

## Winona County Highway Department Road and Bridge Committee Meeting

Minutes for October 18, 2022

Attendance      Commissioners: Steve Jacob, Marcia Ward  
                         Staff: Maureen Holte, David Kramer, Tim Fort, Troy Drath  
                         Others: Richard Ahrens, Tim Ahrens

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Jacob at 9:01 AM. This meeting was held with all attendees in-person in the Highway Department multipurpose room.

1. The amended agenda was approved unanimously upon a motion by Marcia and second by Dave.
  2. The August 16, 2022 minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by Marcia and second by Dave.
  3. Updates to the 5-year Road & Bridge CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) were discussed. Mostly that with recent increase in prices that the remaining 4 years' (2023-2026) projects from the previous 2022-2026 CIP were spread across the new 5-year CIP for 2023-2027. Price increases have been in the range of 25-30% and until there is indication of prices leveling or lowering it would not be responsible to add projects that will not be able to be funded. Discussion was that this approach seemed to be the best at this time. 2023-2027 CIP will be submitted to the county board for approval with the budget.
  4. Discussion was held on the current and proposed changes to the county's cattle pass policy in regard to removal of existing, not currently in-use cattle passes. Dave had collected information from other counties with similar agricultural infrastructure and how they handle this ongoing concern. A lot of money is being and/or could be spent on replacement or repair of existing cattle passes that are not currently in use when completing grading and resurfacing projects. After some discussion about potential changes, Steve made a motion to recommend to the full county board changing the policy such that the county may remove a cattle pass a) *With permission of the landowner* or b) *if both sides of the road are no longer under common ownership*. The motion was seconded by Dave, and passed on a 4-1 vote with Steve, Dave, Tim and Troy voting yes and Marcia voting no. Commissioner Jacob, along with the staff on the committee, voted in favor of forwarding the policy change, recognizing that the alternative is unnecessarily spending perhaps \$500,000 replacing unused cattle passes on the upcoming CSAH 1 project, where there is also no longer common property ownership on both sides. Commissioner Ward voted "no" on forwarding the policy to the full board, based on uncertainty of the legality. Staff is to request review by the county attorney's office prior to full board consideration of this proposed policy change; and secondarily to request review of the legalities of unused cattle passes where there is still common ownership on both sides and bring the issue back to the R&B committee.
  5. Tim gave a maintenance update that included planned hauling of sand from the Corps of Engineers sand pile near Homer including working with the City of Winona to screen sand for their use, putting on wing standards preparing for snow, rental of a boom lift for trimming trees, clearing brush from ROWs and under bridges.
  6. Troy gave a construction update including work on CRs 106, 29 & 14 as well as finishing up on CRs 34 & 107 in the City of St. Charles and deck pour later this week for the bridge on CR 7. Bids were accepted for township road bridges on Runaway Road and Cocker Drive for completion next year.
  7. Old Business:
    - a. CSAH 37, "Fabian Corner" possible reconstruction with 2025 paving project – nothing new
    - b. CSAH 3 "Charlie Boy" hill signage and drainage – Dave and Tim looked into and will be removed from list
    - c. Elba/St. Charles Township configuration of Co Rds 22, 24, 39 & 108. No interest from committee members in considering possible jurisdictional reconfiguration. Remove from List
    - d. R/W acquisitions, concept of paying 1.3 times market (instead of 1.0) – Verify if legal and bring to future meeting
  8. Next meetings: December 20, February 21
  9. The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 AM following a motion by Marcia and second by Dave. Carried unanimously.
- Minutes prepared by Troy Drath, Assistant County Engineer