

APPROVED
PROCEEDINGS OF THE OTTAWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION – MAY 16, 2006

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 16, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. and was called to order by the Chair.

The Deputy Clerk led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present to roll call: Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Kuyers, Swartout, Mrs. Ruiters, Messrs. Rinck, Rycenga, Schrottenboer, Disselkoe, Berghorst, Holtrop.
(10)

Absent: Mr. Vander Kam. (1)

Public Comments

The following people thanked the Board for this Work Session regarding the Road Commission. They believe the Road Commissioners should be voted on by the people for accountability.

- Cal Branson, Zeeland, Michigan.
- Roger Olthof, Port Sheldon Township.
- Mike Waldner, Jamestown Township.
- Greg Chevette, Olive Township.

Work Session Items:

A. Organizational

1. Enabling Legislation for Increasing Size of Road Commission from three (3) members to five (5) members (HB 4315, Attachment #1) – Alan Vanderberg updated the Board on HB 4315. The Board is supporting this.
2. Enabling Legislation Allowing County Boards to Disband Road Commissions and to Assume their Duties (HB 5832, Attachment #2) – Alan Vanderberg explained HB 5832. Not a lot of support. Would push for county to have other options if this goes through.
 - a. Possible Option to Allow Counties to Organize Road Commissions as a Statutory Board Responsible to County Board of Commissioners – This would be more practicable than option 2.
3. Possible Proposal to Combine Road Commission and Drain Commission Offices. – This has been talked a lot about at the

MACC level. Nothing specific to focus on. Not all Road Commission projects have interaction with the Drain Commission. If legislation is ever drafted, this would need to be looked at.

4. Appointment Versus Election of Road Commissioners (Attachment #3) – Board would have to choose an option. If elected, this is a 6-year at large term.
5. Length of Road Commissioner Terms of Office; i.e., Should They Be Shortened (Attachment #3) – Discussed options the Board could have such as 4-year terms and term limits.

B. Fiscal

1. Mandatory Funding for Non-Motorized Pathway Expenditures per PA 82 of 2006 (HB 4555, Attachment #4) – Mark Knudsen reported there are 180 miles of pathway to be paved from the Non-Motorized Pathway Study which would cost approximately \$23 million. Will need to look at new ways in the future how the money is spent. Regional Trailway Committees have been established. Mark Knudsen will meet with the Road Commission.
2. Long-term Fiscal Planning for Major Projects –
 - a. Corridor Expansions
 - b. Bridges

Mark Knudsen explained the Countywide Corridor Plan. It was questioned if the Road Commission has a long-term financial plan in place. Kent Rubley reported they have a 10 year plan and Dave VanderKooi reported this is almost impossible without a millage. Mark Knudsen has been working on writing a setback ordinance for the local units for M-104. He will continue to work with the Road Commission and MPO on long-term plans. Will need to look at what financial resources will be available in the future. It was suggested establishing a Joint Task Force between the County, Road Commission and local units.

C. Operational/Project Administration

1. Road Salt Program Summary and Award – The Road Commission won an award for their program. They have had a 30% reduction in salt usage.
2. Tree Removal and Planting Along Scenic Corridor Right-of-Way (HB #5994, Attachment #5) – Mark Knudsen is working on a Tree Legacy Committee.
3. Responsiveness to Local Needs and Concerns
 - a. Tree Removal and Planting in New Development Areas – Mark Knudsen reported concerns on flexibility of where trees are planted. The planning

needs to be approached a little differently. The Road Commission tries to save every tree they can.

Mark Knudsen reported on the Robinson Township meeting last night regarding working on the purchase of the FEMA property. There is no public access on one of the streets and the other is limited. The Road Commission was asked if they would take the two roads over and maintain. A letter will go out to the residents explaining their options. Mark will work with the Road Commission and Robinson Township.

D. Information Attachments

1. Attachment #6, OCRC Financial Statements for the Year Ended September 30, 2005
2. Attachment #7, OCRC Primary Road Improvement Plan 2006-2015

Public Comments

Joanne Marcetti, Grand Haven Township Supervisor, thanked the Board of Commissioners for this meeting. She commented on the following agenda items:

A1 – We don't need bigger government but better government.

A3 – Need compelling reasons to combine.

A4 – In favor of elected Road Commissioners.

A5 – In favor of 4-year terms.

B1 – The townships has no money for the maintenance of the bike paths. She thanked the Road Commission for meeting with the local units.

Jim Beelen, Allendale Township Supervisor, thanked the Board of Commissioners for this meeting. The Road Commission is very responsive. He would like to see this dialog continue. He asked about establishing one MOP for the County. Mark Knudsen has looked into this and it is very unlikely. This study is available to anyone who would like to see it.

Larry Buursema, Road Commission, appreciated all the comments.

B/C 06-148 Mr. Holtrop moved to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. subject to the call of the Chair. The motion passed.

DANIEL C. KRUEGER, Clerk
Of the Board of Commissioners

ROGER RYCENGA, Chairman
Of the Board of Commissioners

