

TILLAMOOK COUNTY ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: September 17, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Curt Schonbrod, Gus Meyer, John Gettman, Stephen Macartney, Jerry Dove, Gary Hercher, Gary Hanenkrat, Robert Garrigues

MEMBERS ABSENT: Darcy Jones

STAFF: Liane Welch, Director, Pat Oakes, Engineering and Gaile Harris, Recorder

GUESTS: Roger Tracey

PUBLIC: Dora Norwood. Ken O'Toole, Mark Labhart, Chuck Hurliman, Tim Josi

Item 1. Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm.

Agenda item 2b added, Announcement by Pat Oakes

Item 2a. Minutes for August 21, 2007 meeting approved as written.

2b. Announcement by Pat Oakes.

Pat announced his resignation from the Public Works department. He will be going to work for Washington County with the Capital Projects Division. His last day will be September 26, 2007. Curt asked if Pat has updated any personnel as to the status of the current projects. Pat stated that this last month he has been working with Liane on a transition book. Members gave Pat a round of applause for a job well done.

Item 3. *Update Paving Program by Liane Welch*

Central district has been finished. A couple of short distances left in North district. South district is being finished at this time depending on weather conditions. Curt asked about Kilchis River Road and Liane stated that it wouldn't be paved this year. She added that the Road crew stayed with the plan that was approved by the CRAC members earlier this year. Liane also added that a portion of Wilson River Loop was taken from the list and is now part of the Hwy 6 transition. Hillsdale Street was removed due to sewer projects. McCoy Street in Bay City will be paved weather permitting.

Item 4. *County Road Maintenance Funding by Roger Tracey.*

Roger presented his opinion of why Tillamook has the worst roads in the State. This is because of funding and not mismanagement. Tillamook only gets one-half the amount of the gas tax that we should.

Roger said a fair system needs to be implemented. Gravel roads are not the way to go. We need a system that doesn't victimize the people. One that everyone pays their fair share.

He also suggested a Special Maintenance District where the fees are set by the Homeowners Association. This would be in new developments. Where County would enter into an agreement with new developments for a Public Access Agreement for

private roads. This would allow the public to use those roads. In return, the County would agree to maintain those roads and provide emergency services at cost. That cost would be charged to the impound fees for that development.

Another suggestion would be a Maintenance District Levy Fee which would be equal to the amount of the gas tax. The fee charged, would be the same for each resident. The information would be taken from DMV records as to which residents have vehicles registered in Tillamook County.

Gus Meyer commented about the heavy haulers who use our roads and are not registered here. Roger stated that there are other issues such as that and farm equipment use that would need to be addressed.

Roger then went on to read an article from USA Today regarding car weight problems and tire size which contributes to road conditions. He feels the commissioners should have County Council draw up a negligence suit against the Federal transportation commission.

Item 5. Discussion of Permanent Tax Rate by Liane Welch.

Liane presented the members with a draft version of the CRAC recommendation regarding a Permanent Tax Rate for a County Service District for Roads of which the members recommended a tax rate of \$1.20 per \$1,000.00 assessed value for the Propose

Tim Josi commented that the \$1.20 per thousand is too high an amount to ask. It would create a new slice from the Timber Revenue and a huge impact on the General Fund and the School Districts would have to approve it. The federal receipts will go away with time. In five years, it will be gone altogether. Tim feels that it is incorrect for us to assume that the State will not do what it is constitutionally responsible for doing, such as raising the gas tax. Tim is willing to go for the \$1.00 per thousand.

Gus Meyer commented that the figure the members are asking is for more than just paving. It would go towards the whole road maintenance process. Tim said that at a \$1.00 per thousand, it would keep us viable to the year 2014. The legislature would come through with something by that time. Tim stated that the Tillamook County General Fund has the lowest tax rate in the State at a \$1.50 per thousand. The State Timber revenues saves us financially. Currently no timber revenue goes towards roads.

