

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS

555 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Minutes of April 1, 2008

Board Present: Road Commissioners Fred Veigel, David Rutledge and Wesley Prater

County Rep. Present: County Commissioner Mark Ouimet

Staff Present: S. Puuri, J. Harmon, R. Townsend, C. Ryan, D. Ackerman, C. Sullivan, K. Doyle, M. McCulloch, B. Schlack, L. Hackbarth, A. Kelly, S. Riddle

Others Present: J. Gilbert, M. Privatte, J. Brazin, V. Gilbert, E. Kuebler, C.J. Waterbury, R. Sadler, L. Deck, M. Gaffney, B. Bicknell, H. Newstead, K.R. Newstead, G. Witus, C. Maxton, A. Maxton, E. Howard, Z. Howard, E. Davis, D. Sadler, G. Hickey, D. Huard, H. Weiss, A. Hromadler, J. Robards, B. Rodgers, C. Dimond, J. Gochis, R. Mitchell, L. Adams, M.K. Treutelaar, E. Helber, J. Vincke, B. Stumbo, R. Lourin, J. Young, B. Hinson, C. Hann, J. McCarthy, J. Henkel, S. Martin, A. Hering, R. Hughes

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Fred Veigel, Chair. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RC08-107 Prater moved, Rutledge seconded to approve the agenda as presented with one item removed.. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the March 18 , 2008 Board Meeting.

RC08-108 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded, the Board hereby accepts the Board Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2008, as presented. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Ford Boulevard – Lane Restriping

Brenda Stumbo, Ypsilanti Township Clerk, addressed the Board regarding Resolution No. 2008-8 that was passed by the Charter Township of Ypsilanti on March 4, 2008, requesting the Road Commission to convert Ford Boulevard back to four-lanes, from Ecorse Road to Holmes Road. Ms. Stumbo was in attendance to answer any questions.

A couple citizens addressed the Board in favor of a four-lane configuration on Ford Boulevard, and several citizens addressed the Board in opposition of changing from the three-lane striping back to four-lanes. It was stated by many residents and bicyclists in attendance that the current three-lane configuration with bike paths is safer and quieter. There was also concerns expressed that the traffic speeds would increase and resident would need to stand in the middle of four-lanes as they cross Ford Boulevard to retrieve their mail.

Ed Davis of Ed's Garage, Inc., addressed the Board stating that he coordinated a petition in support of the conversion of Ford Boulevard back to four-lanes, obtaining approximately 400 signatures. Mr. Davis stated that he did not solicit anyone individually, and that he put up a sign on the front of his business property asking people to sign this petition.

Commissioner Rutledge asked where the resident mailboxes are located on Ford Boulevard. Several citizens responded that the mailboxes are located on the west side of Ford Boulevard, requiring a person to cross Ford Boulevard to retrieve their mail, which they said was dangerous.

Liberty Road Closure

Several citizens addressed the Board regarding the severe flooding on Liberty Road and the current road closure barriers the Road Commission placed between Zeeb Road and Park Road. They expressed their concern that this road closure made it difficult for emergency responders. Also, the alternate roads for egress are experiencing markedly increased traffic volume, resulting in additional deterioration of these roads. It was requested by the citizens that the Road Commission develop a strategic plan to permanently fix Liberty Road, making it safe and passable year-round. Commissioner Rutledge asked how many citizens would be agreeable to having Liberty Road paved as a permanent fix. Several citizens agreed to consider this option if they could provide input and know what the cost would be in advance.

Steve Puuri, Managing Director, stated that the Road Commission is limited to provide no more than 50% of the funding needed to repair this local road, and that the remaining funding would need to be provided by some other local funding sources, such as the Township or establishing a Special Assessment District. Mr. Puuri suggested that if the citizens desired to voice more concerns, the 2008 Annual Scio Township Meeting will be held on April 9, 2008, where the Road Commission and Township Officials would be present.

Commissioner Prater asked Jim Harmon, Director of Operations, what it would take to have the road closure barriers removed and add gravel to obtain reasonable short-term access on Liberty Road. Mr. Harmon responded that the water level needs to recede before the crews can safely repair damage to this road. Mr. Harmon stated that a recommendation from the Sheriff's office following an incident on this flooded area of road, resulted in placing additional barricades at both ends of the swampy area. However, the originally placed wooden barricades were vandalized; they were then anchored down and vandalized again, which resulted in placement of the current concrete barriers.

Washtenaw County Commissioner Mark Ouimet stated that he will provide the County Commission with information regarding the closure of Liberty Road.

The Board directed staff to provide a progress update on a strategic plan for the permanent repair of Liberty Road, to be presented as a regular item on each Board agenda.

