

TILLAMOOK COUNTY ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10-13-08

Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room A

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Curt Schonbrod; Vice-Chair Gary Hanenkrat; Steve Macartney; Darcy R. Jones; Gus Meyer, Robert Garrigues; John V. Gettman and Gary Hercher

STAFF PRESENT: Liane Welch (Director, Public Works); Jeanette Steinbach (Recorder)

COUNTY EMPLOYEES: Commissioners Tim Josi and Mark Labhart

GUESTS PRESENT: Dora Norwood, Ken O'Toole

AGENDA ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER: Chair Curt Schonbrod called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 2 TILLAMOOK COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS FEDERAL FUNDING RESTORATION PROPOSED RE-ORGANIZATION PLAN

Ms. Welch thanked everyone for attending this emergency meeting. Commissioner Tim Josi commented that he and Commissioner Labhart were present to observe, and not make any deliberations as recommended by County Counsel due to public meeting laws. Ms. Welch introduced Dave Dickman, H.R. Director.

Ms. Welch said that it was great news to have a scaled down version of the US Federal Forest Timber Revenues approved. Ms. Welch met with the Treasurer and H.R. to discuss the impact for the Road Dept. The meeting initiated the memo dated October 6, 2008 which Ms. Welch handed to all present. Mr. Dickman will present the recommendations made by the CRAC at the Wednesday BOC meeting 10/15/08 as Ms. Welch will be on vacation. Ms. Welch will format a supplemental budget to include these monies, and monies received through S.B. 994. Commissioner Labhart confirmed that there is not a reversional clause in the SB 994.

Ms. Welch went through the Charts on Asset Inventory Condition, Engineering Duties, Risk Priorities – High and Medium. Ms. Welch said that culverts, ditches, fleet equipment, and getting our roads into shape are a high priority. She proposed to add 7 staff to bring total manpower to 25. She handed out the Tillamook County Public Works Federal Funding Restoration Proposed Re-Organization Plan with the cost of the additional labor and the Tillamook County Public Works Employee Numbers Over Time 1981-2011 obtained from Commissioner Labhart. Ms. Welch proposes to have 2 maintenance districts because of the shortage of staff, and the inability to complete larger projects. It was recommended that the layoff employees as well as the Mechanic should be recalled. The current Lead Mechanic will be retiring in January 2009. Mr. Dickman explained that experienced staff is a valuable asset. The county lost the sign technician, two MEO's, the 4 laid off employees in addition to other positions that have not been filled. Mr. Hanenkrat said that public perception would be that we are hiring people, but not fixing our roads. Mr. Dickman stressed that experienced employees are our biggest asset. Mr. Dickman clarified that he was aggressive when estimating costs for these positions because of the unknowns, but 9 positions will retire in the next few years bringing employees at a lower scale; cost of insurance is not rising as high and attrition. Question was raised about Public Works being too top heavy? The management/employee ratio is usually 4-5.

Mr. Dickman recommended adding a Civil Engineer, the engineering department is slowing down development in the county because of its heavy workload. The solid waste coordinator would also report

to that person. He also noted that the senior lead engineer will be retiring soon and his knowledge is vital. This will help Ms. Welch concentrate on the operational and administrative aspect of Public Works. Ms. Welch went through the charts listing all the responsibilities of the engineering department. Discussion by members on the engineering program. Members understand that engineering is vital to the growth of the county. The engineering department helps make the maintenance department more productive. Concern rose that monies need to go to maintenance not to the hiring of a civil engineer. Discussed hiring a private engineer on the developments, i.e. a "Pay to Play", or relying on the developer's engineer but the county still has to verify the work. Permit fees raise \$75,000 which is not enough to support this program. Director of Community Development is working on a fee scale that hopes to address this issue. It was agreed that contractors are out to make money; staff doing projects is much cheaper. Public Works spent \$14,000 on FEMA projects permits, and this is something that a Civil Engineer on staff could do.

Equipment \$ reserve: Members agreed that it is important that a "savings fund" be used to replace aging equipment.

SB994: Ms. Welch said that the CRAC saw the committed project list for this money. Ms. Welch would like to add the match monies required for the Salmonberry Bridge.

Solid Waste Department: It was discussed whether this department should be with the Road Department. Historically most SW departments are under the Public Works department. It is necessary that SW pays the Road Dept for actual costs of sustaining this department. Ms. Norwood questioned whether a ½ time office specialist for SW is needed since the Civil Engineer would be taking on some of the tasks.

Mr. Gettman made a motion to approve the proposed re-organization plan as presented. Mr. Macartney seconded, all yeas, 1 nay Mr. Meyer. Motion passed.

Mr. Meyer explained his nay vote. Solid Waste should be self sustaining. Permit fees need to equate the costs. Do not replace 2 MEO's. Mr. Hanenkrat said that the Engineering Technician and the Civil Engineer will not get the maintenance work done, i.e. culverts and ditches. Ms. Welch said that the Engineering Technician would be concentrating on the culvert inventory so we can ascertain condition and how much funding is required.

On closing, Ms. Welch welcomed comments from the Commissioners. Commissioner Josi said that it was well worth his time. It was a good, intellectual and spirited discussion. Ms. Welch is putting in a lot of hours, and he is pleased with the direction of the department. Commissioner Labhart thanked the CRAC for their commitment. By ordinance they provide input to the Board of Commissioners and this discussion will help him make a better decision.

Mr. Macartney said that we need to make sure that DCD follow through with the system development fees or a fee system that equates the actual cost of these development reviews.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Public Comment: Ms. Norwood asked about the Johnson Bridge. Ms. Welch said that the bridge will have a gravel road and be opened in January for traffic.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Next Meeting: November 17th, 2008 at the Board of Commissioners Room B.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.