Chuck Hurliman agrees with the \$1.00 per thousand as a maximum amount to ask for. He feels that the legal aspects of Roger's proposal would have to be looked into before any of them could be considered. Chuck stated that other counties that have received Safety Net money, put that money in an account and then operate on the interest earned. He wants funds for roads but feels there will be a lot of people against it. He would like us to see if there is merit in Roger's proposal. If there is, he would go along with it. If not, he would support the \$1.00 per thousand.

Members agreed that time is of the essence. It would take too long to have legal council investigate Roger's proposals. Tim suggested that we not use County Council Bill Sargent as this is not his area of expertise. The proposal needs to be as specific as we can and then submit it to Betsy Johnson or Debbie Boone and ask for a legal opinion from the legislative council.

Jerry Dove asked for the Commissioners recommendation. Tim said that they have the fiduciary responsibility to ask the voters to make the choice whether they are

willing to pay for their roads. The voters need to make that decision. Tim gave his opinion that he doesn't feel Roger's proposal is legal and if would be legal, the legislature would make it illegal. Several members agreed that there are too many unanswered questions.

Mark Labhart added that the citizens want it simple and straight forward and needs to be stated very clearly what they are voting for. His concern is that the money should not be used to hire additional employees. His belief is that the voters want to tax themselves and to see where the money goes and not into new employee wages. We need to identify that the money is going for paving and identify where the paving will be by providing road names specifically. If we don't have the staff to do the work, state that project will be contracted out. Mark feels that new employees can be hired with State Transportation money and there is a possibility of Federal funding we can use. He feels the \$1.20 per thousand will not be acceptable to the voters. He doesn't think the School Districts will object to the \$1.10 per thousand. Mark will not lobby for this levy is there will be more people hired. Mark's recommendation is to ask for \$1.00 per thousand and all money is to go to paving.

Liane stated that we do not have a preventive maintenance program which we need for culverts, guardrails and ditching. These projects will need to be contracted out. Gary Hanenkrat would like to see the contracting be kept within the county. Chuck stated that there is inter-county contracting. Mark feels very confident that we will get additional State money. Tim agrees with Mark's proposal. Mark again stated that we ask for the least amount of money to get the job done.

John Gettman asked that we pursue Roger Tracey's proposal after next Wednesday to see what that proposal might do. John then made a motion that the CRAC recommendation of \$1.00 per thousand be presented to the Commissioners. Curt stated that the first recommendation of \$1.20 be altered to \$1.00 for transportation maintenance and not to include any new staff at this time. Stephen made the motion to withdraw the previous recommendation for road funding made at the last CRAC meeting. Curt stated that since there was a motion already on the floor, the first motion needed to be tabled. John Gettman then withdrew his motion. Stephen made the motion to withdraw the previously excepted motion from the last months meeting for the recommendation of road maintenance to the County Commissioners. Motion passed.

John Gettman made the motion to recommend to the Commissioners that the proposals made by Roger Tracey be evaluated. John immediately withdrew his motion. Stephen then moved that the CRAC make the recommendation to the Board of Commissioners of a permanent tax rate of \$1.00 per thousand for the purpose of road maintenance. Motion seconded and passed. John Gettman made his motion again to recommend to the Commissioners that the three proposals made by Roger Tracey be evaluated. The motion seconded and passed.

Tim Josi complimented the committee on their professionalism. He went on to ask the members for their help in the campaign for the tax levy. Chuck Hurliman agreed with Tim. John Gettman would like the committee to come up with a slogan that could be used. John has volunteered to be the Treasurer in this campaign and would like a volunteer for a co-signer. Curt agreed to be co-signer.

Item 6. *Public Comments: None*

Item 7. Next meeting scheduled for **THURSDAY, Oct. 25, 2007**, 3:00pm in the 911 Building at 2311 Third St., Tillamook, OR 97141.

Item 8. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Transcribed by Gaile Harris