

MINUTES OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSION MEETING

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The Williamson County Highway Commission met on Wednesday, October 1, 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; County Commission Chairman Houston Naron, Jr.; County Commissioner Jack Walton; David Coleman, Budget Director; Joe Horne, Community Development Director; Mike Matteson, Planning Director; Floyd Heflin and William Andrews, Engineering; Greg Boll, Elaine Vasquez, Ray Campbell, and Randy Hickman, Highway Department; County Attorney Bobby Cook, Buerger, Moseley and Carson; Chad Collier, Collier Engineering; 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 September 3, 2008 Highway Commission minutes. Commissioner Tyson moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Bennett. 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 they were moving forward and that the storm water pipe had been laid and the building pad installed.

Chair Anderson stated that Supt. Hood was going to set up a site visit after the November Highway Commission meeting, weather permitting.

Load Limits on County Roads in 1st District. Mr. Cook stated that he had contacted the State Department of Transportation and the Highway Patrol. Neither agency assists local government with weight limit enforcement except for where bridges are a concern, Mr. Cook reported. The cost to enforce weight limit restrictions would fall entirely on the County including the permitting procedure, scales, vehicle(s), personnel, enforcement and training, he concluded. Mr. Cook stated that he has not talked to the Sheriff about this issue.

Chair Anderson asked Mr. Coleman to give an update about the current economic issues. Mr. Coleman gave an overview on the recent bailout issues, the County's bond rating, the increase in short term variable rates and current capital projects pending in the County. He stated that a decision will have to be made regarding money to be borrowed by the County and the need to remain flexible. Mr. Coleman stated that funding from the federal government as well as State government is expected to tighten up. He stated that there are many options for cutting existing budgets and that our County departments will be asked to not spend where it is not essential. The Highway fund balance is unique, he concluded, because it is for highway use only.

Commissioner Tyson asked how County funds in the bank are protected.

Mr. Coleman stated that the funds are protected as a local government at 105%.

Chair Anderson stated that a property tax increase may be forthcoming due to these issues, but that the Highway funds are in good shape at this time. He stated that they recently met with State Representative Charles Sargent to look at some options and reminded the Commission that they were not borrowing any money for the new facility. He stated that the rock crusher may need to be relocated. Chair Anderson stated that this information was shared so that all things can be taken into consideration while studying the prospective load limits program and any costs associated thereto.

Commissioner Baker stated that the weight load issue is not just in the first district, but County wide.

Commissioner Tyson inquired whether the decision should be deferred for six months.

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Chair Anderson stated that Sheriff Long had not been informed of this issue and that he agreed with Commissioner Baker that it was a county-wide issue.

Commissioner Baker stated that County Commissioner Reba Greer receives numerous constituent requests to pursue this matter in the 1st district.

Commissioner Bennett stated that he would need some idea of the costs involved to make a decision as there are other County roads in the same shape.

Supt. Hood stated that it is a county-wide issue with costs involved and that he has mixed emotions because while the trucks are hard on roads sometimes, they need to be able to make a living. Money is tight at this time, he continued and this will likely be an expensive undertaking as it involves many departments.

Chair Anderson asked Mr. Boll to put some cost figures together for this potential program and to get with the Sheriff and the Human Resources Director for job description and salary information.

Supt. Hood stated that he believed they could bring it back on the December agenda for further discussion with more detailed cost figures.

Chair Anderson asked Mr. Cook if any other county in the State is doing a weight enforcement program.

Mr. Cook stated that while some jurisdictions may have weight classes, they are not enforcing them at this time and that we would have to create an enforcement program to do so.

On another matter, Mr. Cook stated that he had information regarding the Clovercroft/Oxford Glen sight distance issues where there were conflicts in the sight distance on the report from the City of Franklin and the design report provided by Ragan Smith. After review by Mr. Collier, Mr. Cook stated, it appears that the Ragan Smith report was incorrect, but the recommendation by the City of Franklin wouldn't alleviate the sight distance issues. Mr. Cook stated that a determination would have to be made about the original road specifications before coming back with a recommendation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of Traffic Study on Solomon Drive in Walnut Winds Subdivision off Lewisburg Pike. Mr. Collier stated that he had done a speed study on Solomon Drive and not much speeding was found (Attachment A). There was a large volume of traffic in a residential area with school children present, but excessive speed was not an issue, he concluded.

No further action was taken.

Request by Dale & Associates, on behalf of Laurel Cove Development LLC, for Arno College Grove Road Improvements. Supt. Hood stated that he and Mr. Collier had seen the revised plans and they were in good shape. He stated he was comfortable with the request. However, no easements had yet been acquired yet and that before any grading permits were issued, he would have to see the easements. Then, they would have to put up a road bond, just like they did on Arno Road.

Mr. Phillip Jones, Developer of Laurel Cove, stated that he agreed with Supt. Hood and that they would go to the Planning Commission and then proceed to obtain the easements. Mr. Jones gave an update on their financial situation due to the recent economic issues.

Chair Anderson thanked Mr. Jones for the update.

Mr. Heflin stated that staff recommends approval and that the Planning Commission would need the Highway Commission's input.

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Commissioner Bennett moved to approve the plans as submitted and approved by Mr. Collier with the conditions of easements being obtained prior to the issuance of a right of way work permit and bonding requirements as stated by Supt. Hood. Commissioner Tyson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Request by Mallory Valley for Road Closure of North Berry's Chapel Road for pipe installation. Mr. Tim Ham, Field Manager for Mallory Valley Utility District, gave an update on the installation of the water lines to-date and stated that he had three new requests. The first request would be to close the top of Lynnwood Way at the Lynnwood connector to trench across the road, on Monday, October 6th starting at 7:00 or 8:00 p.m. The closing would take three to four hours, Mr. Ham estimated. The second request is to close roads throughout the project at various times to replace culverts, as promised previously. The third request is to close North Berry's Chapel from the Lynnwood connector to Hidden Valley so that the trencher can dig. The machine is too wide to allow for cars to pass easily. Their preference would be to close the roads after school buses run in the morning and keep closed until the afternoon bus route to allow them to not have to move materials twice. Mr. Ham stated that he had communicated with Mr. Joe King at the Williamson County School Bus Garage. This is the preferred method rather than doing the work solely at night where the noise might disturb residents and it would also be faster.

There was discussion about signage, notifying the media and having a person directing traffic. Mr. Ham agreed to notify the media, place signage and hire traffic help.

Commissioner Fowlkes moved to allow North Berry's Chapel to be closed for trenching in late October/early November, seconded by Commissioner Bennett. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner Fowlkes moved to close Lynnwood Way at the top of the hill the following Monday evening and replace guardrail as needed, seconded by Commissioner Tyson. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner Fowlkes moved to allow the replacement of culverts throughout the project (approximately 13) upon approach, seconded by Commissioner Tyson. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Supt. Hood asked that the road be plated for accessibility when possible and that signs be placed ahead of time to notify the area residents.

Request for Traffic Study at Berry's Chapel and Farmington (4-Way Stop) by Commissioner Walton. County Commissioner Jack Walton, District 8, stated that he had received several calls about traffic backing up at this intersection. Further, he stated that this problem may be alleviated after Mallory Valley has completed their work in the area. Apparently residents are taking Brookside Drive to Old South Berry's Chapel to avoid this intersection and those residents are complaining about the traffic and speeding in the area.

Chair Anderson asked Commissioner Walton if he would like a letter sent to Sheriff Long requesting additional enforcement in the area and then revisit the situation next year after Mallory Valley has completed their work in the area.

Commissioner Walton stated that this would be helpful and that he didn't want the 4-way stop to be removed as the Farmington residents would have problems with that change.

Chair Anderson stated he would see that a letter was sent to the Sheriff about the situation.

Bid Results. Mrs. Mitchell stated that a Gradall Excavator was recently bid and that the low bid from Nortrax was recommended with certain options at \$289,889.00 (Attachment B). Commissioner Fowlkes moved to accept the low bid of Nortrax, seconded by Commissioner Baker.

Mr. Boll stated that this capital equipment was approved in the budget.

Commissioner Tyson asked if the purchase was critical at this time.

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Mr. Boll stated that it was more cost efficient to replace the equipment due to excessive repairs. Supt. Hood stated that they need to use this piece of equipment daily and it is often broken.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Mr. Coleman stated that the old equipment will be sold as surplus.

Highway Commission District Reports. Commissioner Bennett stated that the naming of bridges in the County had been discussed at the previous meeting. He moved that the bridge on Southall Road be named the Williamson County Veterans Bridge, seconded by Commissioner Tyson. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner Tyson asked if Harpeth Valley Utility still planned to place pipe in Temple Road. Chair Anderson stated that he had not had any recent conversations with them on this matter. Mr. Collier stated that he had spoken with their engineer and that they will be sending plans at some point in the future. Commissioner Tyson wanted to know where the water is coming from and where it is going. Further he wanted to be sure that our construction on the road is not delayed.

There were no other reports.

Highway Superintendent Report. Supt. Hood had no report.

Highway Chairman Report. Chair Anderson had no report.

Legal Issues. There were no legal issues; however, Mr. Cook stated that the Highway regulations state that the construction and permit process be reviewed every three years and he will be bringing this information to the next meeting.

Chair Anderson asked Mr. Cook to review the recent Ethics legislation with the Highway Commission next month as well.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:53 a.m., upon duly made motion and second, as there was no further business.

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Rogers C. Anderson
Chairman and County Mayor