

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: November 18, 2013

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

EXCUSED: Dave Albrecht, Highway Committee Member
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive
Guy Hegg, Supervisor District #27

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 November 4, 2013 meeting as written. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Robl asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address any agenda item at this time. There was no public input.

Commissioner Winters updated the committee members on the WisDOT Performance Maintenance Project status. Mr. Winters stated he believes it's important for all the highway committees in the state to be aware of what's going on. He stated although the counties have been asked for their input, he believes the DOT has definite goals in mind and are directing and guiding the process without taking into consideration what the counties want. He noted the state has a target timeframe in mind of next spring to have a pilot program in place, with the snow and ice removal program beginning next winter. Commissioner Winters recognized the State did commit an additional \$52 million dollars of funding for routine maintenance but stated it comes at the price of privatizing state highway maintenance in the future and threatening how the counties have worked with the state for the last 80 years. Commissioner Winters stated he and other highway commissioners would like to have a meeting with Transportation Secretary Gottlieb to discuss the program. Mr. Winters stated it doesn't appear that the state legislators are aware of the program. Chairman Robl stated when the committee has had special issues in the past they've invited the local legislators to a highway meeting to discuss and they have had good results gaining their support. Commissioner Winters stated there will be much more on this issue in the future.

The USH 441 corridor storm water planning issue was discussed. Commissioner Winters displayed maps showing where proposed ponds will be built and/or expanded in conjunction with the USH 441 project. Commissioner Winters recently met with representatives from the City of Neenah, Town of Menasha, and the design consultant hired by the local municipalities to address drainage issues in the area. Mr. Winters stated Winnebago County owns a few county highways in the vicinity of the project including CTH P and AP that often have drainage issues and are not designed to handle the large volume of water. To look for a solution he met with staff from the WisDOT to discuss the size of the ponds and asked them to consider over sizing their ponds to accommodate the additional water from the area drainage basins. To date Mr. Winters has not heard back from the DOT. If an agreement can be made future meetings will be necessary to determine the cost sharing expenses, maintenance issues, etc. Guy Hegg, District #27 Supervisor representing part of the Town of Menasha, offered his assistance on this matter. Commissioner Winters stated he will keep the committee informed on this issue.

Commissioner Winters distributed copies of the LRIP (Local Roads Improvement Program) project determinations. He reported the following projects were approved: for MSIP less than 20,000 - projects were awarded to the Towns of Winneconne and Omro. The City of Menasha should get funding in the next cycle. For MSIP projects greater than 20,000 in population, the cities of Oshkosh and Neenah will be getting entitlements from the WisDOT. TRIP money was awarded to the towns of Utica, Rushford and Nepeuskun. The CHIP (county) entitlement of \$306,000 for the next two years will be used by the highway department to buy asphalt to complete their milling and paving projects as has been done in prior years.

General Operations:

- Commissioner Winters distributed copies of a letter he received from the WisDOT in reply to the letter sent to the Governor's office regarding the importance of maintaining existing facilities and only using transportation dollars for transportation issues.
- Commissioner Winters informed the committee that he met with a resident from the Town of Clayton regarding the depth of his ditch on Ridgeway Road. Mr. Winters stated the Highway Department has no authority on town roads but he met with the individual on Mark Harris' request.
- Highway crews have been cutting trees along CTH T between CTH G and CTH GG in preparation of the next phase of construction along CTH T next spring.
- Commissioner Winters informed the committee that the Finance Director has asked each department to revise their capital improvement program for 2014. Mr. Winters stated he will bring the adjusted version to a meeting in December to discuss with the committee.
- Chairman Robl questioned if the department is ready for the upcoming winter season. Commissioner Winters stated that the winter equipment has been installed on the trucks, the salt delivered, and manpower addressed.
- Commissioner Winters stated the CTH M project is virtually complete other than a few finishing touches. Supervisor Egan questioned if any agreements were made with heavy haulers in the area. Mr. Winters stated the road was overbuilt to accommodate large amounts of trucking.

A motion was made by Supervisor Egan to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Hamblin and carried 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary