

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: July 7, 2014

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Chairman
Tim Hamblin, Highway Committee Member
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member
Ernie Winters, Highway Commissioner

Excused: Dave Albrecht, Highway Committee Member

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive
Jamey Gosz, Highway Equipment Superintendent
Mike Exferd, Mead & Hunt

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 A.M. A motion was made by Supervisor Egan, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2014 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Robl asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address any agenda items at this time. Mike Exferd, Mead & Hunt, stated he stopped in to say hello to the Committee members and stated his firm would appreciate any design work sent their way. Mr. Exferd then left the meeting.

Commissioner Winters stated that he asked Jamey Gosz, Equipment Superintendent, to attend today's meeting to further explain the overweight issue of the department's trucks on US 41 that was addressed at the previous meeting. Mr. Gosz explained that the new scale installed as part of the US 41 reconstruction is weighing vehicles by axle weight. The State Patrol gave the department permission to view their website showing pictures of the vehicles as they pass over the scale recording weights, speed, etc. Mr. Gosz noted that the department has been working to distribute weight evenly on the trucks and is required to reduce each load by approximately 1,500 pounds per truck. He noted the State is still tweaking the new scale. After discussion Mr. Gosz left the meeting.

A remnant parcel of land along CTH D was discussed. Commissioner Winters stated that he talked to the adjacent property owner who stated that they are still interested in acquiring the remnant parcel. Due to the small size, and according to the Town of Poygan, the parcel is unbuildable. The property owner indicated that they would be willing to pay the associated costs to acquire the property. Commissioner Winters will discuss this matter with Corporation Counsel Bodnar and bring back to a future meeting.

Commissioner Winters stated that the Highway Department owns approximately 242 parcels of land. Winnebago County owns a total of 1,000 parcels. Some of the parcels are held in trust for the WisDOT and must be retained. Others are no longer needed for highway purposes and can be disposed of. After Mr. Winters receives a full list of properties from the Planning and Zoning Department he will investigate each parcel to determine its relevance. Chairman Robl stated that he appreciates Commissioner Winters taking the time to gather this information for the committee. Mr. Winters stated he will bring this item back to a future meeting.

The 2015 Budget was discussed. Commissioner Winters distributed an outline to the committee members and stated that his budget is due the end of July. Some of the budget items discussed:

- Mr. Winters stated that he is requesting two additional employees. The majority of costs for these employees will be paid for with the additional performance maintenance and routine maintenance dollars provided by the State. He stated with the added lane miles and US 41 changing to interchange status that more employees are necessary to provide service.
- Mr. Winters stated the department will be adding a magnesium chloride tank at both the Highway Dept. facility and at the new salt shed to be constructed by WisDOT on STH 26.

- The culvert aid requests for 2015 total \$146,000. Supervisor Egan stated he believes the amount of the projects should be limited to replacement of culvert pipes, not for bridge construction. Commissioner Winters stated the current policy is limited by State Statutes.
- Salt prices will be increasing by \$9.00/ per ton for the upcoming year. Commissioner Winters stated he will continue looking at the capital and routine projects necessary for next year to determine how to submit his 2015 budget request.

General Operations:

- Supervisor Warnke asked about the mowing policy in Winnebago County. He stated he was recently in Door County and the roadside weeds are so tall it causes a vision hazard. Commissioner Winters stated that Winnebago County is currently out mowing every day and with the change to the WisDOT policy we are supposed to be allowed to mow more often in urban areas, which is based on traffic flow.
- Commissioner Winters distributed a registration form for a “Train the Trainer” program. This seminar is designed to educate attendees on the new changes regarding Implements of Husbandry. Information will be provided on the way oversize vehicles operate and how to craft an ordinance/permit process to regulate them. Commissioner Winters will be attending the training.
- Commissioner Winters stated there will be a meeting held this afternoon regarding the CTH GG overhead and related drainage issues.
- Supervisor Egan asked if Commissioner Winters was aware of a plan for the WisDOT to give STH 116 to the County after the reconstruction. Mr. Winters stated he has not heard anything from DOT on a jurisdictional transfer of STH 116. He stated representatives of WisDOT will be attending a future Highway Committee meeting and this topic can be addressed there.

Chairman Robl stated the next regular meeting will be held on Monday, July 21, 2014.

A motion was made by Supervisor Hamblin, seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary