



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026**

A. Call to Order

Chairman Nussbaum called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Members Present: 5 – Don Nussbaum, Tim O'Brien, Chuck Farrey, Ralph Harrison, and Billy Halbur

Also Present at the Meeting:

Bob Doemel, Highway Commissioner
Cassie Smith-Gregor, Chief Deputy Clerk
Jamie Rouch, Director of Administration

via TEAMS

Cameron Solie (logged in at 4:35 pm)

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Invocation

The invocation was given by Supervisor O'Brien.

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

E. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Harrison to approve the September 22, 2025, meeting minutes. CARRIED by VOICE VOTE.

F. Committee Member Comments

There were no committee member comments.

G. Highway Commissioner Comments

1. CTH-E Ditches (Town of Algoma)

Bob Doemel, Highway Commissioner, updated the members on the County Road E Ditches. They have missed out on about a month of work that they would normally have had due to the early winter season. They've completed about 1200 feet of ditching out there and worked with a contractor with drain tile. One thing that was confirmed out there by two different contractors is that throughout 1800 ft, there is about 1 foot of fall, so it is very flat. There is just no elevation out there. The contractor that they are working with will put the drain tile in but makes no promises it will work.

Mr. Doemel then took questions from the members.

2. CTH-P Project Update

Bob Doemel, Highway Commissioner, updated the members on the County Road P Project. They've finished up the land acquisition for this project a week or two before Christmas. The project did get let, and was awarded to Vinton Construction, under budget, potentially looking at a Spring 2026 construction start.

Mr. Doemel then took questions from the members.

3. Staffing Update

Bob Doemel, Highway Commissioner, provided the members with a staffing update.

The Equipment Superintendent retired, and the position is currently open. They will probably be looking at interviews in the next two weeks. There was a real good turnout of applications for that. This position oversees all their equipment purchasing, maintenance, and oversight of their building maintenance. There is a lot to this job.

The Maintenance Superintendent has had 19 years with their department and will be leaving in March. There will be a lot of knowledge they will lose with these positions. They will look at interviews for this position probably in February.

Mr. Doemel then took questions from the members.

4. Equipment Update

Bob Doemel, Highway Commissioner, gave an equipment update to the members of the committee. There were 5 trucks approved in the 2022 Budget approval and those were just delivered, and they are all out plowing. They also received 3 tandem chassis that came in. One of those went up for the plows and the wings and the next 2 will be delivered shortly. They also have two of the tandem axles, which is a small single axle. Those trucks are here. They just haven't bid out the winter equipment yet which they are working on now.

Supervisor O'Brien praised the Highway Department for their hard work. He had heard from some constituents who gave the Highway Department a thumbs up stating that the plows were out right away clearing off the roads after the few snowfalls that we've had already.

Mr. Doemel also mentioned that they have two trucks, a 2003 and a 2005 that have engine problems. The 2003 truck. They potentially thought that they could get a new motor in it, but after going through it, the frame is already bulging, so it doesn't pay to put that motor in it. He mentioned that you get about 10 years out of these trucks, so it was good that the new trucks came in when they did this year.

Mr. Doemel then took questions from the members.

5. Highway Permitting Process Update

Bob Doemel, Highway Commissioner, updated the members on the highway permitting process.

It does take a little time to process permits and get them out. They've been trying to figure out ways to provide a better process for customers and staff to create a more streamlined permitting process. They currently use RT Vision for their employee timekeeping, which is electronic and a program they have used for a few years. A lot of counties do use this software for permitting, so they've investigated this and spoken to other counties. Manitowoc County did let Mr. Doemel set up a fake account to try the software and see how it works. They've had really good success with that and received a lot of good feedback from other counties that are using this software. What this will end up doing is, once these permit applications get submitted online, and they are paid for, the software will send the permit through. Then someone can look at it on a tablet and/or laptop, and essentially could be approved if necessary, afterhours. It is an existing software they are currently using and are working with RT Vision to move forward with this permitting addition.

H. Business Items

There were no business items to address.

I. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at the David W. Albrecht Administration Building, Oshkosh, Wisconsin in the Susan T. Ertmer Conference Room 120.

J. Adjourn

*Motion by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Halbur, to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.
The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.*

Submitted by:

Cassie J. Smith-Gregor

Winnebago County Chief Deputy Clerk

The video portion of this meeting is available on the County website:

<https://winnebago.cowi.portal.civicclerk.com>