

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
555 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Minutes of November 15, 2011

Board Present: Road Commissioners, Douglas E. Fuller, Fred Veigel, Ken Schwartz
Staff Present: S. Puuri, R. Townsend, J. Harmon, C. Ryan, D. Ackerman, S. Siddall,
E. Reed, A. Berkholz, C. Brochue
Others Present: T. Green, D. Tiff, B. Fuller, B. Stein, P. Stein, G. Lobdell,
L. Allmendinger

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RC11-324 Veigel moved, Schwartz seconded to approve the agenda as presented with 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 November 1, 2011 Board Meeting.

RC11-325 Veigel moved, Schwartz seconded, the Board hereby accepts the Board Meeting Minutes of November 1, 2011 as presented. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Paxton Resources – Proposed Oil & Gas Lease

Greg Vahnais addressed the Board representing Paxton Resource's interest in securing an easement to allow access on a Road Commission parcel for new oil & gas exploration.

Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society – Huron River Drive

Ted Green and Doug Tiff of the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society presented the Washtenaw County Road Commission with a recognition plaque of appreciation for paving Huron River Drive in 2011.

CONSENT AGENDA

The items approved on the Consent Agenda are as follows:

RC11-326 Veigel moved, Schwartz seconded the approval of the Consent Agenda for the November 15, 2011 meeting, as presented with one item removed and replaced. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

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

RC11-327 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 temporary closure of Old US-12 from M-52 to Old Manchester Road on Saturday, December 4, 2011 from 5:45 pm to 7:45 pm, for the Annual Chelsea Holiday Light Parade. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Ypsilanti Township Agreement – Emerick Street

RC11-328 Veigel moved, Schwartz seconded that upon the recommendation of the County Highway Engineer with the concurrence of the Managing Director, the Board hereby approves the Ypsilanti Township Agreement for the mill and resurface of Emerick Street in the City of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township. The cost of this project will be paid for 100% by Ypsilanti Township. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Speed Humps - Bids

RC11-329 Veigel moved, Schwartz 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 contract with GM and Son's Inc, 6784 Whitmore Lake Road, Whitmore Lake, Michigan 48189 for Speed Humps at the cost of \$28,650.00, this is for work to be completed in 2012. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

Payroll & Bills for November 9, 2011

RC11-330 Veigel moved, Schwartz seconded the Board hereby approves Voucher 9958 totaling \$245,517.48 for \$751,022.11 in payment of bills for November 9, 2011. Voice Vote: YEAS: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

ACTION ITEM**SEMCOG – Resolution of Support**

Commissioner Veigel asked about the legality of providing funds for the County's membership in SEMCOG. Mr. Puuri responded that legal counsel advised that it is legal for the Road Commission to provide funding to the County for the SEMCOG membership, although it was not a good practice. Mr. Puuri stated the CRAM Director, John Niemela, also confirmed that it is legal to pay another agency to assist with their dues, but is not a good practice. Commissioner Veigel suggested amending the motion to state that the County commit to its SEMCOG membership prior to the Road Commission paying a portion of the membership dues. The suggested amendment did not have Board support. Commissioner Schwartz stated in normal times, he agreed that this would not be a good practice; but stated that we are not in normal times and the benefits the road commission receives from SEMCOG have been well documented. The Board agreed they will revisit the dues membership again in two years.

RC11-331 Schwartz moved, Fuller seconded that upon the recommendation of the Managing Director, the Board agrees to assist the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners with the SEMCOG annual county membership dues during 2012 and 2013. It is understood that the Washtenaw County Road Commission financial participation will not exceed \$25,000 for any given year. Voice Vote: YEAS: 2 NAYS: 1 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION ITEM**Future Working Session Schedule**

A draft Working Session Schedule for 2012 was distributed to the Board for review. The Board will consider the proposed Working Session schedule at the first Board Meeting of 2012.

REPORTS**Road Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Schwartz thanked the crews for all their excellent work on Maple Road. Commissioner Schwartz stated that he is very interested in attending the upcoming Maple Road public meeting with citizens to discuss further improvements planned for 2012.

Commissioner Fuller complimented our road crews, stating that every job he has driven by last week has been very well done.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**Staff Report – 10-24-11 to 11-06-11**

Steve Puuri, Managing Director, provided a review of all activities during this period. Staff is preparing for next year's projects.

Warren Road – Update

Steve Puuri, Managing Director, stated that the Board heard from a citizen during the last Board Meeting expressing his concerns on the condition of Warren Road. Mr. Puuri stated that staff evaluated Warren Road and confirmed that this section of road has been receiving routine grading.

Maple Road – Citizen Meeting

Jim Harmon, Director of Operations, proposed to hold the Public Information Meeting with residents in December.

Commissioner Veigel asked about the sidewalk snow plowing near Skyline Schools. Staff advised that the Road Commission would not be performing snow removal along the sidewalks.

Willow Road Property – Proposed Oil & Gas Lease.

Curt Brochue, Right-of-Way Specialist, provided a review of a request from Paxton Energy Resources to obtain an easement to perform oil exploration in Saline Township. Staff was hesitant to move forward with further investigation on this request due to legal costs possibly exceeding any potential benefit.

ADJOURNMENT

RC11-332 Veigel moved, Schwartz seconded to adjourn the November 1, 2011 meeting at 2:41 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