

**WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS**

555 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

*Minutes of February 15, 2011*

Board Present: Road Commissioners, Doug Fuller, Fred Veigel and Ken Schwartz

County Rep.: County Commissioner Rob Turner

Staff Present: S. Puuri, R. Townsend, J. Harmon, C. Ryan, M. MacDonell, B. Berger,  
E. Reed

Others Present: B. Stein, G. Lobdell, B. Fuller, L. Allmendinger, M. Callegari

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RC11-041 Veigel moved, Schwartz 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 February 1, 2011 Board Meeting.

RC11-042 Veigel moved, Schwartz seconded, the Board hereby accepts the Board Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2011 as presented with noted changes.  
Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

**Snow Removal**

Mike Callegari, Saline Township Road Committee Member, addressed the Board stating that at a recent township meeting, all board members and citizens commented on the great job the road crews did on clearing the roads during the recent snow events.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

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

- A. Received on February 3, 2011. An email correspondence was received from Johnny Nichols regarding mailbox damage during the recent snow event. A response email was provided by Jim Harmon, Director of Operations. Copies of these correspondence were provided to the Board for review.

- B. Received on February 3, 2011. An email correspondence was received from Dave Killips, Chelsea School District Superintendent, thanking the road crews for the great job in clearing the roads in the Chelsea area during the recent snow storm event. A copy of this correspondence was provided to the Board for review.
- C. Received on February 4, 2011. An email correspondence was received from Mike Swartz, regarding winter maintenance priorities. A response email was provided by Jim Harmon, Director of Operations. Copies of these correspondence were provided to the Board for review.
- D. Received on February 8, 2011. An email correspondence was received from Robert Drozdowski regarding the clearing of snow on portions of Hull Avenue. A response email was provided by Jim Harmon, Director of Operations. Copies of these correspondence were provided to the Board for review.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The items approved on the Consent Agenda are as follows:

- RC11-043 Veigel moved, Schwartz seconded the approval of the Consent Agenda for the February 15, 2011 meeting, as presented. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

### **Dawn Farm “Ride for Recovery” – Road Closure**

- RC11-044 Veigel moved, Schwartz 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, May 1, 2011 for the Ride for Recovery from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

- Stony Creek Road from Merritt Road to Textile Road.
- Textile Road from Stony Creek Road to Hitchingham Road.
- Hitchingham Road from Textile Road to Merritt Road.
- Merritt Road from Hitchingham Road to Stony Creek Road.

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

### **Shellenberger Road – Road Closure**

- RC11-045 Veigel moved, Schwartz seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby approves the closure of Schellenberger Road approximately 3,950' south of Austin Road in conjunction with the permitted maintenance to the existing 16" oil pipeline. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried

**Tandem Axle Dump Trucks (2) – Bids**

RC11-046 Veigel moved, Schwartz seconded that upon the recommendation of the Director of Operations and the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board accepts the low bid for two (2) 64,000 lb tandem axle dump trucks from Wolverine Freightliner, 3000 William Avenue, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried

**Payroll & Bills for February 2, 2011**

RC11-047 Veigel moved, Schwartz seconded the Board hereby approves Voucher 9918 totaling \$341,286.92 for payroll of February 2, 2011, and Voucher 9919 totaling \$547,542.92 in payment of bills for February 2, 2011. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

**ACTION ITEMS****Ypsilanti Charter Schools – Road Improvement Agreement**

Matt MacDonell, Permits & Subdivisions Supervisor, provided a review of this project. Mr. MacDonell stated that a Traffic Impact Study has been developed and approved. The school has agreed to mitigate these identified traffic impacts adjacent to their site and nearby intersections. A financial contribution of \$500,000 has been offered for future improvements to the intersections of Stony Creek Road/Textile Road and Hitchingham Road/Textile Road. The traffic study suggests that the Whittaker Road/Textile Road intersection will need to be a west bound right-turn lane to mitigate the school traffic. Mr. MacDonell attended a public hearing in which the school heard comments from citizens in which there was a fair amount of concern over traffic. Mr. MacDonell stated that a walking path system is planned with this project. All road improvements are anticipated to be completed prior to the school opening in the fall of 2011, making this a very aggressive project.

RC11-048 Schwartz moved, Veigel 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 Road Improvement Agreement between the Washtenaw County Road Commission, Charter Development Company, L.L.C. and School Property, L.L.C. for road and intersection improvements on Hitchingham Road, Merritt Road and Textile Road in connection with the construction of the Ypsilanti Scholars Charter Academy and Arbor Preparatory High School located on the northwest corner of Hitchingham Road and Merritt Road in Section 29 of Ypsilanti Township. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

RC11-049 Schwartz moved, Veigel seconded that the Board enter into Executive Session at approximately 1:19 p.m. to discuss Labor Relations.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: Fuller, Veigel, Schwartz

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion Carried.