Park Road

A few citizens addressed the Board regarding the condition of Park Road and the increased traffic due to the closure of Liberty Road and the upcoming construction on Jackson Road.

Written Communications

The following communications were received and distributed to the Board for review:

Ford Boulevard – Lane Striping

As a follow-up to the citizen participation, the Board initiated a discussion to consider a resolution changing the lane striping on Ford Boulevard back to four-lanes. Commissioner Veigel asked staff for their recommendation. Roy Townsend, Director of Engineering, stated that the national average has shown that crashes are reduced with a three-lane configuration, by approximately 40%. A few years ago, a similar project was completed on Grove Road where the road was converted from four lanes to three lanes; this project reduced crashes by 46%, and reduced speeds from 2 – 6 mph. Mr. Townsend also stated the northern portion of Ford Boulevard has 48 residential driveways and three commercial driveways, and the southern portion has one residential and 19 commercial driveways. Based on this information, it was Mr. Townsend's recommendation to keep the lane striping at the current three-lanes. Commissioner Rutledge stated the current lane configuration is a road safety issue, not a bike issue.

RC08-109 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that Ford Boulevard be converted back to four-lanes and that bike paths be striped on both sides of Ford Boulevard and turn-lanes installed at the appropriate locations. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

- A. Issued on March 18, 2008. A Press Release was issued by Val Cooper, Public Information/Community Relations Officer, regarding the 2008 Adopt-A-County Road Clean-Up Program. A copy of this Press Release was provided to the Board for review.
- B. Issued on March 20, 2008. A Press Release was issued by Val Cooper, Public Information/Community Relations Officer, regarding the CRAMmy Award received by the Road Commission for the redesigned website. A copy of this Press Release was provided to the Board for review.
- C. Issued on March 20, 2008. A correspondence was issued by Steve Puuri, Managing Director, regarding the conversion of Ford Boulevard back to four lanes. A copy of this correspondence was provided to the Board for review.
- D. Issued on March 25, 2008. A Press Release was issued by Val Cooper, Public Information/Community Relations Officer, regarding the National Work Zone Awareness week, April 7-11, 2008. A copy of this Press Release was provided to the Board for review.

- E. Received on March 23, 2008. An email correspondence was received from Carolyn Zaleon and Rosemary Berardi, thanking the road crew for the excellent job of snow removal on their street in Sandpiper Cove in York Township. A copy of this correspondence was provided to the Board for review.
- F. Received on March 25, 2008. An email correspondence was received from Robert Krzewinski, regarding the conversion of Ford Boulevard back to four lanes. A copy of this correspondence and the response email issued by Val Cooper, Public Information/Community Relations Officer, was provided to the Board for review.
- G. Received on March 26 through March 27, 2008. Several email correspondences were received from the following citizens expressing their opposition to converting Ford Boulevard back to four-lanes. A copy of all email correspondences were provided to the Board for review.

Kathleen Donahoe, Margaret Piranian, Larry O’Sullivan, Daniel Reeves, Alain Tetreault, Brian Weekley, and Timothy Crocco, R. Gelman.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

RC08-110 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded the approval of the Consent Agenda for the April 1, 2008 meeting, as presented, with one item removed. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

The items approved on the Consent Agenda are as follows:

Board Meeting Time Change – May 7, 2008

RC08-111 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded the Board hereby approves moving the Board meeting time on May 7, 2008, to 1:30 p.m., to be held in the Boardroom at the Road Commission office. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

2008 Bituminous Patching Material - Bid

RC08-112 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that upon the recommendation of the Director of Operations and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board accepts the bids for 2008 requirements of bituminous surfacing mixture/patching material as submitted by Cadillac Asphalt, Barrett Paving Materials and Ajax Paving Materials. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

2008 Long Line Pavement Marking - Bids

RC08-113 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby accepts the low bid of \$192,230.04 for the 2008 Long Line Pavement Marking Program, as submitted on March 12, 2008, by Michigan Pavement Marking, LLC, 2551 Pine Dunes Drive, Grandville, MI 49509. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

2008 Handwork Pavement Marking - Bids

RC08-114 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby accepts the low bid of \$30,545.00 for the 2008 Handwork Pavement Marking Program as submitted on March 12, 2008, by P.K. Contracting, Inc., 1965 Barrett Road, Troy, MI 48084. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

(Dexter) Main Street Bridge – Construction Zone Traffic Control Order (TCO)

RC08-115 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer, and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby approves a Temporary Construction Zone Traffic Control Order (TCO) to reduce the speed limit to 25 MPH on the (Dexter) Main Street Bridge over Mill Creek, Dexter-Pinckney Road and Dexter-Chelsea Road in Scio Township, within the project limits, for the duration of the bridge replacement/dam removal project. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Jackson Road, Phase III – Construction Zone Traffic Control Order (TCO)

