

Winona County Highway Department Road and Bridge Committee Meeting

Minutes for August 16, 2022

Attendance Commissioners: Steve Jacob, Marcia Ward
 Staff: Maureen Holte, David Kramer, Tim Fort, Troy Drath
 Others: Richard & Karen Ahrens, Tim Ahrens & Melia Haugen
 Representing Richmond Township: Bob Bruno

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Jacob at 9:03 AM. This meeting was held with all attendees in-person in the Highway Department multipurpose room. All attendees introduced themselves.

1. The agenda was amended to move originally as Items 4-CSAH 30 reconstruction update and 5-CSAH 3 “Charlie Boy” hill to items 3 and 4, respectively, to accommodate visitors attending to discuss these items. The amended agenda was approved unanimously upon a motion by Marcia and second by Dave.
2. The February 15, 2022 minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by Marcia and second by Dave.
3. CSAH 30 reconstruction update – resident Tim Ahrens was provided an opportunity to discuss aspects of the project including planning, design, proposed right-of-way purchase, and entrances regarding the property his father owns in the southwest corner of the intersection of CSAHs 30 & 31. Dave spoke to some of the concerns presented and will check into the format of the resolutions passed by the county board for acquisition of right-of-way.
4. CSAH 3 “Charlie Boy” hill was discussed regarding:
 - a. “Hill” sign concerns – on 3/12 there was a runaway truck that could not stop going down the 11% grade of CR 3 before it intersects with TH 61. The truck ran across the highway, RR tracks and down the river bank before stopping. Bob Bruno, asking on behalf of Richmond Township, wants to know if additional warning signage can be installed near the CR 12 intersection near I-90 to allow truckers and others to find an alternate route, since GPS seems to take people down CSAH 3 as it is the shortest route. County will look into options and see if a warning sign can/should be installed.
 - b. The township’s roads on the river side of TH 61 are being affected by water and sediment coming from the CSAH 3 side of the highway. The township asking if anything can be done to reduce this from affecting their culvert and ditches, etc.
5. Construction project funding was discussed regarding:
 - a. Road Condition Concerns
 - Elba Township concerns with CSAHs 37 & 24 & CR 108
 - CSAH 12 east of Ridgeway; CRs 101, 109; Others
 - b. Pavement Quality Index (PQI) info and trends
 - c. 2022 inflationary cost increases
 - d. CSAH and sales tax revenue trends
 - e. Draft 2023-2027 CIP Review
 - f. Wheelage tax option – discussion was not to pursue this
 - g. 2023 levy amount toward construction (budget line 03.300.320.6280) – discussion was a desire to keep this levy amount similar as in previous budget years
6. Hwy 74 (N of Elba) maintenance cost and dust issues were discussed with Steve expressing concerns that MnDOT should be held accountable for the excess cost of maintenance of the now gravel vs the previous Otta Seal surfacing
7. Elba/St Charles Township configuration of Co Rds 22, 24, 39 & 108 – potential changes discussed regarding possible swap with the townships to create a county road from Olmsted CR 9, what is now Winona CR 22 through Persons Drive, CR 39 & Borderline Drive to create a straight, continuous county road to CR 27 instead the offsets of CRs 22 & 39. No action was taken on the proposal at this time.

8. R/W acquisitions and potential to offer 1.3 times market value instead of 1.0 to reduce overall cost and time involved in the R/W acquisition process. Going to check legality of this and discuss at a future time.
9. Tim gave a maintenance update that included continuation of weed spraying, ditch mowing, in-house shouldering, dura-patching Otta seal damaged areas, "wedge" patching in the fall in settled and rough area, sand hauling from the Homer and tree trimming with a lift.
10. Troy gave a construction update including work on CRs 14, 29 & 106 is continuing and should be finished after box culverts are delivered in first part of October, CRs 34 & 107 in the City of St. Charles should start end of August to first part of September, CR 20 rock wall and ditch construction was completed earlier this summer. CR 27 bridge is complete and working now on CR 7 by the Pickwick Inn with completion near the end of October. Sealcoating was completed earlier this summer on the roads in the Witoka and Ridgeway areas, including McNally Ridge Rd for Pleasant Hill Township. Repairs of flood damage is continuing to be completed. SEH is assisting with environmental issues associated with the CR 30 reconstruction.
11. Other items: Briefly discussed the status of the proposed settlement with the Bronks for CR 129 right-of-way.
12. Old Business:
 - a. CSAH 37, "Fabian Corner" possible reconstruction with 2024 paving project – nothing new
 - b. Culvert Policy – who maintains town road approach culverts in County Road R/W. An updated Driveway Approach Policy was reviewed by the committee and will be forwarded to the county board for consideration of approval based on motion by Marcia and second by Dave. Carried unanimously.
13. Next meetings: October 18, December 20
14. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 AM following a motion by Marcia and second by Dave. Carried unanimously.
Minutes prepared by Troy Drath, Assistant County Engineer