

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: December 18, 2023

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

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 October 16, 2023, meeting as written. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Chairman Albrecht asked for input from the public on agenda items. County Board Supervisor Binder stated he is in attendance regarding agenda item #4, naming Highway Department conference rooms after former employees. He would like to see the two conference rooms named after John Schnyder, who worked for the county for over 43 years, and Paul DeLap, who was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident this fall. He stated that besides John Schnyder's years of service, his father was also an employee at the department for many years. Mr. Binder stated he feels that naming the conference rooms after employees would show appreciation for their years of service.
4. A discussion regarding naming Highway Department conference rooms was held. Commissioner Doemel stated that he spoke with the Facilities Director regarding naming conference rooms #109 and #201 after former employees. He was informed there is naming criteria currently being developed. Mr. Doemel stated that the renovation of the Highway Department office is scheduled to begin after the first of the year. Once that project begins, the conference room on the first floor will be eliminated and turned into supervisory offices. Later, it is anticipated that a new conference/training room will be constructed adjacent to the existing building. Commissioner Doemel stated he believes it makes sense to wait on naming the rooms until the renovations have been completed. He noted that his idea is to incorporate an appreciation wall honoring all employees by their years of service, not just a few. He stated that there have been many employees who worked a substantial number of years for the Highway Department and would like to see them all recognized. Mr. Binder stated he would like to see the upstairs conference room named after John Schnyder right away, rather than wait. Supervisor Egan suggested naming the lunchroom since that's where the crews congregate.
5. A discussion regarding the County Rd. T/Pioneer Road project was held. Commissioner Doemel stated that he recently met with Graef Engineering, representatives from Radtke Construction, and the DNR on site. It was proposed that the work to finish the project will begin on April 1, 2024, and be completed by the end of May 2024. The DNR noted that a pre-construction meeting will be necessary in February. Representatives from Radtke stated that they got rid of the excavating portion of their business, and that everyone associated with this project no longer works there. They stated that they are willing to honor their contract and finish the job for an estimated cost of \$200,000. Supervisor Farrey questioned why the county should pay an additional fee for work they were supposed to have done as originally bid. Commissioner Doemel explained that the contractor was paid for the work that was completed. He stated that the job went over budget due to poor soils that had to be removed and replaced with aggregate. Commissioner Doemel stated that it may cost a lot more to get a new contractor and hire another engineering firm to finish this small section of road. Supervisor Nussbaum stated he would like to see this bid out as a new project.

Supervisor Farrey voiced concerns with the contractor charging an additional fee. After discussion, Supervisor Egan stated that he would agree to have Radtke finish the job if it does not exceed the \$200,000 quoted. The committee would like Corporation Counsel involved to ensure nothing violates the State of Wisconsin bidding regulations, and the contractor is held legally responsible. Chairman Albrecht agreed.

6. Proposed 2024 Capital Projects Update: Commissioner Doemel reported the following list of capital projects for 2024:
  - CTH "S" – Ryf Rd. to STH 116
  - CTH "P" – Land acquisition for 2025 construction
  - CTH "II" – CTH "CB" to Clayton Avenue. This project was pushed back from 2020 due to construction of the new school and a sewer and water project.
  - CTH "HH" – Pulverize and pave from CTH "AH" to west county line.
  - CTH "MM" – Pulverize and pave from CTH "II" to Richter Lane.
  - Concrete repair on CTH "CB", "A", "AA", "E", "K", "AP" and "II". There are over 100 panels that need repair or replacement. Some of the panels have not been attended to for over 20 years and are distressed and spalled out. This is the first step in preparing for future concrete maintenance.
  
7. The following were reported as general operations:
  - Front Office Renovation: The design is complete for the front office renovation. The bids are due back in January and work will begin soon after an award is made.
  - Winter Equipment Readiness: All the trucks are ready for snow. Currently the wings are being installed on the graders. The department is still waiting on the delivery of new trucks.
  - New Brine Maker: The new brine maker purchased by the WisDOT has been installed and running. This machine is much faster and can generate a higher capacity than the old unit. Additional brine storage tanks were purchased. Brine is stored at the Winchester, Menasha, and Hwy 26 sheds.
  - Supervisor Egan thanked Commissioner Doemel for the work that was completed along the south side of CTH "E" in the Town of Algoma and asked if something will be done on the other side. Mr. Doemel stated that at a recent meeting of the MPO, the Town of Algoma proposed to have discussions regarding an urban project from Oakwood Road to the west, that may include storm sewer. Commissioner Doemel will keep the committee updated.
  
8. The next meeting of the Highway Committee will be held on January 15, 2024.
  
9. A motion was made by Supervisor Nussbaum, seconded by Supervisor Harrison to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer  
Administrative Associate