RC11-050 Schwartz moved, Veigel seconded that the Board remove itself from Executive Session at approximately 1:50 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: Fuller, Veigel, Schwartz

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion Carried.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Roadside Mowing Service – Bids**

RC11-051 Schwartz moved, Veigel seconded that this item be postponed until the March 1, 2011 Board meeting. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

**CRAM Board of Directors Ballot**

RC11-052 Veigel moved, Fuller seconded that the Board hereby votes for William Watkins for the Southern Association Appointment to the County Road Association of Michigan Board of Directors for a three year term beginning April 1, 2011. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

**REPORTS**

**Road Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Veigel reported that the Parks Commission approved a new park and boat launch to be opening in Ypsilanti Township on the south side of Ford Lake.

Commissioner Schwartz reported that he has received many positive comments on the great job the road crews did on clearing the roads during the last snow events.

Commissioner Fuller reported that he received an email from Senator Rebekah Warren asking if the Washtenaw County Road Commission would be interested in passing a resolution of endorsement to the Detroit International River Crossing for the Board to consider at the next Board meeting on March 1, 2011.

Commissioner Fuller also stated that he has received positive comments on the excellent job the road crews did clearing the roads during the last snow events.

### County Commissioner's Report

County Commissioner Turner stated that the County Commissioners met last week for a follow up retreat to consider how best to manage government and make sure all county departments are functioning in the most efficient, cost effective way possible and looking at services that could be performed more efficiently by someone else. County Commissioner Turner offered to bring some of these retreat ideas to the Road Commission. County Commissioner Turner also stated that he has received nothing but very positive comments on the excellent job our road crews did in clearing the roads during the snow events. County Commissioner Turner stated that he is getting requests from other County Board Members to be provided specific notification on larger scale projects planned in their districts.

### **MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### Staff Report for weeks of 1-24-11 to 2-06-11

Steve Puuri provided a review of activities during this period which included a considerable amount of effort dealing with winter maintenance activities.

#### Upcoming Mechanic Job Vacancies (2)

Jim Harmon, Director of Operations, provided a review of the two Mechanic Vacancies. Mr. Harmon stated that these positions were advertised internally with no qualified candidates. Mr. Harmon stated that he realized there is a hiring freeze in place for all positions, but this is an area where we have aging equipment with some real needs for mechanics. Mr. Harmon stated that a certain number of senior mechanics are needed to maintain the fleet vehicles. Without a qualified number of mechanics, we are significantly impaired to meet the expectations of the Board and the public. Mr. Harmon stated that he analyzed how many full time mechanics an agency of our size should have and how much work should be outsourced. The outcome stated that nine full time mechanics should be in place and we currently have six mechanics with our two most qualified mechanics scheduled to retire on the same day this spring. Mr. Harmon stated that it has recently taken many months to find appropriate, qualified mechanics and it was his recommendation to move forward to backfill these two positions. Commissioner Fuller stated that he supports the backfilling of mechanic vacancies.

RC11-053      Veigel moved, Schwartz seconded that the Board authorizes staff to backfill the two upcoming mechanic job vacancies and to follow normal and usual procedures in filling those vacancies. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3    NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0    ABSTAIN: 0    Motion Carried

Emergency Fueling Access Sub Agreements

Steve Puuri, Managing Director, provided a review of the Emergency Fueling Access Sub-Agreements that have been received providing access to emergency fueling consistent with the master emergency fueling agreement. Jim Harmon stated since this memo, three more entities have inquired about emergency fueling access. Mr. Harmon stated that he anticipates 20-25 emergency responders entering into similar agreements.

MDOT M52/Brown Drive Access Change

Steve Puuri stated that MDOT is seeking an authorization from the Road Commission to change the access limitations at M52/Brown Drive by changing Brown Drive to be a right turn in/out and eliminate the traffic signal. Mr. Puuri stated that MDOT held a public meeting inviting the City of Chelsea, property owners and the Road Commission. There are some business owners objecting to removing the traffic signal at Brown Drive. Mr. Puuri stated that MDOT is responding to property owner concerns and intends to make a presentation to our Board at the March 15th Board meeting. Commissioner Veigel stated it was important to ensure the public is well informed this is an MDOT project.

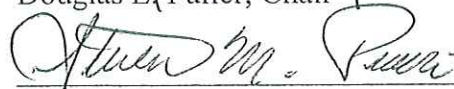
Spring Time Weight Restrictions – Update

Steve Puuri informed the Board that Spring Time weight restrictions will be imposed on Thursday morning, February 17, 2011 at 6:00a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

RC11-053 Schwartz moved, Veigel seconded to adjourn the February 15, 2011 meeting at 2:40 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: CeR