

TILLAMOOK COUNTY ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 12, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Curt Schonbrod, Vice Chair Gary Hanenkrat, Gary Hercher, Gus Meyer, Jerry Dove, John Gettman,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Darcy Jones, Stephen MacCartney, Bob Garrigues

STAFF: Liane Welch, Director and Megan Wright, Recorder

PUBLIC: Dora Norwood

Item 1. Meeting called to order at 3:04 pm.

Item 2. Reviewed agenda and no additions were made.

Item 3. Reviewed minutes from March 10, 2008 meeting. It was pointed out in Item 3b, the addition of employees was incorrect. Curt wanted to amend amount of employees left after cuts from "17" to "18". The tally was corrected and the minutes were approved as amended by Jerry, seconded by Gus and unanimously passed. Liane introduced Megan to the committee.

Item 4. In Stephen Macartney's absence, Liane reported on the Road Permanent Tax Rate Update. Ballots are out and the community is discussing in the paper and coffee shops. Union is supporting a phone bank on Monday through Thursday this week. Liane is not sure if she can work on the phone bank. Curt asked Liane how the speaking engagements with the commissioners were received by the public and Liane responded that there were 14 speaking engagements in 2 ½ months. Gus said the reactions from the people were very diverse; very in favor and very against with the people in between hard to guess. Most people wanted to know why the cities were not included. In the past when the cities were annexed the people still voted against it. Jerry mentioned that the county would have to give 40% to the cities if the cities were included. Gus mentioned that he was pleased with Tim's last article. (On a side note: The short notification of the closing of Johnson Bridge was discussed and agreed that it could have been done better.) Jerry said that the people are reluctantly voting for it because they see that there is no other choice. Gary Hanenkrat said that a lot of people have the idea that if they live in the city they are taxed for the county roads too but are unable to vote for it: a false idea. Liane said that they will just have to wait until the 20th for the election outcome and then move on to Plan B if needed. There was a small discussion about other ways for revenue involving the tourists and the out of town property owners.

Item 5. Liane discussed the Consideration Fees for the No Spray Signs. The county tries to maintain the vegetation in the best way possible for safety in the road right of way. No spray wanted by some and needed by others such as organic farmers. The county does not spray in residential areas or where people have no spray agreements and maintain their vegetation. The reason for charging the public for the signs is to help pay for the signs. Dora said that she thought it was outrageous to charge for the signs and that it usurps the owners rights and that she believes the county needs to request the rights to spray from the owners of the property. Liane explained how roads are owned and how land is dedicated to the county for the roads and that the mowing is done for safety reasons. She also mentioned that ODOT sprays and we give people in the county the option of maintaining their vegetation themselves. She explained that the one time fee of \$35 charge is to cover the costs of the pair of signs. Liane said that Mike Wynands is doing the spray program and that he is very careful. They are looking into having the vegetation management program protective of fish. Liane said that the signs are free right now. Liane explained to Dora that it will be a one time fee charged for all new no spray agreements. Gus asked if people can use their own signs and Liane said that they have to use the county's signs for easy

recognition. There was further discussion and it was decided to add that if “No Spray signs are not posted then Public Works will maintain with mowing and/or spraying.” Liane explained that vegetation can be devastating on safety and that the county wants people to use the county signs for consistency for the start and stop of the no spray area. In order for dairies to be organic, they have to be able to prove there hasn’t been any spray for three years. Jerry made a motion that the committee approve and recommend the Matter of Adopting Fees for No Spray Signs as amended to the Tillamook Board of County Commissioners and Gary Hercher seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Item 6. Liane spoke about the Summer Work Plan. The Preliminary Road Maintenance List for 2008 and 2009 Seasons is what they would like to do if the measure passes. The FEMA and FHWA projects are cutting into the paving time. Looking at 2009 for reconstruction and lots of culvert replacements. If the measure passes in May, the money will be available in November which will be for the 2009 paving season. The list cannot be finalized until after the May election results. The price for asphalt has increased. If the measure doesn’t pass they will only pave about a mile McCormick Loop Road because it is falling apart and will be used a lot because of the detour due to the closing of Johnson Bridge. We are trying to manage money better by working with other agencies like the Forestry Dept. The Road Dept has rented a screen plant from Portland and we are screening rock at the South County Quarry. We need to process rock in our two quarries. The rock is needed for back fill, etc. especially if we begin to turn roads into gravel, digging up the roads, changing grading because of drainage shape. Culverts are very expensive. Some of the roads are so bad (such as Makinster road) that the Post Office and the school buses are refusing to use. The ground up asphalt is reused. It is going to take us a lot of work to repair 20 years of degenerating roads. Olsen Road from HWY 6 to the Wilson River is terrible and the Post Office is threatening not to use it too. Working on Road Maintenance Asset Plans: how we should spend our money. Looking at writing a report at the end of every year to share with the community about how well we are doing. Gus believes that approach to public outreach is important; special meetings to the public. Curt noted that the roads on the paving list for 2008 and 2009 are only if the road levy passes.

