

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS

555 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Minutes of April 15, 2008

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

County Rep. Present: County Commissioner Mark Ouimet

Staff Present: R. Townsend, J. Harmon, C. Ryan, S. Siddall, M. Macdonell, B. Schlack,
D. Bailey, C. Sullivan, K. Jones, C. Brochue and V. Cooper

Others Present: L. Gunn, G. Lobdell, B. Stein, J. Gilbert, K. Siler, G. Ferrington,
P. Heinrich, A. Hromadke, G. Hickey, E. Goodman, C. Maxton, J. Gochis,
R. Cook

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Fred Veigel, Chair. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RC08-124 Prater moved, Rutledge seconded to approve the agenda as presented.
Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the April 1, 2008 Board Meeting.

RC08-125 Prater moved, Rutledge seconded, the Board hereby accepts the Board Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2008, as presented. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3
NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Washtenaw County Farm Bureau

Kenny Siler, President of the Washtenaw County Farm Bureau, thanked staff for attending the Farm Bureau meeting that was held on April 7, 2008. Mr. Siler stated that Jim Harmon, Director of Operations, was well prepared, answered all questions and did a great job.

Ford Boulevard – Lane Restriping

Several citizens addressed the Board asking that the motion passed at the April 1, 2008 Board Meeting to re-stripe Ford Boulevard back to four-lanes be rescinded to allow time to evaluate the traffic flow and collect data on the current three-lane configuration.

Commissioner's Response – Ford Boulevard Lane Restriping

Commissioner Prater responded that Ford Boulevard is the only north/south corridor to Interstate 94 east of Ypsilanti. Commissioner Prater stated he drove to Ford Boulevard and observed the traffic being relatively heavy at approximately 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Prater also stated that at the beginning of this project, the Board asked staff if Ford Boulevard was restriped to three-lanes and the configuration was not working efficiently, if it could be striped back the original four-lane configuration. Staff's response at this time, was that Ford Boulevard could be converted back to four-lanes if necessary, by restriping the road.

Commissioner Prater suggested looking at data that would analyze traffic flow in this area. Commissioner Rutledge thanked the citizens for reviewing the Board meeting minutes and providing their comments. Commissioner Rutledge advised the citizens that the decision by the Board to change Ford Boulevard to a three-lane configuration last year was carefully considered and discussed, and that residents were notified of a Public Hearing regarding this lane configuration change. Commissioner Rutledge also stated that he would make himself available at any meeting the bike organizations hold to answer any questions regarding this matter.

Terri Blackmore, Executive Director of the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS), addressed the Board and provided information on a communication received from the Michigan Department of Transportation, who advised that if Ford Boulevard were configured back to four-lanes at this time, the Road Commission would be responsible for paying back federal funds in the amount of \$393,555.00. Ms. Blackmore stated that in order to avoid paying back these federal funds, this project would have to remain in place and in full operation for a minimum of one-year to collect data, and compare this against the previous three years. It was the suggestion of WATS to leave the three-lane configuration in place one year, which would be October 2008. Commissioner Rutledge stated that there is a safety issue of citizens crossing Ford Boulevard to retrieve their mail. Commissioner Rutledge met with the Ypsilanti Postmaster General regarding this safety issue, and a plan was discussed to move the mailboxes to the east side of Ford Boulevard, providing mailboxes on each side of the street. Commissioner Veigel moved to rescind Resolution No. RC08-109, that Ford Boulevard be converted back to four-lanes; there was no support to rescind this resolution.

Written Communications

RC08-126 Prater moved, Rutledge seconded to receive and file the Written Communications for April 15, 2008. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

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

Ford Boulevard – Lane Restriping

Commissioner Rutledge referred to the communication from WATS regarding Ford Boulevard and asked staff how information is being presented, as the removal of bike paths was not stated in the Board's resolution. Roy Townsend, Director of Engineering, explained that if Ford Boulevard is converted back to a four-lane configuration, there is no room to include bike lanes, as the road is only 44 feet wide.

Citizens reminded the Board of the resolution that was passed by Ypsilanti Township, directing the Road Commission to change Ford Boulevard back to a four-lane configuration, which would not leave enough room to keep the bike lanes.

- A. Received on March 31, 2008. A correspondence was received from Betsy Foote and Tom Gebhardt, regarding the non-functioning drain under Parker Road. A copy of this correspondence was provided to the Board for review.
- B. Received on April 4, 2008. An email correspondence was received from Joyce Guenther, thanking the Road Commission crew for the grading of Weber Road and Alder Road in Lodi Township. A copy of this correspondence was provided to the Board for review.
- C. Received on April 8, 2008. An email correspondence was received from Marcella Brown, thanking the Road Commission crew for the very efficient road repair of Weed Road in Salem Township. A copy of this correspondence was provided to the Board for review.
- D. Received on April 8, 2008. An email correspondence was received from Thomas Fudaly, Engineering & Operations Manager of the Federal Highway Administration, regarding the Federal Funding if Ford Boulevard is converted back to four-lanes. A copy of this email correspondence was provided to the Board for review.
- E. Received on April 7 & 8, 2008. Correspondences were received from Raymond Gardella and a response letter was issued April 10, 2008 by Jim Harmon, Director of Operations, regarding the condition of Tubbs Road located between Huron River Drive and Stein Road in Scio Township. A copy of these correspondences was provided to the Board for review.
- F. Received on April 10, 2008. A Correspondence was received from the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) regarding the proposed removal of Ford Road Non-motorized Amenities. A copy of this correspondence was provided to the Board for review.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

