

Winona County Highway Department Road and Bridge Committee Meeting

Minutes for February 15, 2022

Attendance In person, unless otherwise stated via Ring Central (RC)
Commissioners: Steve Jacob, Marcia Ward
Staff: Maureen Holte (RC), David Kramer, Tim Fort, Troy Drath, Aaron LaFee
Others: Representing Pickwick Mill: Tony Blumentritt, Brian Tomashek, Doug Hubbard
Representing Pickwick Fire Rescue: Adam Zimmerman (RC)
Representing Richmond Township: Bob Bruno (RC)

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Jacob at 9:00 AM. This meeting was held both in-person and virtually in the Highway Department multipurpose room. All attendees introduced themselves and who they were representing.

1. The agenda was approved as presented unanimously upon a motion by Marcia and second by Dave.
2. The October 19, 2021 minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by Marcia and second by Dave.
3. Concerns regarding the 2022 CSAH 7 Bridge replacement near the Pickwick Inn were discussed. All of those in attendance listed as "Others" were here to discuss these concerns. Information was presented as to the project anticipated schedule, starting in late July according to contractor, and duration, approximately 3 months. Discussion was held regarding the county board's temporary bypass policy, the need to monitor points in the drainage area above the dam, emergency response times, lack of volunteers in surrounding emergency departments to provide mutual aid support, Pickwick Mill Days, access for tourists to the mill, potential bypass options to investigate and their benefits, and potential funding of a bypass if approved. While not installed in past 10 years as part of our projects, it is not uncommon for a bypass to cost between 10-20% of the overall construction cost of the bridge replacement, so potentially \$200,000 to \$400,000. Motion was made by Marcia and seconded by Dave to have Maureen and administration look into the use of ARPA funds use for the bypass, gather cost estimates and discuss with Pickwick Fire Rescue about options for locations and their vehicles, etc. for presentation at a future board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Discussion was held regarding repair or replacement options as a result of damage done to a lean-to shed at the Highway Department's Goodview site on December 15. Motion to get firm quotes for costs to demo, rebuild including electrical and bring the topic back to the Road & Bridge committee at a future date was made by Marcia and seconded by Dave. Motion carried unanimously.
5. An update was given in regard to the Otta seal that was removed from TH 74 north of Elba, including a letter from the MnDOT D6 District Engineer.
6. A request for resurfacing on CSAH 24 from a resident on that roadway was discussed including its location on the PQI/RQI condition lists, which are available on the county's website. Tim will review and look at "wedging" asphalt repairs and mastic for joint repairs. Dave will send an email to the resident and copy Steve.
7. A remnant of the rural addressing project apparently placed signage on what, according to a resident in the area, should have been McCarty Ravine Rd to instead of McCarthy Ravine Rd as it is signed. There is now a home on this roadway and a change to the sign would also affect the address of the residents, causing them to need to update their mailing address including their driver's licenses, etc. For now the signage will be left as it is, with a memo to the file discussing the discrepancy and the decision to leave it as is. Steve will reach out to his constituent about the decision.
8. Tim gave a maintenance update. Also discussed was an unexpected fortunate \$266,605 increase in the 2022 CSAH maintenance budget. Recently we have hired 3 new employees at the Utica shop following changes to the department structure and departure of others. Crews continue to work on tree cutting and will be renting a boom lift for trees on CSAH 9.
9. Troy gave a construction update on carryover work from 2021 as well as new work planned in 2022 for reconstruction, paving and bridges. Contacts have been made with affected landowners on CSAH 30 reconstruction. Also on CSAH 30, the bridge to the east of TH 74 has received \$1,536,000 of 2026 federal funding for replacement.

10. Old business

- a. CSAH 37 – Fabian Corner possible reconstruction was discussed and as we move out of COVID-19 restrictions will meet with 3 affected landowners
- b. Culvert Policy – Maintenance of town road approach culverts that are in the County Road R/W

11. Other items – None added at this time

12. Update – CR 129 R/W condemnation of the Bronk property was discussed.

13. Next meetings: April 19, June 21 (Commissioners' Road Tour)

14. The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 AM following a motion by Marcia and second by Dave. Carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Troy Drath, Assistant County Engineer