

**WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS**

555 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

*Minutes of November 16, 2010*

Board Present: Road Commissioners, David Rutledge, Doug Fuller and Fred Veigel

County Rep.: County Commissioner Wes Prater

Staff Present: S. Puuri, R. Townsend, J. Harmon, C. Ryan, D. Ackerman, S. Siddall, M. MacDonell, E. Reed, M. McCulloch, C. Brochue

Others Present: G. Lobdell, B. Stein, E. White, M. Moran, L. Allmendinger, B. Fuller, H. Salter, D. Lindstrom

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RC10-298 Veigel moved, Fuller 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 November 4, 2010 Board Meeting.

RC10-299 Veigel moved Fuller seconded, the Board hereby accepts the Board Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2010, as presented. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

**Encroachment Removal Order – Huron River Drive Masonry Mailbox**

Heidi Salter addressed the Board stating that they have had several mailboxes run over by vehicles over the years so they replaced their mailbox with a hollow brick mailbox, so that if it is hit, it will break away. Ms. Salter requested they be allowed to keep the brick mailbox as-is.

**Encroachment Removal Order – Island Lake Road/Dexter-Pinckney Road**

Jessica Reeve, an employee at Jenny's Market addressed the Board requesting that they be allowed to keep the white fencing up until after Christmas to prevent children from wandering into the street.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

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

- A. Issued on November 5, 2010. A Media Advisory was issued by Aaron Berkholz, Construction Supervisor, regarding the completion of milling and paving of Oak Valley Drive, between Scio Church Road and Waters Road and the reopening to through traffic on Thursday, November 4, 2010. A copy of this advisory was provided to the Board for review.
- B. Issued on November 9, 2010. A correspondence was issued by Matt MacDonell, Permits & Subdivision Supervisor, to Mr. John DePorre of Diversified Property Group, regarding the closure of roads not being used by residents within the Prospect Pointe East Condominium development upon these roads being complete and accepted into the public road system. A copy of this correspondence was provided to the Board for review.
- C. Issued on November 10, 2010. A Media Advisory was issued by Ed Reed, Superintendent of Maintenance, regarding the closure of Curtis Road between Five Mile Road and Six Mile Road in Salem Township on Wednesday, November 17, 2010, to replace a failed culvert. A copy of this advisory was provided to the Board for review.
- D. Issued on November 10, 2010. A correspondence was issued by Steven Puuri, Managing Director, to Michigan State University, as a letter of support for a recycled glass concrete demonstration project and field evaluation in the reconstruction/widening of State Road in Pittsfield Township. A copy of this correspondence was provided to the Board for review.
- E. Issued on November 11, 2010. A Media Advisory was issued by Ed Reed, Superintendent of Maintenance, regarding the closure of Jackson Plaza between Wagner Road and Jackson Road in Scio Township on Thursday, November 18, 2010, to replace a failed culvert. A copy of this advisory was provided to the Board for review.

**NEW BUSINESS****CONSENT AGENDA**

The items approved on the Consent Agenda are as follows:

- RC10-300 Veigel moved, Fuller seconded the approval of the Consent Agenda for the November 16, 2010 meeting, as presented with the removal of two items for discussion later in the meeting. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

**Old US-12 Road Closure – City of Chelsea Holiday Parade**

- RC10-301 Veigel moved, Fuller seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby approves the closure of Old US-12 from M-52 to Old Manchester Road on Saturday, December 4, 2010 from 5:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. for the Annual Chelsea Holiday Light Parade. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

**Creekside Village East Subdivision – Road Acceptance**

RC10-302 Veigel moved, Fuller seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby accepts the following roads within the Creekside Village East platted subdivision, located in Section 35 of Ypsilanti Township, into the County Road System: Creekway Drive, Daisey Lane, Parkland Drive, Marshcreek Drive & Shula Vista. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

**Creekside Village South Condominium, Phase I – Road Acceptance**

RC10-303 Veigel moved, Fuller seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby accepts the following roads within the Creekside Village South Condominium, Phase I, located in Section 34 of Ypsilanti Township, into the County Road System: Creekway Court, Creekway Drive, Lakeway Street, Natalie Court & Natalie Drive. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

**The Uplands of Scio Ridge Condominium – Special Assessment District**

RC10-304 Veigel moved, Fuller seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby acknowledges receipt of the Uplands of Scio Ridge Condominium Special Assessment petition, located in Section 36 of Scio Township. The Board directs staff to verify that the minimum requirements outlined in Section 1 of Public Act 246 of 1931, as amended, are met. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

**Payroll & Bills for October 13, 2010**

RC10-305 Veigel moved, Fuller seconded the Board hereby approves Voucher 9906 totaling \$276,030.13 for payroll of November 10, 2010, and Voucher 9907 totaling \$859,625.69 in payment of bills for November 10, 2010. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

**ACTION ITEMS****Encroachment Removal Order – Island Lake Road/Dexter-Pinckney Road**

Roy Townsend, Director of Engineering, outlined the road hazards at this location stating that the corn stalks and white fence are obstructing full view of the stop sign. Mr. Bert Hoey stated that the fence is 24” high. Steve Puuri, Managing Director, stated that it is not acceptable for fences or any vision obstruction to be placed in front of the stop sign. County Commissioner Prater suggested that it would be beneficial for staff to have dialog with the property owner to determine what is acceptable and not acceptable considering property owner rights also. Commissioner Fuller suggested staff work with Mr. Hoey, to determine if modifications could be made to the removal of items blocking the stop sign..

