Minutes of the
Dodge County Highway Committee Meeting
September 3, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the Dodge County Highway Committee was called to order by the Chairman at 8:30 a.m. on September 3, 2015, in the Dodge County Highway building.

ROLL CALL: The following members were present – Harold Johnson, Chester Caine, Randy Grebel, Jeff Berres, and William Muche. Commissioner Brian Field, Assistant Commissioner Peter Thompson, County Administrator Jim Mielke, and County Board Chairman Russell Kottke were also present. Patrol Superintendents Joe Lechner and Nate Minnig, Operations Superintendent Steve Pett, Shop Superintendent John Haase, Dan Shea of Maas Brothers Construction, and Adam Hertel of Angus Young were present for part of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Caine and seconded by Muche to approve the agenda as presented and allow the Chairman to go out of order as needed to efficiently conduct the meeting. Motion carried.

REVIEW MINUTES OF AUGUST 20 AND 27, 2015: Minutes of August 20 and 27, 2015, were approved as submitted.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS: Lechner thanked the Committee for their support with equipment, buildings, and projects. He expressed his concerns with the current pay plan and pay for performance process. Good employees are leaving, hiring qualified replacements is very hard, and we do not have enough qualified snow plow operators to do our job as well as we have in the past. This issue will be on a future agenda for further discussion in the near future.

Minnig introduced himself as the new West Side Patrol Superintendent. He reported on the successful shouldering of state and county highways this year.

Pett reported that CTH E (Beaver Dam - Horicon) is completed and open. The CTH C (CTH A - Jersey Road) reconstruction project is progressing on schedule to be paved in October.

Haase stated that the shop operations are running smoothly and the setup of the new patrol trucks is going well.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

STAFF REPORTS AND DEPARTMENT CONCERNS: Field gave a report on recent hiring efforts and current employee roster status.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no Committee reports.

PROJECT UPDATES: CTH AA (W. County Line – CTH A) has been surface paved. Design and permitting work continues on the Juneau salt brine facility. STH maintenance and PBM projects are progressing very well.

DISCUSS BRIDGE INSPECTIONS FOR LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES: It was the consensus of the Committee that Thompson should facilitate a bridge inspection contract with a private consulting/engineering firm to inspect bridges for all participating cities, towns, and villages in Dodge County. An update will be presented at a future meeting.

SATELLITE SHOP REPLACEMENT OPTIONS: Numerous design and budget options were reviewed and discussed for satellite shop replacement in Reeseville and Neosho. Motion by Muche and seconded by Berres to recommend submitting a 2016 budget request to build one new satellite shop in Neosho, relocating and using the existing fuel system, and using the existing salt storage facility. The budget amount shall be $2,900,000 with $1,000,000 of unreserved retained earnings being applied to this project. Motion carried.

2016 BUDGET REQUEST REVIEW: The 2016 Highway Commission budget request was reviewed and discussed.

REVIEW VOUCHER PAYMENT REGISTER: A voucher payment register was reviewed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: The following items will be added to an upcoming meeting agenda: Employee retainage and recruitment concerns, local municipalities bridge inspection update, and field review of 2015 projects.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: The next Committee meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. on October 1, 2015, in the Juneau office.

FIELD REVIEW: There was no field review.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Harold J. Johnson – Chairman

Randy Grebel – Secretary

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next Committee meeting.