

**SPECIAL ORDERS SESSION
COUNTY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2006**

Chairman David Albrecht called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, Fourth Floor, Courthouse, 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation by Supervisor Lennon. Chairman Albrecht called for a moment of silence to remember Dan Melhorn and Marc Neumeyer, two county highway workers that were killed last week while they were working on Highway 41.

The following Supervisors were present: Weber, Barker, Griesbach, Hotynski, Scoville, Maehl, Koziczkowski, Sim, Widener, Lauson, Albrecht, Thompson, Steineke, Lennon, Farrell, Sundquist, Wingren, Jacobson, Norton, Warnke, Robl, Kline, Fenlon, Kramer, Schaidler, Finch, Farrey, Sievert, Arne, Diakoff, Ellis, Rengstorf and O'Brien.

Excused: Schmuhl, Egan, Brennand, Tower and Pech.

Motion by Supervisor Robl and seconded to approve the agenda with the change of order of the two reports moving John Haese's report to the beginning of the agenda. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS

Supervisor Barker stated that unless she receives items for the agenda, she will not be scheduling a Legislative Committee meeting this month. If someone has an agenda item, they should let her know by the end of this week.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Albrecht stated that Supervisors Brennand, Egan and Schmuhl have asked to be excused from tonight's meeting.

Chairman Albrecht reported that he testified before the state Senate on behalf of the Safe Streets Initiative and that it was a very good experience. He stated that he was very proud of Senator Carol Roessler and the way she represented Winnebago County in getting the safe streets initiative passed in the Senate.

PUBLIC HEARING

Paul Eisen, 1807 Brighton Beach Road, Menasha, expressed his concern about an extreme reduction in the size of the county board. He recommends that the Board take the initiative on this issue and make an appropriate reduction in size before they are forced to do something more radical.

COUNTY HIGHWAY REPORT – JOHN HAESE, WINNEBAGO COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

John Haese, Winnebago County Highway Commissioner, thanked the Board for keeping Dan Melhorn and Marc Neumeyer in their thoughts and prayers. He stated that it's easy to forget how dangerous a job it can be for our highway workers, so the Board's support during this difficult time is greatly appreciated. Mr. Haese stated that his department is looking at designing a memorial for Mr. Melhorn and Mr. Neumeyer and other highway workers that have been killed performing their duties.

Mr. Haese presented information on the following county roads and highways:

- County Road FF and Zoar Road – This is a very hazardous intersection because the stop sign is right at the bottom of a rise in County Road FF. They are looking at improving the entire intersection by lowering the rise and improving the drainage and vision corners. The design work has already been completed. The cost of the project will be between \$215,000 and \$230,000. They hope to begin acquiring the right-of-way property that is required for the construction project. This will cost approximately \$30,000, which will first require approval of the Personnel & Finance Committee and then the County Board at their April meeting. Construction should begin in 2008.
- County Road T – This project was included in the capital improvement plan in 2005 with the suggestion that at least the design work be done in 2006. Problems with various segments of the nine mile stretch of County Road T from County Road Y to Larsen Road include an old concrete roadway, bad alignment and obstructed view issues at the Breezewood intersection, and drainage and access issues as you get closer to Larsen. The Highway Committee feels that at this time the only section of County Road T that should be addressed and the design work completed is from County Road Y north to County Road GG. Estimated costs for this design work is \$125,000. The Highway Committee will discuss the details of this project and a

- budget transfer for the design work at a future meeting.
- County Road G and USH 41 – A number of years ago, in anticipation of the continuation of the six-lane USH 41 project, the Highway Committee looked at constructing an interchange at County Road G and USH 41. Even though a number of municipalities wanted the interchange located here, there were some that did not, so the county did not pursue getting it included in the State of Wisconsin's 6-lane project. The City of Neenah has now asked that the county take another look at the project, so a meeting was held to discuss the possibility of getting the interchange included in the USH 41 expansion project. Mr. Haese explained that since USH 41 has been designated as a future interstate, the federal government will also be involved in any decisions made about this project. A meeting with the federal government will be held at the end of March to determine if they will allow a study to be done to give them information on a potential interchange at this intersection. When this project was first discussed five years ago, the cost would have been approximately \$14 Million, with funds coming from the Wisconsin DOT and the City of Neenah. Now, the Wisconsin DOT will not fund a study or the construction of the project, so it will be up to the county and the City of Neenah to find funding for it. There is a possibility of some money coming from the federal government for the project. The estimated cost for the project is now \$16 Million.
- County Road Y Round-about at County Road T intersection – This is not in the capital improvement project at this time, but it's a project that should be considered. Currently, there is a 4-way stop at this intersection. However, because of growth in this area and the anticipated increase in traffic at this intersection, a round-about would help the traffic flow. Mr. Haese stated that he will put this project in his capital improvement program for 2007, but he hopes to have the money in this year's budget to conduct a study of the project.