RC10-306 Veigel moved, Fuller seconded

WHEREAS, several encroachments including; fencing, corn stalks, hay bales, signs are present along the property frontage of 8366 Island Lake Road (Parcel No. C-03-31-300-018) on both Island Lake Road and Dexter-Pinckney Road in Section 31 of Webster Township, and,

WHEREAS, Island Lake Road and Dexter-Pinckney Road are County roads and the encroachments are within the road right-of-way, and,

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the County Highway Engineer, these encroachments are a safety hazard to the motoring public.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Road Commissioners orders these encroachments to be removed thirty (30) days after service of this Removal Order.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if these encroachments are not removed within thirty (30) days by the property owner, these encroachments will be removed after thirty (30) days by the Washtenaw County Road Commission in such a manner as to cause the least damage to the property or loss to the property owner and shall recover from the property owner the cost and expenses of such removal as authorized by statute.

Property Owner: Jennifer Ann Hoey  
8366 Island Lake Road  
Dexter, MI 48130

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

**Encroachment Removal Order – Huron River Drive Masonry Mailbox**

Commissioner Rutledge asked if the concern with this mailbox is because it is in the right-of-way or because it is a road hazard. Steve Puuri, Managing Director, responded that this mailbox would be viewed as a structure and if hit by a vehicle would shatter upon impact with pieces potentially flying into motorist’s windshields. Roy Townsend, Director of Engineering, stated that a brick mailbox does not meet the mailbox standards and this mailbox is also located in the Road Commission right-of-way. Mr. Puuri stated the location of the mailbox is acceptable with an approved mailbox structure.

RC10-307 Veigel moved, Fuller seconded

WHEREAS, a masonry mailbox is present along the property frontage of 7655 Huron River Drive, referenced as Tax Parcel No. K-11-21-100-008, located in Section 21 of Ypsilanti Township and,

WHEREAS, Huron River Drive is a County Road and the encroachments are within the road right-of-way, and,

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the County Highway Engineer, these encroachments are a safety hazard to the motoring public.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Road Commissioners orders these encroachments to be removed thirty (30) days after service of this Removal Order.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if these encroachments are not removed within thirty (30) days by the property owner, these encroachments will be removed after thirty (30) days by the Washtenaw County Road Commission in such a manner as to cause the least damage to the property or loss to the property owner and shall recover from the property owner the cost and expenses of such removal as authorized by statute.

Property Owner:

Donald W. Ferris, Jr. & Heidi Salter-Ferris, Esqs.

7655 Huron River Drive

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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

## **REPORTS**

### **County Commissioner's Report**

County Commissioner Prater reported that the County Board will hold a public hearing on the 2011 budget. The County budget has decreased by approximately 4%. Also, Administration will present a recommendation of a total cost for the Police Service Unit being \$176,000. Steve Puuri, Managing Director, asked if the reduction in property tax was due to commercial assessments. County Commissioner Prater responded that the taxable value will decrease 8 ½% due to commercial values which will be incorporated into the 2012 budget.

### **Road Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Fuller reported that he received a favorable comment from Michael Moran, Ann Arbor Township Supervisor regarding one of our Foreman in his district. Commissioner Fuller also complimented staff for the completion of the Huron River Drive paving.

Commissioner Rutledge reported that he and Roy Townsend went door to door visiting commercial owners along Ford Boulevard to provide further information on the planned lane reconfiguration. Commissioner Rutledge stated that they were generally well received. Roy Townsend stated that by visiting businesses in person provided a very good opportunity to explain why this reconfiguration has been included in the resurfacing project. Commissioner Rutledge suggested that staff should consider additional opportunities for business owners to have input on upcoming projects. Commissioner Fuller stated the lesson learned with this project is "every minute of time spent beforehand is time well spent".

## **MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **Staff Report for weeks of 10-25-10 to 11-07-10**

Steve Puuri, Managing Director, provided a review of paving projects that have been completed for the season. Mr. Puuri stated that there are a number of drainage work projects still planned for the fall. Commissioner Fuller stated that he is pleased to report the traffic signal is up and functioning at Willis Road/Carpenter Road, and that this project has turned out very well.

**Huron River Drive Comprehensive Solution - Discussion**

Roy Townsend, Director of Engineering, provided an overview of the proposed comprehensive solution to mitigate the congestion and access issues for St. Joseph Mercy Hospital (SJMh) and Washtenaw Community College (WCC) along Huron River Drive. Mr. Townsend stated that the hospital and community college have completed traffic studies that identified issues with the exiting driveways which access Huron River Drive. Mr. Townsend stated the SJMH traffic study proposed a future roundabout at McAuley Drive. Road Commission staff developed a more comprehensive solution which proposed a new access to WCC at the proposed future roundabout and the elimination or modification to the existing WCC and SJMH driveways accessing Huron River Drive.

The Board stated that the Road Commission could consider contributing to the design costs for a comprehensive solution. However, the Board policy limits participation for the construction of this project. The cost of the construction of any road improvements must be provided by St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Washtenaw Community College, and any State or Federal monies that can be secured. The Board agreed that staff should continue to move forward with the proposal for a comprehensive solution to improve the traffic flow on Huron River Drive and access to the Washtenaw Community College and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. Mr. Townsend stated that the approximate cost for this project would be \$1.2 to \$1.5 million. The Board directed staff to continue the dialogue with the hospital and college in order that a memorandum of understanding could be brought to the Board for consideration at the next Board meeting on December 9, 2010.

**ADJOURNMENT**

RC10-308 Fuller moved, Veigel seconded to adjourn the November 16, 2010 meeting at 2:08 p.m. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

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David E. Rutledge, Chair

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Steven M. Puuri, Deputy Clerk  
Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_