

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: July 1, 2019

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Chairman
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member
Raymond Palonen, Highway Commissioner

EXCUSED: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Member
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Farrey to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2019 meeting as written. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Albrecht asked if there was any public input on the agenda. There was none.

Commissioner Palonen distributed a draft resolution and noted that Agenda item #3 should read "740 L.F., instead of 750 L.F. of existing CTH GG". Commissioner Palonen informed the committee members that as part of the CTH A reconstruction project, a 740 L.F. section of roadway at the intersection of CTH GG is needed by the Town of Vinland to access their fire hydrant located in that quadrant. Commissioner Palonen met with town officials to discuss the jurisdictional transfer of that portion of the road to the town. If the jurisdictional transfer is approved the town will rename the road and collect state aids on that portion. Supervisor Farrey stated that he will present the idea to the Vinland town board for consideration. If all agree, it will be presented to the full County Board for approval and on to the WisDOT in Madison to approve.

Supervisor Egan stated the Town of Rushford is interested in getting authorization for ATV/UTV use on some county roads, specifically CTH K and CTH E in the town of Rushford. Supervisor Egan stated he thinks it's a good thing for Rushford, and eventually should be a county-wide policy allowing use of recreational vehicles on all Winnebago County highways. He stated there are laws and registration rules to be adhered to by the State. Commissioner Palonen stated that for the record, he is in opposition to this idea. He stated that all-terrain vehicles are not designed for highway use, having no turn signals, mirrors, seatbelts, safety protection, etc. He also stated that children as young as 12 years old can operate them. He stated that our county roads are not designed to accommodate driving on the gravel shoulders and steep ditches. Mr. Palonen stated that he is opposed 100% due to the safety issue. He also stated that he's spoken with Sheriff Matz, who agreed with him. After further discussion, the three committee members present suggested approving a resolution on a trial basis and pulling it if problems arise. Commissioner Palonen stated if they intend to approve a resolution he'd like to see it approved during daylight hours only, and no travel along the county roads during the winter months when snowplow operators have enough distractions to contend with. The Committee asked Commissioner Palonen to draft a resolution, and speak with corporation counsel if necessary, then email to them for editing and approval so this can move forward to the County Board. A motion was made by Chairman Albrecht to approve passing a resolution authorizing ATV/UTV use on the county system on a trial basis for one year. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Farrey and carried by voice vote 3-0.

The following were reported as general operations:

- The paving project on CTH K is under way. The milling is expected to be completed this week.
- The CTH CB project is moving along well between Shady Lane and the roundabout. It's anticipated the southern portion will be completed within three weeks, then the northern portion will begin.
- The chip sealing projects on county roads are done. Several town projects will be completed next.
- The CTH FF project is scheduled to begin mid-July.
- The new salt shed in Fox Crossing is nearing completion. After grading the lot, it will be paved by our crew as time allows.
- Supervisor Farrey stated that in regards to the Town of Vinland taking over part of CTH GG for the hydrant access, the property owner wants to make sure there is no unauthorized swimming in the quarry. He stated the town would probably have signs erected stating "dead end" and "no swimming", but they would hold no liability.
- Supervisor Egan asked if one of the department's rollers parked alongside the road was damaged. Commissioner Palonen stated that someone who had got themselves stuck in the mud helped themselves to our roller to get out. In doing so, they got the roller stuck, but there was no damage to the unit.

The next regular meeting of the Highway Committee will be held on Monday, August 19th. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Farrey to adjourn. The motion carried 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate