Oshkosh

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Due to technical difficulties, the meeting was unable to be provided virtually today. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan to make a correction to the May 23, 2023, meeting minutes. He stated that item #3 under General Operations should state the word "retirees" instead of "employees" could be hired back as temporary employees. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Farrey. The motion was carried 5-0 to approve the change as requested.

Chairman Albrecht asked for public input on the agenda items. Sid Opperman stated he was in attendance regarding the drainage and weeds along CTH E. He asked to be added to next month's agenda for discussion.

Commissioner Doemel informed the committee that he was approached by Town of Clayton administration requesting help from the Highway Department on maintenance projects such as paving, chip sealing and mowing. There will be no winter maintenance included. Commissioner Doemel stated this will generate revenue for the department. An agreement has been drawn up between the two entities and signed.

A jurisdictional transfer of CTH K from S. Oakwood Road to Clairville Road was discussed. Currently the City of Oshkosh has a boundary agreement on CTH K and Clairville Road, annexing the properties located in these areas into city limits. Commissioner Doemel explained that past issues with entrance into Traeger School, and the fact that the road is starting to deteriorate, make it a good time to transfer jurisdiction of CTH K from S. Oakwood Road to Clairville Road over to the City of Oshkosh.

Commissioner Doemel informed the committee that he would like to lower the speed limit of CTH I from Waukau Avenue to Hartland Road from 45 mph to 40 mph. The Highway Department has a project coming up in this area from Ripple Avenue to Waukau Avenue. There is funding in place for construction in 2024-25. The design criteria states that looking at lane widths, bike lanes, and other data, the speed limit needs to be reduced from 45 mph to 40 mph.

A budget amendment to cover the overage on the CTH T/Pioneer Road project was discussed. Commissioner Doemel informed the committee that the project went over budget due to poor soils in the area, and problems with the contractor. He stated that there is additional excavating and finishing work to be done. Mr. Doemel stated that he is setting up a meeting with the contractor to discuss. Supervisor Farrey stated that he needs better documentation than what was provided by the Finance Department for the budget amendment as to where the money from other departments originated from. Paul Kaiser, Finance Director, stated that they are in the process of updating their processes. A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey to transfer \$175,000 from various accounts to cover the overage on the CTH T/Pioneer Road project. After discussion, Supervisor Farrey amended his motion to read a transfer amount of \$220,000 instead of \$175,000 be transferred from various accounts to cover the overage. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Nussbaum and carried 5-0. Supervisor Nussbaum stated that he does not believe this contractor should be hired for any future county jobs after poor results on several projects.

Commissioner Doemel stated he is looking for approval to purchase trucks upon availability due to the supply shortages. He stated that recently vendors have approached the department with trucks available that were bid on the State contract. They may be available after a show, or another municipality didn't need. These vendors only allow a one-day notice to provide a purchase order. This does not work with the county's current purchasing process. An example of the trucks that may be needed was distributed including a single, tandem, tri and quad axle with their estimated costs. These trucks will have to be part of the State contract. The purchase authorization will be for a 12-month timeframe and require approval by the Highway Commissioner and either the Finance Director or County Executive. Paul Kaiser stated that the budget transfer of \$750,000 will be forthcoming from the Finance Department to purchase trucks when they become available. A motion was made by Chairman Albrecht to approve fleet truck equipment purchase upon availability. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Farrey and carried 5-0.

The following were reported as general operations:

- Commissioner Doemel reported that the department started the chip sealing and paving projects. He also noted that several of the mowers were down but are now repaired and operational. The State requires all their mowing to be completed by the second week in July.
- The department is in full construction mode. There will be pulverizing next week at the Parks Department, and milling on CTH II, and Fox Valley Tech in Menasha.
- The department is nearly fully staffed. Two temporary employees were hired to fill in while employees are off on family leave.
- Supervisor Farrey stated that he would like to thank Paul Kaiser for his new initiative in the Finance Department.
- Supervisor Egan asked when the department is paving or chip sealing if they could do town work in the same area. Commissioner Doemel stated the department tries to do that, but it is dependent on when the pulverizing and milling machines are available.
- Supervisor Egan also asked if anything has been done to address the ditching issue along CTH E. Commissioner Doemel stated that has not happened yet due to staffing issues. Mr. Doemel stated that he will have someone check the culvert in question.

The next meeting of the Highway Department will be held on Monday, July 17, 2023.

A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Nussbaum to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate