

Winona County Highway Department Road and Bridge Committee Meeting

Minutes for April 20, 2021

Attendance Commissioners: Steve Jacob, Marcia Ward
Staff: Ken Fritz, David Kramer, Tim Fort, Troy Drath
Guest: County Resident Doug Stavenau – 32766 CR 16 (remotely via RingCentral)

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Jacob at 9:00 AM. This meeting was held in person in the Highway Department multipurpose room.

1. The agenda was approved unanimously upon a motion by Marcia and second by Dave.
2. The December 15, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by Marcia and second by Dave.
3. Discussion was held regarding a request from resident Doug Stavenau to pave or improve the 2.7-mile gravel segment of CSAH 16. Mr. Stavenau was available via RingCentral and indicated that his biggest concern was the dust associated with the gravel road and its extra wear and tear on vehicles and not as concerned as much about the washboarding. The cost effectiveness of asphalt surfacing generally begins at about 200 vehicles per day; and the cost comparison for paving and Otta Seal were also discussed, with Otta Seal likely being the most feasible alternative based on this preliminary discussion. Mr. Stavenau appreciated the committee discussing this issue and the committee plans to further consider feasibility of potential improvements.
4. Discussion was held regarding a request from a resident for a crosswalk on CSAH 17 (Homer Road) at East Burns Valley Road for safe crossing. The intersection is not a good candidate for simply painting an at grade crosswalk based due to multiple lanes and traffic volumes. Staff will discuss with the City of Winona their awareness of any similar concerns and interest in jointly having a consultant study potential pedestrian safety improvements.
5. Troy gave a construction project update regarding current and future projects
 - a. Dave presented information on the status of revenue from the local option sales tax for transportation. While there has been a decrease in collection, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, as compared to the previous year's similar timeframe, the amount is not as significant as might be thought and at this time does not cause concerns with moving forward with projects relying on this funding source. The transportation sales tax revenue from the period Mar-Oct 2020 is down 4.1% from the same period in 2019.
 - b. Construction project updates were presented, including past and upcoming projects. Work is beginning on CSAH 5 bridge replacement and CSAH 15/CR 107 reconstruction and work will be done this year on bridges on CSAHs 26 & 30 as well as reconstruction of CSAH 25 from Wyattville to Enterprise Drive and resurfacing with culverts on CSAH 37 from CR 115 to CSAH 24.
6. Tim gave a maintenance update. Winter was relatively mild with an all trucks out on 43 occasions throughout the season. Salt usage was down from past with use of only 58% of the contracted amount used at Utica and 48% of contracted amount used at Winona. Will be continuing the gravel haul for our gravel road so that chloride can be applied as soon as that is complete. Shouldering will be done by contract and in-house. Grader training will be done in conjunction with Fillmore County, with at least one staff from each of the outlying shops in attendance.
7. Other Items:
 - a. City of Altura is working to secure USDA Rural Development funds for water and sewer work in the city and may be requesting the county participate on road and drainage portions of the work to be done on CSAH 33 & CR 112. This work is anticipated for 2023 or 2024, but they will know more this summer or fall.
 - b. Tessa Loken has indicated poor pavement condition on CSAH 11 south of Ridgeway. Tim indicated that there was "wedging" done previously and that he plans to do more as time permits.
8. Old Business
 - a. CSAH 30 R/W acquisition, design and potential meeting to present concepts of potential curves with area landowners was discussed.
 - b. CSAH 37 "Fabian Corner" possible reconstruction with 2024 paving project was discussed, depending on the alignment it could affect Hersheys & Dale Fabian on the north side of the road more than Lowell.
9. Next scheduled meetings: June 15 would normally be Commissioner's road tour, but with COVID-19 uncertainties we will hold the June meeting, if needed and to schedule the road tour for the August 17 meeting or in September or October.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM following a motion by Marcia and second by Dave. Carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Troy Drath, Assistant County Engineer