

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: October 21, 2019

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

EXCUSED: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Member

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive
Lara Vendola, Winnebago County Sheriff's Office

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 previous meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Palonen distributed information, including maps and traffic data, regarding a request made by the Town of Rushford to open portions of CTH E, CTH K and CTH M within their township as ATV/UTV routes. Commissioner Palonen stated that after review, he would make the following recommendations:

- Since CTH E has many curves and an elevated crash history he would suggest being cautious on approving that route.
- CTH K from STH 21 to Eureka Lock Road exceeds the ADT (Average Daily Traffic) limit of 1,000 or less, so does not meet the ordinance conditions.
- CTH K from CTH F to STH 116 does not connect existing routes/trails, so does not meet the ordinance conditions.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Farrey to approve the Town of Rushford request for ATV/UTV routes along county roads as submitted, based on Commissioner Palonen's recommendations and exceptions as noted. This approval will be reviewed in one year. Motion seconded by Supervisor Warnke and passed 3-1. Supervisor Egan voted no.

A proposed jurisdictional transfer agreement with the Town of Clayton was discussed. The agreement states that the cost to pulverize and pave CTH T from Pioneer Rd. to CTH II would be split 50/50 between Winnebago County and the Town of Clayton. Anything beyond that is 100% the responsibility of the Town. All costs associated with the one mile section of Pioneer Road from CTH T to CTH II will be the responsibility of Winnebago County, to include design and construction. The design is scheduled for 2020. Corporation Counsel has reviewed this agreement.

Commissioner Palonen informed the Committee that Winnebago County was awarded \$5.1 million dollars of STP-Urban funding for the CTH P project. The project would be split 1/3 each between Winnebago County, the Village of Fox Crossing, and the City of Menasha. The City of Menasha informed Commissioner Palonen that they are unsure if they'll be able to secure the approximate \$700,000 funding by 2024 for this project. The Committee suggested Commissioner Palonen work with the City of Menasha to find a resolution. Winnebago County was also awarded \$1.3 million dollars of funding for the CTH I project in the City of Oshkosh.

Commissioner Palonen stated that Winnebago County has been approved for \$630,000 LRIP funds over the next two years, and \$807,000 of CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding for a rehabilitation project on CTH Y from the I41 overpass to CTH T, which would cover the entire project.

Commissioner Palonen informed the Committee that the 2020 General Transportation Aids came in from the WisDOT at \$2,078,000. That is an increase from the aids received in 2019 of \$2,023,000.

A discussion was held relative to the staffing needs at the Highway Department. Commissioner Palonen stated that the equipment fund has shown a loss the last couple years and it is due to the fact that the four-24/7 positions get charged against the shop, unless they are working specifically for the state or other funding source. The shop overhead impacts the equipment revenue, so in a financial perspective, Commissioner Palonen stated he has to discontinue the four positions, and transition the employees out into the field. Employees will be called in for emergencies after hours, and someone will be hired to clean the offices to pick up the duties presently held by the JW. After discussion, Supervisor Farrey stated that he'd like to have the Finance Director attend a future meeting to explain the funding.

Public input at Highway Committee meetings was discussed. It was determined that the public should only be allowed to speak on topics that are on the agenda for that meeting, and should have a five-minute time limit. If the public wishes to address the Committee they should call the Commissioner or Committee Chairman to be added to the agenda.

The following were reported as general operations:

- The CTH CB project is complete and the Winnebago County portion is open as of last Friday.
- Commissioner Palonen stated that the department is working to complete town maintenance jobs. He noted that even though there was a record amount of rainfall, and departmental staffing shortages, the Highway Department completed a lot of work this year.

The next regular meeting of the Highway Committee will be on Monday, November 4, 2019.

A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Chairman Albrecht to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Administrative Associate