REPORT ON WISCONSIN ACT 100 REGARDING REDISTRICTING – JOHN BODNAR, CORPORATION COUNSEL

John Bodnar, Winnebago County Corporation Counsel presented the following information on Wisconsin's new law pertaining to redistricting:

- Wisconsin Act 100 became law on January 4, 2006 and became effective on January 19, 2006. This allows for redistricting during the decennial period, which is the period of time between federal censuses.
1. County boards may decrease, but not increase, size of County Board
 - A. Supervisory districts must be substantially equal in population
 - B. Districts are to be compact and contiguous
 - C. To extent possible, whole contiguous municipalities or contiguous parts of the same municipality are to be placed within the same district
 - D. Original numbers of the districts in their geographic outlines shall be retained to extent possible
 - E. Districts must consist of whole wards in existence at the time the redistricting plan is adopted
 - F. County board may not enact a plan after a citizens' petition for redistricting has been filed or is pending, but may do so after a redistricting plan is rejected by referendum
 2. Citizens may reduce (and may not increase) Board size by petition and referendum
 - A. May do so only after first election following enactment of decennial district plan
 - B. Prior to circulation of petition, petitioner shall register name, address and intent to circulate petition with County Clerk
 - C. Signatures on petition must be obtained within 60 days of registration with County Clerk (see above)
 - D. Petition must specify the proposed number of supervisors on Board
 - E. Alternative petitions with a different number of supervisors may also be submitted within 14 days of the last date for filing original petition. If valid, that petition would also appear as a referendum question. The same registration and signature requirements apply to alternative petition
 - F. Petitions must contain signatures of at least 25% of total votes cast for County Board Supervisor at the last spring election (example: if total of 30,000 votes were cast for all supervisory districts in last election, 7,500 signatures would be required).
 - G. County Clerk to determine the sufficiency of petitions
 - H. If petitions are sufficient, the referendum to be on ballot at next spring or general election, but no earlier than 42 days after clerk determines petition(s) to be sufficient
 - I. Questions on referendum shall be as follows:
 - 1) "Shall the Board of Winnebago County be decreased from its current number of 38 members?"
 - 2) "If so, shall the size of the County Board be decreased to _____ members?"
 - J. Voters may vote on both questions, even if they voted in the negative on the first question
 - K. If first question is not approved, second question automatically is presumed to be irrelevant
 - L. County Board is required to enact an ordinance if Referendum is approved with number of supervisory districts

- being the number approved in referendum by a plurality of the voters
- M. Same requirements for formation of districts shall apply as if number of Board members was changed by County Board rather than by referendum
3. Limitation on Changes to Board Size
- A. If number of Supervisors is decreased by either Board or by petition, no further action may be taken to decrease size of Board during that decennial period
4. Effective dates
- A. Any redistricting plan is effective November 15 after adoption and will be next applicable at the next spring election following the effective date that immediately precedes the expiration of the terms of the supervisors (Example: A new plan adopted 11/1/06 would be effective 11/15/06, but no change in structure of Board would actually occur until 4/15/08)
5. Potential Problems
- A. Issue exists as to whether current ward structure can be maintained as required by statute and yet meet federal and state constitutional requirements that districts remain the same size. If Board is reduced by half, this does not appear to cause a problem, but reductions by other sizes appear to be problematic.
 - B. It does not appear that if a referendum is unsuccessful there is any limit to how many times a referendum may be submitted to the electorate until a reduction is approved.
 - C. The cost of each election.
 - D. The cost of redistricting.

Mr. Bodnar took questions from the Board.

Motion by Supervisor Robl and seconded to adjourn until Tuesday, April 18, 2006. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan T. Ertmer
Winnebago County Clerk

State of Wisconsin)
County of Winnebago) ss

I, Susan T. Ertmer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Journal of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors for their Special Orders Session held March 14, 2006.

Susan T. Ertmer
Winnebago County Clerk