

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: November 28, 2022

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Nussbaum to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2022 meeting as written. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Albrecht asked for public input on the agenda items. There was none.

A Jurisdictional Transfer between Winnebago County and the Town of Clayton regarding Pioneer Road/CTH T was discussed. The original transfer document had an error in the measurement of linear feet listed. The document was referred back to Corporation Counsel for editing. A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey to approve the revised copy of the jurisdictional transfer. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Nussbaum and carried 5-0. This will go before the County Board for their approval also.

Commissioner Doemel gave an update on the Pioneer Road/CTH T project. He stated that this has been a rough project. There has been a lot of issues with the contractor, including shortages, both with equipment and operators. They also ran into poor soil. Due to the fact that Northeast Asphalt closed their hot mix plant on November 15th for the season, the project had to be closed for this year, even though every effort was made to finish. To accommodate traffic over the winter, the binder course was laid as temporary pavement. Commissioner Doemel stated this project should have never taken this long. Since the contractor had problems with this project, and in the past also, the Committee asked that it be documented for future bidding, including other departments county-wide. Commissioner Doemel stated that this project will now be finished first thing next spring.

Commissioner Doemel stated that he received a letter from the Town of Winneconne regarding lowering the speed limits on CTH "G" and CTH "M". Supervisor Farrey stated that he felt the Town of Winneconne Board did a good job researching this issue. A study was also performed by the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Doemel stated he gets a lot of calls regarding speed limits, both requesting to reduce and raise them in different locations. He stated the purpose of county roads is to move traffic. He noted that a speed study shows 85% of the cars traveling on a road determine what the speeds should be set at. He will contact the Sheriff's Department to discuss the study, and get any accident data they have. Mr. Doemel also noted that he would share this information with the Traffic Safety Committee to get their input. This item will be addressed at a future meeting.

The WCHA 2023 Winter Road School was discussed. Commissioner Doemel confirmed that all of the committee members received the registration documents. He stated that these meetings and seminars are a good place to get information from other counties, and see what they may be doing differently.

The following were reported as general operations:

- Highway crews are finishing installing the winter equipment on the trucks this week. The equipment will all be ready for winter.
- This Friday the department will be holding a safety training day for employees. There will be a vendor present from the company who provides the hydraulic system controls, which operate the plows, wings, etc. This training is crucial with many new employees.

General Operations (cont'd):

- Commissioner Doemel informed the committee that the department has been doing more of the job interviewing and background checks to expedite the hiring process. He stated that the new girl hired at HR, Jamie, has been very helpful. He stated the department is still down one Mechanic, four Equipment Operator 1's, plus one more long-time employee is retiring next week. It is hoped that the wage study will be completed soon and be helpful. Supervisor Harrison stated that he believes besides pay, more appreciation should be shown to employees.
- Supervisor Farrey shared what he believes is an important need for guardrail at CTH "GG" and Green Valley Road. He stated there is a curve with a high embankment, and no less than nine accidents have occurred at this location, including one fatality. Mr. Farrey stated that the former Commissioner told him that the WisDOT does not require guardrail in this location. Commissioner Doemel stated that he will look into this, and request the accident data from the Sheriff's Department.
- Supervisor Nussbaum inquired when a stop sign at Oakridge Road at Tullar Road will be coming out. Commissioner Doemel stated that sign is the jurisdiction of the Town or City of Neenah.
- It was noted that a "no passing" sign is missing on STH 76 at Vinland Center Rd.

The next regular meeting of the Highway Committee is scheduled for Monday, December 19, 2022.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Farrey to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate