

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
555 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Minutes of January 18, 2011

Board Present: Road Commissioners, Doug Fuller, Fred Veigel and Ken Schwartz
County Rep.: County Commissioner Wes Prater
Staff Present: S. Puuri, R. Townsend, J. Harmon, C. Ryan, M. MacDonell
Others Present: B. Stein, B. Fuller, L. Allmendinger, R. Turner

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RC11-016 Veigel moved, Schwartz seconded to approve the agenda as presented with the removal of one Consent item moved to an Action Item.
Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the January 4, 2011 Board Meeting.

RC11-017 Veigel moved Schwartz seconded, the Board hereby accepts the Board Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2011 as presented. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Commissioner Fuller welcomed County Commissioner Rob Turner as the Road Commission's new County Liaison.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

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

- A. Received on December 15, 2010. A correspondence was received from Lesta Ann Fellows Preston, regarding winter road maintenance. A response email was provided by Jim Harmon, Director of Operations on December 30, 2010. Copies of these correspondences were provided to the Board for review.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

The items approved on the Consent Agenda are as follows:

RC11-018 Veigel moved, Schwartz seconded the approval of the Consent Agenda for the January 18, 2011 meeting, as presented. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

2011 Board Working Session Schedule

RC11-019 Veigel moved, Schwartz seconded that upon the recommendation of the Managing Director, the Board hereby approves the 2011 Board Working Session Schedule to be held in the Board Room at 555 N. Zeeb Road at 2:00 p.m. following the Board meeting. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Payroll & Bills for January 5, 2011

RC11-020 Veigel moved, Schwartz seconded the Board hereby approves Voucher 9914 totaling \$287,848.80 for payroll of January 5, 2011, and Voucher 9915 totaling \$364,512.01 in payment of bills for January 5, 2011. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Roadside Mowing Services

RC11-021 Schwartz moved Veigel seconded to table the Roadside Mowing Services item to be presented at the February 15, 2011 Board Meeting. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

REPORTS

Road Commissioner's Report

Jim Harmon, Director of Operations, provided a winter maintenance update. Mr. Harmon stated that last year's total winter maintenance cost for county primary and local roads was \$1.2 million, the year before the cost was \$2 million, which is within normal range. Mr. Harmon reported that year-to-date, the winter maintenance costs are approximately \$500,000 for primary and local roads, which includes labor, equipment and material costs and is estimated to be slightly below average for the season. Mr. Harmon also reported that the price of salt has increased to \$55 dollars/per ton and the cost of steel has also increased for snow plow blades, etc., however the new blades last longer which is a cost savings.

Mr. Harmon stated that the cost of diesel fuel is also increasing. Mr. Harmon reported that this year's salt usage to date is 3,813 tons. Seasonally to date, the salt usage is 7,431 tons. The 7-year average for yearly salt usage is approximately 20,000 tons. Mr. Harmon reported that overall we are tracking below average but there is still more winter ahead of us. We have adequate salt supplies and can obtain more as needed. Commissioner Fuller requested a written report on winter maintenance at the next Board meeting on February 1, 2011.

County Commissioner's Report

County Commissioner Wes Prater reported that the County will be making appointments at the next meeting. Commissioner Prater introduced Rob Turner as the new Road Commission Liaison. Commissioner Prater reported they are trying to schedule a Board Working Session to establish priorities and will be looking at mandated and non-mandated services. Commissioner Prater reported that the County is anticipating a 6% decrease in taxable value. Commissioner Ken Schwartz agreed that there will be significant cuts in revenue sharing.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staff Report for weeks of 12-27-10 to 1-9-11

Steve Puuri, Managing Director, provided a review of routine maintenance activities. There was an MDOT bid opening for Holmes Road, Phase III. Mr. Puuri reported that Dan Ackerman, Finance Director, is confident that our 2010 budget will close out about \$500,000 better than originally anticipated. The internal audit begins the beginning of February 2011.

Tree Crew Job Vacancy

Steve Puuri, Managing Director, reported that following the retirement of Don Heller, Heavy Equipment Foreman, and the subsequent internal backfill transfers, there is now an open position for a light truck driver on the tree crew. Mr. Puuri suggested that we leave this position vacant until after the winter season. Commissioner Veigel was in agreement to wait until April to review this item.

Platt Road Sugar Creek Drain – Update

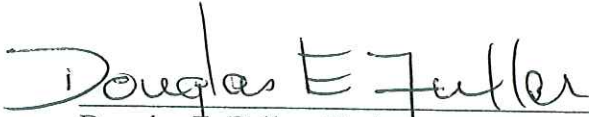
Roy Townsend, Director of Engineering, stated that the Road Commission has partnered with the Water Resource Commission on this project. Staff will be meeting next week to finalize plans. Mr. Townsend reported that this project will be bid later this spring with construction in late summer/fall of 2011. Mr. Townsend stated that this is the first time the Road Commission has done a joint project with the Water Resource Commission.

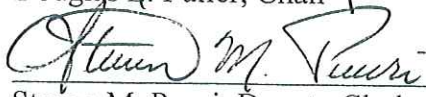
Permits & Subdivision – 2010 Year-in-Review Report

Matt MacDonell, Permits & Subdivisions Supervisor, provided a review of the 2010 Year-in-Review Report.

ADJOURNMENT

RC11-022 Schwartz moved, Veigel seconded to adjourn the January 18, 2011 meeting at 1:33 p.m. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.



Douglas E. Fuller, Chair


Steven M. Puuri, Deputy Clerk
Minutes Approved: CEP