

Waukesha County Board of Supervisors

Minutes of the Public Works Committee
Thursday, July 15, 2021

Chair Swan called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Dave Swan, Keith Hammitt, Jim Batzko, Christine Howard, Darlene Johnson, Chris Mommaerts, and Tom Schellinger.

Also Present: Chief of Staff Sarah Spaeth, County Board Chair Paul Decker, Administrative Specialist Mary Pedersen, Facilities Supervisor Javier Ramos, Facilities Manager Shane Waeghe, Public Works Director Allison Bussler, Senior Civil Engineer Ed Hinrichs, Engineering Services Manager Karen Braun, Airport Manager Kurt Stanich, Business Manager Rhiannon Cupkie; County Board Supervisors Jim Heinrich and Duane Paulson; and Citizens Frances Heintz-Taylor, Barbara Klein, Edward Meier, Debbie Carrasco-Zanini, John Heintz-Taylor, Nancy Meier, Tim Klein, Greg Malcolm, Diane Hennem, Kristian Hennem, Joan Caird, and Deb Edwards.

Bid for Waukesha County Airport Vault Generator Replacement Project – Project #202115

Ramos indicated the backup generator for the runway lights at the Crites Field Airport is in need of replacement. With the generator being beyond the point of repair it has been taken off-line with a backup portable generator temporarily wired in. Staff Electric was the lowest responsible bidder with a bid of \$99,475.

MOTION: Schellinger moved, second by Johnson to approve the bid for the Waukesha County Airport vault generator replacement project, Project #202115. Motion carried 7-0.

Ordinance 176-O-042 Modify 2021 Budget and Approve Contingency Fund Transfer for Building Improvement Plan

Waeghe and Bussler discussed this ordinance to approve a transfer of Contingency Fund appropriations to the Department of Public Works Building Improvement Plan (BIP) program of \$300,000 to help fund two known urgent maintenance projects at a total cost of \$160,000 and provide additional funds to cover additional unplanned urgent building or mechanical maintenance needs. An unusually high total of unplanned maintenance has required the deferral of non-emergency maintenance projects. The Contingency Funds are being requested because boilers at the highway operations building are failing and require immediately replacement; bid received is for \$120,000. Additionally, the replacement of a failing compressor is estimated to cost \$40,000. The balance of the contingency funds will allow the department to respond to additional major system maintenance in 2021. This is a one-time maintenance project expense and does not result in a direct tax levy impact. Bussler said the Finance Committee requested the department come back when they ran out of money and they have run out of money.

MOTION: Johnson moved, second by Howard to approve Ordinance 176-O-042. Motion carried 7-0.

Approve Minutes of June 10, 2021

MOTION: Howard moved, second by Hammitt to approve the minutes of June 10. Motion carried 7-0.

Next Meeting Date

- August 12, 2021

Future Agenda Item

Spaeth suggested meeting at the Airport in August when they take up the airport lease ordinance.

Legislative Update

Spaeth gave an update on the State budget process and redistricting.

Ordinance 176-O-041 Modify Speed Zone on County Trunk Highway KF Between Lindsay Road and 845 Feet South of CTH JK

Braun discussed this ordinance to reduce the existing 45 MPH speed limit to 35 MPH along both directions of CTH KF between Lindsay Road and CTH JK in the City of Pewaukee. Braun explained the justification for the change.

MOTION: Hammitt moved, second by Schellinger to approve Ordinance 176-O-041. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comments

All citizens speaking today spoke in opposition to Capital Project #201613 (see below and minutes of June 20, 2021). J. Taylor and F. Taylor read aloud their handouts outlining their concerns. Zanini said the project will not improve safety and suggested other less costly options such as rumble strips and a lowering the speed limit. K. Hennem said the problem is not the curve but people are driving too fast. Caird spoke against clearing the trees and acreage loss for a hobby farm. Edwards spoke of a historic agreement between the towns to leave the land as is. B. Klein felt information from the Public Works Department has been either lacking, embellished, or withheld since this project began. She will lose over 100 feet of their driveway and about 1.5 acres of land. E. Meier said the road could be safer if drivers followed the speed limit with enforcement and reduce it to 35 MPH. N. Meier spoke of inaccurate data and assumptions by Public Works staff versus actual accident reports by the Sheriff's Department. T. Klein said straightening the road will actually increase speed putting residents at more risk. He said with 100 feet of his driveway being removed this will actually increase his risk for getting in and out safely. He suggested reducing the speed limit and installing better signage.

Ordinance 176-O-043 Amend the 2021-2025 Capital Plan to Defund Capital Project #201613 CTH D, Moraine Hills Drive Intersection and Modify 2021 Capital Projects Budget

MOTION: Schellinger moved, second by Johnson to approve Ordinance 176-O-043.

Mommaerts discussed this ordinance to modify the 2021-2025 Capital Plan and defund and effectively eliminate capital project #201613 CTH D, Moraine Hills Drive Intersection and look at other options. Mommaerts reviewed her supporting information that was emailed to the County Board challenging the Public Works Department's claims on accident data and alternative safety measures.

Hammitt referred to Mommaerts' information and the public comments, as well as their supporting information, as very troubling. He referred to the unique beauty of this area including curvy roadways. He asked that the County Board in the future receive statistics before approving similar capital projects. Johnson agreed and had concerns about increased speed once the road is straightened and destruction of the tree farm.

Bussler said eliminating the project now would result in a net cost to the County of about \$133,000. Bussler, Braun, and Hinrichs clarified information including safety issues, accident data and traffic engineers in the State DOT who claimed this project is a good solution to this roadway. Bussler said the facts and the data are very sound whereby Braun explained these in detail. Heinrichs said this does not involve straightening the road but flattening the curve, increasing the shoulders, and adding rumble strips. With regards to one citizen's driveway, efforts would be made to make it safer. Braun discussed accident statistics and said according to an accident expert, this segment has a high accident rate per traffic count whereby she advised of accident rates/traffic counts on other county highways for comparison purposes. She advised of other highway sections with high accident rates that have been denied funding. She noted they are fully vetted before being approved for funding. Bussler said there is a current tree canopy that does not allow the ice to adequately melt which has been a cause of some accidents and rumble strips can't be added because the current shoulders are too small. Reducing the speed limit won't necessarily adjust how people drive and the town does not have a contract with the Sheriff's Department to enforce the speed limit. Braun discussed the timeline and meetings with the town and public, both past and future and past COVID-19 constraints, related to this project. This ordinance was discussed and debated further.

Motion carried 5-2. Swan and Howard voted no.

Executive Committee Report

Spaeth said the committee approved ordinances and appointments that have since been approved by the full County Board.

MOTION: Hammitt moved, second by Johnson to adjourn at 11:11 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James Batzko

James Batzko
Secretary