

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

DATE: May 28, 1999

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Cramer, Marlin Clark, Norm Myers, Bill Howard, Bob Reed, Curt Schonbrod, Diane Waldron, Irene Ertell, Rich Gitschlag,

STAFF: Jon Oshel/Director, Tim Josi/Commissioner, Dave Krebs/Services Supd't and Jeanette Steinbach/Recorder

PUBLIC: Dora Norwood

**ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA: Meeting** called to order at 3:05pm. Agenda accepted with the exception of Item 4 that Jon will cover in Item 3

**ITEM 2 MINUTES:** April 26, 1999 minutes approved as written.

**ITEM 3 AND 4 DATA PRESENTATION:** Jon went through the reports handed out earlier and added that he would be very brief so that more time could be spent on Item 5 Timeline Review.

- a. 1999 Patching List
- b. USFS Revenue (with spotted owl guarantee): Jon clarified that the Road Department would be receiving \$70,000 without the guarantee. Discussion ensued about the proposal that is in the legislation and why in reality it may not pass. A provisional Advisory Committee that is part of the Clinton Forest Plan invited Tim Josi to attend as a Commissioner from this area. He advised the committee about the problems that are being encountered with the different factions in the group mainly the environmental factor. Jon felt that even with the best scenario he does not want to rely on forest revenues
- c. Road Department expenditures
- d. Expenditure History
- e. Efficiency report: Mary suggested changing it to Improvement report because there is no backup to the data.
- f. Funding Priorities with definitions: Jon clarified that priority 5 is very important to reduce priority 4 but priorities 1-4 are all safety driven.
- g. Functional Classification Mileage with definitions
- h. 1997-1998 Expenditure priority matrix
  - i. 5 year Revenue history
  - j. 5 year Tillamook county Bridges major repairs and replacements: Jon explained that he has one man managing the system
- k. 5 year Grant Projects
  - l. Local Gas Tax Allocation Formula
- m. Road Funds with Property Tax
- n. Vehicle Registration Allocation Formula.

**ITEM 5 CRAC RECOMMENDATIONS - TIMELINE REVIEW:** Marlin looking at the Draft Timeline Review handed out at the previous meeting stated he was concerned that the process is taking too long while the roads are getting worse as more time goes by. He added that the Roads need the money now and suggested

different ways to get the revenue. Mary Cramer said that the sad part of this is that this committee has been meeting for a while now. Last year the CRAC recommended a property tax but did not think that it would pass without some education on the part of the committee. Mary said that the committee needed to get a recommendation to the BOC by June if they wanted to put it on the Ballot in November so that they have time to do public hearings and talk with the different agencies and entities. Jon stated that the CRAC has to decide on What type of tax to run? Which election? and How Much?

**What type of tax to run?** Curt addressed the committee based on the subcommittee's recommendation. Curt stated that after going through all the revenue sources it was decided that property tax would be the most advisable since it would generate enough revenue. Mary asked about the .06c gas/gallon that the House voted on. Tim addressed the issue. He said that they are very extreme movements in the House and in addition the trucking industry does not support the tax either and so he thought it was highly unlikely that the tax would pass. Jon added that if it does pass the revenue generated would be \$120,000 year 1, \$400,000 year 2 and 3 and \$300,000 the years after that. Jon refreshed the committee on property taxes. The issue to discuss is whether to go for a property tax inside or outside city limits and whether to go for a serial levy or a tax base tax. Marlin said that after talking to the farmers they would rather have a serial levy. They understand that the roads need to be fixed but are only agreeable to a time limited tax. Mary remarked that after the time limit the situation would be the same. Rich Gitschlag said that the monies would only maintain the roads and not improve them. Jon in response to Bob Reed questions on what revenue sources are available said that the only two that would generate substantial monies are the Fuel and Property tax. The committee discussed the pro and cons of the two taxes. They also had a discussion on the differences between a serial levy and a tax base. Serial Levy - Assessment for a fixed number of years while a Tax Base is allowed to increase 3% a year and is permanent. Bob Reed asked if there was any value to go into the General Fund or would the public feel better having the road department separate. Disadvantages and advantages were weighed and it was agreed that it was not worth having the road department get in with the general fund. Tim Josi felt that if the timber revenues go up sufficiently the Commissioners should give some of that money to the Road Department. He also felt that the other Commissioners deserve accolades for improving the budget process but more improvement is needed. He added that \$217,000 for the next 3 years is being spent on the GIS program but discussions were not had whether the monies could be better used at the Road Department or improving this building. Rich reiterated that the road department needs continuous financial improvement and a serial tax would limit the potential of improving the roads.