The items approved on the Consent Agenda are as follows:

- RC08-127 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded the approval of the Consent Agenda for the April 15, 2008 meeting, as presented, with the removal of three items. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

(Dexter) Main Street Bridge – Construction Survey Services

RC08-128 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board authorizes up to \$45,000 for construction survey services with Wade Trim Associates, Inc., for the replacement of the (Dexter) Main Street Bridge over Mill Creek and removal of the Mill Creek Dam, located in Section 6 of Scio Township and the Village of Dexter. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Jackson Road, Phase III – Construction and Construction Engineering Agreement – Scio Township/Scio DDA

RC08-129 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby approves and authorizes the Chair and Managing Director to sign the Jackson Road, Phase III Construction and Construction Engineering Services Agreement 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.

2008 Dexter – Ann Arbor Run

RC08-130 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby approves the closure of the following roads on Sunday, June 1, 2008, for the 35th Annual Dexter-Ann Arbor Run:

- Shield Road from Baker Road to Parker Road – 8:50 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
- Parker Road from Shield Road to Dexter-Chelsea Road – 8:50 a.m. to 9:05 a.m.
- Dexter-Chelsea Road from Parker Road to Dexter-Pinckney Road – 8:50 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.
- Dexter-Pinckney Road from Dexter-Chelsea Road to the Dexter Village Limit – 8:55 a.m. to 9:23 a.m.
- Huron River Drive from Mast Road to Zeeb Road – 8:50 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- Huron River Drive from Zeeb Road to Wagner Road – 9:05 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.
- Huron River Drive from Wagner Road to Maple Road – 9:20 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
- Huron River Drive from Maple Road to Bird Road – 8:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
- Maple Road from Huron River Drive to Craig Road – 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

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

Seasonal Employee Contract

RC08-131 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby approves and authorizes the Managing Director to hire one Seasonal Contract Engineering Technician for the Project Development Section, for construction survey work, effective May 1, 2008. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Living Wage Annual Increase

RC08-132 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded the Board hereby approves the 2008 annual adjustment to the Living Wages, by increasing the wages to \$10.48 per hour for employees being provided health benefits by the employer, and \$12.28 per hour for employees not receiving health benefits. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Working Session Proposed – April 30, 2008

RC08-133 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that upon the recommendation of the Managing Director, the Board hereby schedules a Board Working Session on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., for the 2008 First Quarter Budget Review and the ISO 9001 project update. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Payroll & Bills for April 2, 2008

RC08-134 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded the Board hereby approves Voucher 9770 totaling \$332,468.03 for payroll of April 2, 2008, and Voucher 9771 totaling \$674,573.12 in payment of bills for April 2, 2008. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Dennis Bailey – Retirement Resolution of Public Service

RC08-135 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded

WHEREAS, Dennis M. Bailey served as a valuable, full-time employee of the Washtenaw County Road Commission from July 16, 1973 to April 23, 2008, and has elected to retire on April 23, 2008, so as to enjoy the fruits of his labor; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, and as Sign & Signal Shop Foreman, Dennis M. Bailey has provided exceptional leadership, steadfast dedication to duty, and active participation in all aspects of Road Commission activities, which has greatly benefited the Road Commission, the citizens of Washtenaw County, and the motoring public; and

WHEREAS, in having provided almost 35 years of faithful and able service to the Washtenaw County Road Commission, we know his presence will be greatly missed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Washtenaw County Board of Road Commissioners, thank, acknowledge, and commend Dennis M. Bailey for his outstanding, dedicated public service and loyalty, and wish him continued good health and happiness throughout his years of retirement. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Four-Day Work Week

RC08-136 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that upon the recommendation of the Director of Operations and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby approves the use of the Four-Day Work Week schedule for the Washtenaw County Road Commission Operations Department and the Sign & Signal Shop employees. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Carpenter Road – Materials Testing Agreement Amendment

Commissioner Rutledge stated that any time a contract is presented to the Board involving a change order, that item should be presented as an Action Item.

Commissioner Prater asked staff how the repair of the failed concrete on Carpenter Road is being handled. Roy Townsend, Director of Engineering, stated that whenever additional services are requested of a contractor, the Road Commission is responsible to pay for those services. Commissioner Prater suggested that the contractor be held responsible for proposing a solution to fix the failed concrete on Carpenter Road. Mr. Townsend replied that the contractor will not be paid until the failed paving issue is resolved. Mr. Townsend stated that this project is still within budget.

