

MINUTES OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSION MEETING

April 2, 2008 – Page One

The Williamson County Highway Commission met on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Williamson County Administrative Complex. Commission members present were: County Mayor and Highway Commission Chair Rogers Anderson and Commissioners Charlie Bennett, Dick Fowlkes, Renis Baker and Stan Tyson.

Also, present were: Highway Superintendent Eddie Hood; David Coleman, Budget Director; Leslie Mitchell, Purchasing Agent; Mike Matteson and Ann Haines, Planning Department; Floyd Heflin, County Engineer; William Andrews, Engineering Department; Elaine Vasquez, Greg Boll, Ray Campbell, and Randy Hickman, Highway Department; County Attorneys Jeff Moseley and Bobby Cook, Buerger, Moseley and Carson; Chad Collier and Randy Carroll, Collier Engineering; Mitch Kline, *The Tennessean*, and other interested and concerned individuals.

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 a.m. and asked for approval of the March 5, 2008 Highway Commission minutes. Commissioner Bennett moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Tyson. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Special Announcements: There were none.

Citizens Communications: There were none.

Elections and Appointments: There were none.

OLD BUSINESS:

Highway Department Update. Mr. Boll stated that TDEC permit for erosion control was expected back soon and then the grading can begin for the new facility.

NEW BUSINESS:

Load Limits on County Roads in 1st District. Chair Anderson stated that Commissioner Greer was not in attendance today, but she had requested the County Attorney explain the law regarding Load Limits on County Roads (Attachment A) in order to restrict heavy vehicles due to road damage. Chair Anderson stated that representatives from some of the local trucking companies and other contractors are here today. Chair Anderson stated that he was hoping that some dialogue at this meeting would emphasize the problems in order to prevent unnecessary government interference.

Supt. Hood stated that the rock crusher is in Hickman County; however, several local County roads are being used in addition to Spencer Mill which was the original verbal agreement with the company. Supt. Hood stated he would prefer the trucks to use Spencer Mill except for local deliveries as they agreed in the late 90s.

Mr. Cook stated that roads are held in trust for the public and the County cannot exclude anyone if the use is reasonable. Certain weight vehicles can be limited if it is determined by an engineering study that they are creating damage to the County's roads and therefore are unreasonable. Mr. Cook stated that the law states that the Highway Commission and the Highway Superintendent can set weight limits with a resolution that would be run through this body and through the County Commission.

Chair Anderson asked Mr. Collier for an overview, stating that he was reluctant to set weight limits if it could be avoided.

Mr. Collier stated that the chair's reluctance was well warranted and that load limits on structures (i.e., bridges) were common and should be followed. Road integrity is an objective process with a core drilling being taken and sent to a lab to be assessed. There are also issues with the enforcement of the weight restrictions on roads, Mr. Collier concluded.

Chair Anderson stated that another issue in our County is agriculture usage (i.e., milk trucks, cattle/horse trailers, etc.). Some classes of business can be excluded from the weight restrictions per legal counsel, he concluded.

MINUTES OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSION MEETING

April 2, 2008 – Page Two

Commissioner Tyson asked if the roads were built to certain criteria at the time of improvements or construction.

Mr. Collier stated that structures are built to certain criteria, but that paving is based on traffic patterns and it is not cost effective to overbuild roads. Mr. Collier stated that he suspected it was private haulers, rather than the larger carriers, that were the primary source of these problems and that it was not centered on one company.

Supt. Hood stated that the company that owns the rock crusher did some road repairs at one point.

Commissioner Baker stated that while this is a touchy subject, they knew from the beginning that this was a potential problem and before the situation gets worse, it needs to be addressed. Commissioner Baker stated that perhaps the haulers could lighten their loads in order to prevent some of the damage.

Chair Anderson stated that there had been calls from neighbors stating that these rock haulers were not driving safely (i.e., speeding, passing improperly, etc.). He thanked the representatives from the various organizations in attendance and requested Collier Engineering prepare cost estimates on the core drilling process, but that he was not ready at this time to proceed with setting load limits yet.

There was discussion about potential primary routes and enforcement of weight limits.

Chair Anderson asked if the weight limit enforcement would be by the Tennessee Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Campbell stated that the weight would be on the ticket given by the rock crusher company and therefore could be enforced locally.

Mr. Randy Butler of the Rogers Group stated that he was the manager of the rock crusher in Hickman County. Mr. Butler stated that the original agreement between Mr. Meeks and his company was that one artery would be used and that the Rogers Group would maintain it when needed. Since 1999, they had repaired the road three times and are willing to help enforce the routes used by placing signage up. While they cannot control their customers, they can encourage them to use the proper routes and they are not opposed to load limits. Mr. Butler stated that they sell in Williamson County and want to work with the County.

Supt. Hood stated that currently there were no limits on roads, only on a few bridges.

Chair Anderson stated that after Collier Engineering comes back with the information next month, they can discuss how to proceed.

Request for approval of roadway improvement plans at Cox Road & Horton Highway for the Stillwater Project by Atwell-Hicks. Mr. Heflin stated that the improvements were requested at the Planning Commission and agreed to by the developer. Mr. Heflin stated that staff recommends approval with Supt. Hood determining how much is to be resurfaced and obtaining a letter of credit.

Supt. Hood stated he was satisfied with the plans and asked that the whole width of the road be resurfaced, not just spot paved.

Mr. Dan Strebel of Atwell-Hicks stated that he represents the developer and does not have any issues with the suggestions made by Supt. Hood.

Commissioner Fowlkes moved to accept the plans as presented, seconded by Commissioner Tyson. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Bid Results. Mrs. Mitchell stated that seven bids had been received for the bridge to be built on Southall Road (Attachment B) with the low bid of \$386,442.41 from Brown Builders being the

MINUTES OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSION MEETING

April 2, 2008 – Page Three

staff recommendation. Commissioner Tyson moved to recommend the low bid from Brown, seconded by Commissioner Bennett. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Highway Commission District Reports. There were no district reports.

Highway Superintendent Report. Supt. Hood referenced the March 2008 Activity Report and stated that the cleanup from the recent storms had been completed including the road repairs.

Highway Chairman Report. Chair Anderson had no report.

Legal Issues. At this time, the Highway Commission recessed to go into closed session to discuss pending litigation.

The meeting reconvened with Commissioner Tyson moving that the Highway Commission authorizes the County Attorney's Office to obtain appraisals of the property in litigation up to the center line of Temple Road and to the edge of the paved surface and to tender such amounts to the Court as deemed necessary on the property involved in litigation. Commissioner Baker seconded by motion. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 a.m., upon duly made motion and second, as there was no further business.

/cb

Rogers C. Anderson
Chairman and County Mayor