**Mary asked the committee for a motion to decide on what tax to go for? Norm Myers motioned to go for Property tax for additional road revenue, Bill Howard seconded.**

**The Chair asked all those in favor of property tax to raise their hand: All members present were in favor with the exception of Irene who abstained.**

**Marlin made a motion to go for a serial levy, Rich Gitschlag seconded the motion to allow the motion to stand.**

**How much?** Jon said that once he comes up with the figures, CRAC would need to decide on how much they want to allocate to different levels of services. The next question, is

What are we going to buy for the money? Personnel and/or equipment. If the conditions are to remain the same we need about \$700,000 for paving if not, need to consider services the road department wants, contract services, level of services. Jon to provide a report with comparisons to what is needed to bring the roads up with different levels. Bob Reed said the public sees the paving so the extra allocation should be put towards resurfacing which is the service that has been overlooked in the past and whether to contract or do in-house paving. Jon said that this committee eventually should make a recommendation on whether to contract out the paving. Norm asked what would happen if more crew was hired and the funds ran out? He added that at this point to maintain the same level he recommends going for \$1M now to combat future decreases.

**Unscheduled Introduction of New Member:** Mary apologized for not introducing the new member and then presented Irene Ertell.

Bill Howard wanted to know when to expect the anticipated increase in state timber revenue. Tim Josi and Jon Oshel both stated that it could be between 10-20 years. Norm Myers said that going for a short term tax and then having to return again for additional monies until the desired condition of the roads are met may pose a problem. He added that on the positive side the voters may pass the tax since it will be a time limited one. Diane agreed with Marlin that the farmers would only go for a serial levy. Tim Josi stated that the need wouldn't stop so he would rather go for a continuous tax but also need to be pragmatic. Jon Oshel said that Clatsop County went for a serial tax for a couple of years and just got a tax base with the resulted increased productivity. Rich Gitschlag observed that with a serial tax the Road Department would need to continuously sell itself and the downside is that the better job they do, the more the public will assume that no tax is needed.

**Mary Cramer asked all those in favor of limited term property tax to raise their hands: Marlin and Diane were in favor, the rest of the members opposed, Irene abstained. Motion defeated.**

**Norm Myers made a motion for a tax base, Bob Reed seconded. All members were in favor with the exception of Marlin and Diane, who opposed, Irene abstained. Motion passed.**

**UNSCHEDULED:** Bob Reed thanked Dave Krebs and his staff for taking Mary and him on a tour of the shop. He added that he was impressed at the level of organization.

**ITEM 7 CITIZEN CONCERNS:** Norm Myers congratulated the staff for doing so much with so little. Rich Gitschlag suggested that the crew sweep the gravel off the road at intersections.

**ITEM 6 UPDATE ON ROAD CONDITIONS:** Jon updated the committee on the latest status of the TDM slide. He mentioned that Cape Lookout Road slide was

repaired and Cochran and East Beaver slides are on the list to be fixed. He added that Cape Meares slide is moving and regular maintenance is being done. Shorty Farmer Bridge: Still in progress.

**ITEMS & ADJOURN:** Next meeting set for June 09, 1999. Meeting adjourned at 4:54PM.