RC08-137 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby approves and authorizes the Managing Director to sign the First Amendment to the Carpenter Road Materials Testing Services Agreement with Soil and Materials Engineers, Inc., for materials testing services associated with the reconstruction of Carpenter Road at an estimated fee of \$105,500.00. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Carpenter Road – Construction Survey Agreement Amendment

RC08-138 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby approves and authorizes the Managing Director to sign the First Amendment to the Carpenter Road Construction Survey Services Contract with Spalding DeDecker Associates, Inc. for construction survey services associated with the reconstruction of Carpenter Road at an estimated fee of \$310,000.00. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

REPORTS**Road Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Rutlege met with the Supervisors Group and stated that a staff member may need to attend these meetings to answer various questions that come up regarding the county roads.

Commissioner Prater attended the Commissioner's Seminar held April 6-8, 2008, where he was told by advisors at this meeting that the Post Employment Benefit should be carried as a liability. It was agreed by the Board that Commissioner Prater will meet with Steve Puuri, Managing Director and Dan Ackerman, Finance Director, regarding how the Post Employment Benefit is being reflected in the budget.

Commissioner Veigel reported that the Washtenaw County Parks Commission is looking at additional land to acquire and gathering support renewal for a millage in November 2008.

County Commissioner's Report

County Commissioner Ouimet reported that the County is looking at ways to reduce the County budget, which may result in the reduction of staff and various programs, a decision on these issues should be made by the Board in May or June 2008.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**Staff Report of 3-24-08 to 4-06-08**

RC08-139 Prater moved, Rutledge seconded to receive and file the Staff Report of 3-24-08 to 4-06-08. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Liberty Road – Update

Jim Harmon, Director of Operations, provided an update on Liberty Road, stating that Engineering staff has met on-site to evaluate the best option to provide a permanent resolution to the road flooding problem. Roy Townsend, Director of Engineering, stated that the section of Liberty Road between Zeeb Road and Park Road has settled a total of two feet. Mr. Harmon advised that the Road Commission has added 6 to 8 inches of stone to Liberty Road per year. Mr. Harmon stated that staff is monitoring Liberty Road on a daily basis and will commence with repairs and reopen Liberty Road to the traveling public on April 16, 2008.

Commissioner Prater asked the audience if any citizen meetings had been arranged regarding Liberty Road. The citizen response was they are waiting for the Road Commission engineering staff to provide options they would propose to fix Liberty Road.

East Delhi Road Bridge - Update

Roy Townsend, Director of Engineering, provided an update on the East Delhi Road Bridge, stating that staff met with Scio Township and the East Delhi Road Bridge Conservancy to review concerns of the initial project cost increase. Mr. Townsend also stated that some endangered species were encountered that will need to be relocated. Mr. Townsend stated that the Conservancy wanted to add to the contract a "not-to-exceed" amount, which the Road Commission normally does not do.

Mr. Townsend stated an email was received from MDOT advising that if any federal money was used for this project, it would require an Environmental Assessment, which could jeopardize the project being completed this year. Mr. Townsend stated that staff will return to the Board on May 20, 2008 to present a solution to the cost overrun for this project. Rich Cook, of the East Delhi Conservancy, stated that they are more than willing to work with the Road Commission on design changes and work together to find a solution.

Bemis Road – Update

Matt MacDonell, Permits and Subdivisions Supervisor, provided an overview of the Bemis Road paving issue. Mr. MacDonell stated that a letter was sent to Ypsilanti and Augusta Townships proposing a Special Assessment District to provide funds to pave Bemis Road. Mr. MacDonell stated that Ypsilanti Township was not receptive to this suggestion; however, Bemis Road will be included as a topic at the Augusta Township Meeting on April 17, 2008.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RC08-140 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that the Board enter into Executive Session at approximately 2:20 p.m. to discuss the Willis Road/US-23 Ramp Improvements – Right-of-Way Acquisition Case Evaluation (Parcel 4) Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

RC08-141 Rutledge moved, Prater seconded that the Board remove itself from Executive Session at approximately 2:30 p.m. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Willis Road/US-23 Ramp Improvements – Right-of-Way Acquisition Case Evaluation (Parcel 4)

RC08-142 Prater moved, Rutledge seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer and concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby rejects the results of the Case Evaluation Panel determination of just compensation in the matter of Case Number 07-760-CC, before the Honorable David S. Swartz, to acquire 0.416 acres of permanent right-of-way for road purposes over a parcel of land, referenced as S-19-11-100-003, known as 3560 Willis Road, York Township, Michigan from the property owner, York Crossing, L.L.C., a Michigan limited liability company, at the cost of \$600,000.00. This acquisition is necessary to provide proper drainage and grading associated with the alignment of the exit and entrance ramps from and to interstate US-23 & Willis Road, in Section 11 of York Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

RC08-143 Prater moved, Rutledge seconded to adjourn the April 15, 2008 meeting at 2:35 p.m. Voice Vote: YEAS: 2. NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Fred Veigel, Chair

Steven M. Puuri, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved: _____