

TILLAMOOK COUNTY ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (C.R.A.C.)

Date: March 22, 1999

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mary Cramer, Vice-Chair Curt Schonbrod, Jack Brooks, Marlin Clark, Bob Reed and Rich Gitschlag

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ray Streeter, Robert Rieke, Norm Myers, Diane Waldron, Bill Howard and Michael Wissenfluh

STAFF: Jon Oshel/Director, Pat Oakes/Engineering Project Supervisor, Bob Willhite/Operations Superintendent and Jeanette Steinbach/ Recorder

PUBLIC: Dora Norwood (public) and Janet Trueblood (Union)

ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA Meeting called to order at 3:00pm.

Mary handed out a list of Tillamook County Roads Advisory Committee subcommittees which are Budget, Public Information/Education and Brainstorm Revenue Sources, Budget Subcommittee discussion, a Draft of County Roads Advisory Committee's Timeline and the Tillamook County Futures Report relating to the condition of the roads.

Mary said that the County Road Advisory Committee has to focus on the tasks ahead because recommendations have to be given to the Board of Commissioners by June. She asked if there are any amendments to the Agenda, members did not have any. Mary also stated that she would be touring the Shop and North County and wanted to know if any members would wish to do the same. The members would like to tour the shop and Curt Schonbrod would like to tag along with the crew. Mary to arrange schedules and will get back to the members. Dora Norwood (public) asked if she could tour the areas as well. Jon stated that he needed to check with the Insurance Company to check on liability issues. Mary also mentioned that Commissioner Firman extended an invitation to the committee members to tour the roads on a Saturday. Bob Reed said that he would be interested.

ITEM 2 MINUTES: Changes were made as suggested and minutes of 02-22-99 were accepted.

ITEM 3 SUB COMMITTEES: Mary stated that subcommittees are to be formed to focus on particular issues adding that the Budget sub-committee is scheduled to meet at 1:00pm, Public Information/Education at 4:00pm in Law Library and Brainstorm Revenue Sources at 7:00 in the Law Library on March 30, 1999.

ITEM 3 BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE/DISCUSSION: Mary stated that the Budget Committee had a few questions during their last meeting and would like Jon to respond to them.

a. SALARIES: Jon said that the Union and the Commissioners utilizing focused studies set salaries. A comparable study was also done with neighboring counties. Jon brought to the meeting a comparison with Prevailing Wages and HLB Associates, a Civil Engineering firm adding that this information is a good indicator of what it would cost to contract out. He added that with the

County employees the salary is based on a 40-hour week with benefits, which include vacation and holidays, which consists of 48% of the salary package. He informed the Committee that the 7 Management staff is on salary and does not receive any compensation above the 40-hour week. Jon discussed with the Committee the issues of wading into employee salaries. He added that it could potentially work against the Committee if they go out for a funding initiative. Jon reiterated that this is a county wide negotiated contract. He added that from his prospective the employees stay because of security issues and not for their wages.

b. WORK PATTERNS: Jon stated that the Shop crews work shifts to be more productive to repair equipment after crew hours. Sanding is done on shift basis in winter. Rich wanted to know if there was any way to show the efficiency factor. Jon said that it would be hard to identify. The Shop hours were changed in 1992 and it was evident that it was more productive because of lack of downtime and maintenance costs.

c. OVERTIME: Jon assured the Committee that the department gets a lot of mileage from overtime and that it is a fairly fixed and secure figure.

d. STORMS: Mary asked if 6 people are still needed to fight storms. Jon said that they work in pairs so that makes 3 teams to cover 24 hour a day storm fighting. Infilling is done by shop, engineering and the Parks department personnel. For day to day operations 6 people are also required. 8 people would be ideal but is not possible with the current funding situation.

e. EFFICIENCIES: The budget subcommittee asked if other county vehicles could be serviced at the Road Department or would it be more cost effective to have a private contract. It was reiterated that this is just a general question with no hard figures attached to it. Jon said that requested repairs are done on Sheriff, ODOT and other department vehicles. He added that the Road Department vehicles have priority and so it would not be viable to have an exclusive contract. Mary also asked if Jon had a general idea of prices if all the equipment was serviced in town. Jon said that there are not enough mechanics and the responsiveness would be also be a factor. He added that motor rebuilds and computer tune-ups are contracted. The committee members were also concerned about responsiveness and time loss. Mary added that she would still like to look at some figures to determine if this could be feasible or not. Jon to provide costs if possible.

f. SUPERVISION: Questions on supervisory roles. Jon handed out the organizational chart and explained the responsibilities of the Supervisors. Jon added that he put in vacant positions bringing total employees to 40 as in 1996. Jon to bring to the next meeting duties and job descriptions of the Road Department personnel.

g. CRUSHER/ASPHALT PLANT SAVINGS: Jon stated that because the Road Department is not buying materials it is hard to ascertain the savings. He added that historically \$750,000 of asphalt materials was purchased and now it is approximately \$60,000 and, with aggregate \$120,000 was spent and it is now \$20,000. Jon to provide comparison of cost of savings.

h. **CENTRALIZED ORDERING:** Questions on partnerships and centralized purchasing. Jon stated that office products are mainly bought through the County system. Some items are bought through the State if the prices are competitive. Fuel is bought from a local contractor. Jon added that with any bulk product or use the comparison is cost and efficiency. Jon to provide partnership list.

i. **SOLID WASTE:** Jon clarified that all solid waste expenses and services are billed to the Solid Waste. Solid Waste has a separate budget.

1999-2000 BUDGET: No questions at this time.

FUNDING PRIORITIES AND EXPENDITURES: Jon went through the Maintenance and Repair summary and Road Fund Priority Expenditures and History of Major Capital Improvement Projects 1996-1998 reports handed out. Discussion ensued.

UNSCHEDULED: Curt asked Jon if all this paperwork is being generated only for the committee's use. Jon said that although this cuts into his time if the Committee needs this to arrive at a decision then he is happy to dedicate his time to it.

ITEM 5 ROAD CONDITIONS: Jon updated the committee on road conditions stating that the crews are concentrating on storm repair and chuck holes. Existing slides and cleanups are at Cochran, Brighton Beach, Foss Road, Cape Lookout and Cape Meares. Tierre Del Mar slide anticipated time of opening will be late April or early May. Discussion on potholes ensued. Depending on how urgent the pothole is it would take 2 men, for a good fix a 5-man crew would be ideal. Bob Reed asked how to get the public's opinion in favor of the Road Department. Mary added that as the subcommittees and committee moves on they need to decide if and how much money the road department needs, to bring the roads up to standard. Jon also brought to the meeting the cost related by district and by road with dollar amounts. Bob Willhite wanted to point out that Trask River Road has been continuously patched during the last 3 weeks.

ITEM 6 CITIZEN CONCERNS: Dora Norwood questioned the salaries paid to the road department employees. She stated that she found it interesting that the perks are so high including retirement insurance. Dora also asked about the administration paid to the county. Jon stated that the salaries given included vacation and paid leaves. He added that the \$136,000 paid to General fund was for administration, which included Personnel, Data Processing, and Accounting services. As for the retirement health insurance, the County picks up the tab if the employee has reached retirement age.

Dora also said that she got the pay scales and raises for SC Paving and did not have any problem getting the information. She made a comparison of the raises with what the Road Department receives. Finally Dora brought the information in that there is a gas initiative that is in the works at this time indicating the shares the different agencies will be getting. Jon said if the bill passes it would generate about \$400,000 in revenue for the Road Department. If passed revenue increases would begin in April 2000.

Next meeting scheduled for April 26, 1999.

Meeting adjourned at 4:37pm