RC08-116 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer, and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby approves a Temporary Construction Zone Traffic Control Order (TCO) to reduce the speed limit to 40 MPH on Jackson Road in Scio Township, within the project limits, for the duration of the road construction project. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Jackson Road, Phase II – Construction Survey Services

RC08-117 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby authorizes up to \$450,000.00 for construction survey services with Spalding DeDecker Associates, Inc., for the reconstruction of Jackson Road, Phase III, located in Sections 19, 20 and 21 of Scio Township. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Payroll & Bills for March 19, 2008

RC08-118 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded the Board hereby approves Voucher 9768 totaling \$369,928.70 for payroll of March 19, 2008, and Voucher 9769 totaling \$529,821.19 in payment of bills for March 19, 2008. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

ACTION ITEMS

2008 Sign Materials – Bids

RC08-119 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that the bid for Prefabricated Reflectorized signs, in the amount of \$23,617.75, be given to Rathco Safety Supply, Inc., 6742 Lovers Lane, Portage, MI 49002. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

RC08-120 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby accepts the follow bids for the 2007 Sign Materials Bids:

1. The low bid of \$21,102.40 for Aluminum Sign Blanks from Vulcan Signs, P.O. Box 1850, Foley, AL, 36536, as submitted on March 26, 2008.
2. The low bid of \$6,867.00 for Roll Materials and the bid of \$23,617.75 for Prefabricated Reflectorized Sign Faces from Rathco Safety Supply, Inc., 6742 Lovers Lane, Portage, MI, 49002, as submitted on March 26, 2008.
3. The low bid of \$94,108.65 for Reflectorized Sign Faces from Rocal, Inc., 3186 County Road 550, Frankfort, OH, 45628, as submitted on March 26, 2008.

Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

2007 Financial Report – Plant & Moran Presentation

Dan Ackerman, Finance Director, introduced the Plante & Moran representatives to provide a presentation on the 2007 Financial Report. Mr. Ackerman gave special recognition to the Accounting Staff; Sandra Riddle, Account Clerk III, Lori Hackbarth, Account Clerk II, and Alicia Kelly, Account Clerk I, for their hard work and assistance.

Commissioner Rutledge left the Board Meeting at this time (approximately 3:15 p.m.).

RC08-121 Prater moved, Veigel seconded that upon the recommendation of the Director of Finance, and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby accepts and files the 2007 Financial Report, as presented. Voice Vote: YEAS: 2 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

REPORTS

Road Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Prater asked for an update on Bemis Road. Commissioner Veigel stated that Bemis Road was discussed at the Ypsilanti Township annual meeting and the developer is not willing to participate in the Bemis road improvements.

County Commissioner's Report

County Commissioner Mark Ouimet received a telephone call from Pam Konn, regarding grading on Farnsworth Road/Boyce Road in Lyndon Township. Commissioner Ouimet asked that staff contact her to provide a status of when this area will be graded.

Commissioner Ouimet complimented the Road Commission staff for the informative, well-run Public Information Meeting for the (Dexter) Main Street Bridge that was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at the Mill Creek Middle School. He added that it was well received.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staff Report of 3-10-08 to 3-23-08

Commissioner Prater stated that staff needs to develop the scope of the agreement with Ypsilanti Township, for the Stony Creek Road/Whittaker Road project and that all design work should cease until a signed agreement is obtained from Ypsilanti Township.

RC08-122 Prater moved, Veigel seconded that all design work for Stony Creek Road/Whittaker Road project shall cease until a signed agreement is executed with Ypsilanti Township.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: Veigel, Prater

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Rutledge

Motion Carried.

Correspondence from MDOT – State Trunkline

The Board asked Steve Puuri, Managing Director, to read the correspondence received from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), requesting that the Road Commission switch to an emergency response mode concerning the state trunkline system, requiring that the Road Commission only respond to address snow and ice removal along with any other needs that pose a serious safety concern to the motoring public.

Centennial Farms – Removal of trees

Roy Townsend, Director of Engineering stated that the Centennial Farms Homeowners are requesting that the Road Commission pay for the relocation of some trees that are obstructing a stop sign. Commissioner Veigel said it is not the Road Commission's practice to pay for tree removal. It was agreed that staff will make the recommendation to Centennial Farms Homeowners that these trees should be relocated at the citizen's expense, and that if they are not relocated, they will be cut back in the future to maintain adequate visibility to the stop sign.

ADJOURNMENT

RC08-123 Prater moved, Veigel seconded to adjourn the April 1, 2008 meeting at 3:50 p.m. Voice Vote: YEAS: 2. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Fred Veigel, Chair

Steven M. Puuri, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved: _____