

Winona County Highway Department Road and Bridge Committee Meeting

Minutes for April 18, 2023

Attendance Commissioners: Marcia Ward, Chris Meyer
Staff: Maureen Holte, David Kramer, Tim Fort, Troy Drath
Others: Richard Ahrens, Tim Ahrens, Josh Elsing

This meeting was held with all attendees in-person in the Highway Department multipurpose room.

Commissioner Ward called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

1. The agenda was approved unanimously following a motion by Dave and second by Chris.
2. The February 21, 2023 minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by Chris and second by Dave.
3. Updates to the 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), including funding, were discussed in detail with emphasis on the year 2024 as this will be a component of the 2024 county budget which will need to be submitted in June. Other additions and changes were made to match funding and deliverability of the plan. During discussion on the CIP questions were raised and discussed regarding the EAW for the CR 30 project and coordination between the highway and planning departments regarding highway projects. Chris stated that she would address the CIP during the comment period of a county board meeting and allow the other commissioners to contact us on their own with any questions.
4. Cattle pass policy was discussed regarding a possible board resolution authorizing the Highway Department to make a settlement offer to landowners for removal of cattle passes if the land is under the same ownership on both sides of the road. Information regarding what other D6 counties are doing in this situation was presented. The consensus was to proceed with drafting and attorney review of a resolution, and that \$5,000 would be an appropriate amount. Marcia asked that county attorneys be asked about any statute that would allow or disallow movement of cattle over the road in the event that no cattle pass is present. Question will be asked and a proposed resolution will be drafted for a future committee meeting.
5. Tim gave a maintenance update that included recent storm that knocked down a number of trees with the heavy wet snow which will be cut down and chipped. Prior to this event, work had begun on retrieving gravel from slopes on gravel roads to be completed prior to "rock haul" to replenish gravel across the entire surface of these roads, this will continue in the coming days and weeks. Others are working on pothole patching and repairing shoulders of paved roads. Contracted maintenance shouldering will begin sometime after spring road restrictions are no longer in effect and the contract awarded at the May 9th board meeting. Summer hours go into effect from May 15 through September 15. This is a switch from M-F 7am-3:30pm to 6am-3:30pm M-Th and 6am-10am on Friday.
6. Troy gave a construction update including CR 1 Culvert and Resurfacing planned to begin next Monday, April 24, weather dependent. The brochure and culvert site maps to be used during construction were made available. The CR 21 grading and concrete paving plan has yet to be authorized for advertising by state aid for use of federal funds. With the late date for bidding on this project we intend to allow the bidders to determine whether they will construct in 2023 if they are able to complete the work or in 2024, but only in one season or the other. Sealcoating has been bid and awarded and will begin in May or June. Looking into work on lining and replacing/repairing culverts. Runaway Road and Cocker drive bridges will begin with work on Runaway in the beginning of May and then at Cocker Drive after June 2.
7. Other Business – Marcia has a conflict with the planned date of the Commissioner Road Tour on June 20. With elections for district 3 commissioner not being complete until first part of August it was suggested to move the road tour to the August meeting date. June meeting date will be held if a meeting is warranted.
8. Old Business:
 - a. Makeup, function and format of the committee was discussed. Maureen and Heidi have been working to gather information regarding all advisory committees in the county for consistency of function. This will take some time, but in the meantime a motion was made by Dave and second by Maureen to move away from a system of voting and have any recommendations to the full county board be based on the consensus of the commissioners on the committee. Motion passed on a unanimous vote to eliminate voting of members of the committee.
 - b. R/W acquisitions with payment at 1.3 times market value instead of 1.0. No update.
9. Next meetings: June 20 R & B Committee; August 15 Road Tour
10. The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 AM.

Minutes prepared by Troy Drath, Assistant County Engineer