Item 7. Road Department Projects and Work Plan – reported on by Liane.

Item 7a. Johnson Bridge: Some previous discussion. Should be open May 2009 and the reason why this late is because of paving. The question was raised if we could open the bridge in winter because the bridge should be finished in November but the paving won’t happen until the spring. We would have to maintain the gravel over the bridge. It would be a big risk having people drive over the gravel on the bridge. Gary Hanenkrat thought that the bridge should be open as early as possible and could make it a construction zone with speed signs though it may not be possible because of the risk. John asked how the county could be protected if there was an accident. Jerry suggested that stop signs be placed at either side of the bridge. Liane said that those would reduce the risk. They had a successful meeting with the residents of McCormick Loop Rd and the community decided on the 45 mph posting. The trucks redirected onto McCormick Loop Rd are hard on the pavement.

Item 7b. HWY 101/Long Prairie Intersection: The Tillamook PUD has been a great team player on this; meeting and building relationships. July 1st is the project completion date, underground work, flagging, striping.

Item 7c. Wildcat Creek/East Beaver Creek: Partnering with Fish and Wildlife on this project. Replacing a 3 foot culvert with a 14 foot culvert. The road won’t be closed and the project should be finished by winter.

Item 7d. Salmonberry Bridge: ODOT says they have enough for the bridge maybe late summer depending on the rail road. It could be a one lane bridge depending on the span length for weight restrictions.

Item 7e. Update on FHWA/FEMA Projects: the refunds are still coming in.

Item 7f. Latimer/HWY 101: Supposed to begin the first part of June.

OTHER DISCUSSION: The golf course is still planning on going in at the Port of Tillamook Bay. Gary Hanenkrat brought up the fact that the east end of Neilson Road going to the HWY has run off from a dairy and the water is sitting on the road. Liane asked if we should talk with the dairies and possibly be open to re-grading the road. Gary Hercher mentioned that there is a low spot in the road that needs to be raised and Gary Hanenkrat mentioned the dairy feeding equipment needs to be off the road. It was agreed that they need to talk about the traffic hazards of farm equipment on McCormick Loop Road. Liane said that she is using what is left of Pat Oakes’ salary to hire an engineer because she doesn’t have the time. Need environmental permits for

work on a lot of road projects. Gus said that it is not on the watershed council's radar to help us. Discussed the waterways effected by putting in the golf course and working with Fish and Wildlife to make sure there are no problems with the fish.

Item 8. Crew Update

Item 8a. Traffic Services Technician: Tom Abbott retired and now there are three vacancies. Liane won't rehire until after election and only if the measure passes. The work crews started a work schedule of 4 – 10 hour days at the beginning of May and the office staff is going to the same schedule beginning the week of May 26th. Public Works will be closed on Fridays. A news release will be sent out. Having the office be on 4-10's too helps them support the work crews. John asked about the webpage and was informed that it is being worked on. Public Works will go back to a 5-8 work schedule for the winter when day light is less.

Item 9. Public Comment: Committee discussed several roads and Liane said that she hopes to start reconstruction and base repair. ODOT is facing the same financial issues that we are. Curt talked about Curl Bridge on Curl Road, the concerns about the bare planks on the bridge. Liane said that it is on the list for repair. John mentioned that the City of Bay City has a 4" water line hanging on the bridge. Gus mentioned the heavy equipment that crosses the bridge and Liane suggested moving it up on the list.

Item 10. Next Meeting: Discussed changing time but they decided to leave it the way it is. Liane suggested Monday June 16, 2008 for the next meeting and it was agreed on. The meeting was adjourned at 4:26pm.