ROADWAYS SUBCOMMITTEE
July 16, 2019
Minutes

Members Present: Sebolt, Maiville, Naeyaert, and Stivers (arrived at 5:35 p.m.).

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Bill Conklin, Kelly Jones, Rick Terrill, Becky Bennett, Beth Foster, and others.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sebolt at 5:30 p.m. in Personnel Conference Room “D & E” of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Approval of the June 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes

WITHOUT OBJECTION, CHAIRPERSON SEBOLT STATED THE JUNE 18, 2019 MEETING MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. Absent: Commissioner Stivers.

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Limited Public Comment

None.

MOVED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS FOR THE CONSENT AGENDA AT THE COUNTY SERVICES MEETING:

1. Road Department
   b. Resolution to Execute Waterborne Centerline Pavement Marking Agreements with the City of Leslie, City of Mason, City of Williamston, and the Village of Webberville
   d. Resolution to Retain As-Needed Engineering Design Services for 2019-2021
   e. Resolution to Approve the Special and Routine Permits for the Ingham County Road Department

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
1. **Road Department**
   a. Resolution to Approve Local Road Agreements with Ingham, Locke, Onondaga, and White Oak Townships

MOVED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, SUPPORTED BY COMM. NAEYAERT, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Maiville stated that he noticed that the paving cost had become extremely competitive as a result of charging for materials only.

Bill Conklin, Road Department Director, stated that the Road Department was charging about half as much as contractors because they were charging for material only and not for labor.

Commissioner Maiville asked how the increase in road funding effected the Road Department staffing level.

Mr. Conklin stated that they recently added two mechanics and engineering staff.

Commissioner Maiville asked what the future looked like for road funding.

Mr. Conklin stated that the reorganization passed last month was reflective of the road funding increase. He further detailed the long range plan for hiring more Road Department employees.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Stivers.

1. **Road Department**
   c. Resolution to Update the Ingham County Road Department Permit Fee Structure

MOVED BY COMM. NAEYEART, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Commissioner Stivers arrived at 5:35 p.m.

Mr. Conklin introduced Kelly Jones, who oversees the Road Department’s permit function. He further stated that Ms. Jones prepared the fee structure based on other Counties around the State.

Chairperson Sebolt stated that almost every other County Department participates in an annual assessment to avoid huge jumps. He asked why there was such a long time between fee adjustments and asked what should be done to prevent situation like this where some fees were doubling or more than doubling.

Mr. Conklin stated that the fee structure had not been updated in a while.

Chairperson Sebolt stated that the Road Department was not included in the Controller’s annual fee assessment.
Mr. Conklin stated that they were not.

Discussion.

Kelly Jones, Engineering Director/County Highway Engineer, stated that this fee update matched statewide amounts.

Chairperson Sebolt stated that he was not protesting the fees themselves, just that that they sat there so long without being adjusted.

Mr. Conklin stated that they would plan to look at the fees more often. He further stated that the last update was done in 2014 and that they would try to look at them every year instead of waiting that long moving forward.

Chairperson Sebolt stated that annual review made it easier for folks to adjust and also for the County to recoup cost more accurately.

Commissioner Maiville asked if the Road Department should be included in the Controller’s annual fee assessment.

Mr. Conklin stated that he would talk to the Controller about being included in the annual fee assessment.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

1. Road Department  
   f. Intersection Safety – Discussion

Commissioner Stivers stated that while she had not requested this discussion be on the agenda, it was related to a conversation she had with Mr. Conklin about the rise in accidents at the Haslett/Park Lake intersection since the Costco went in. She further stated that she was interested in learning what the most dangerous intersection in Ingham County were and what the process was for allocating the funds necessary to add things like left turn lanes or new traffic signals.

Mr. Conklin stated that he requested this item be added to the agenda because of conversations he had with Commissioners. He further stated that he wanted to discuss intersection safety generally, how improvements are made and regulated by Michigan law, and how money is allocated to intersections.

Mr. Conklin gave a summary of the safety concerns surrounding the Haslett/Park Lake intersection. He further stated that tree trimming was not a factor in the most recent accident.

Mr. Conklin stated that the intersection of Haslett and Park Lake was about 45th on the intersection accident frequency list. He further stated that even though it is 45th does not mean it is 45th in line for funding because some of the intersections ahead of it do not have anything that could be done to further improve safety.
Mr. Conklin discussed things that could be done in the intersection and how much it would cost. He further stated that a less costly solution would be to put the intersection on a road diet, which meant reducing the lanes, resulting in bike lanes and center left turn lane with a new signal.

Mr. Conklin stated that the last time Haslett Road was resurfaced, it was felt that the road handled too much traffic for the travel lanes to be reduced. He further stated the Road Department would revisit that issue with the Township.

Mr. Conklin stated that the intersection was not in the top 20 that MDOT selected for local safety initiative review and potential funding with federal safety programs.

Mr. Conklin explained how federal funds were allocated for intersections.

Commissioner Stivers stated that it sounded like the Road Department would discuss a road diet with the Township.

Mr. Conklin stated that that was the plan, but that the public may or may not be on board. He further stated that the recent injury accidents might get more people on board with the road diet.

Mr. Conklin stated safety is not something the Road Department is holding back on. He further stated that he wanted the public to know that there was a process and that funding was limited.

Commissioner Stivers asked what the possibility was to get the federal funding now that they have been a serious accident.

Mr. Conklin stated that he would meet with MDOT next week, update them about the recent accidents, and inquire to see if the County could apply for safety funding.

Commissioner Stivers asked Mr. Conklin to report back at the next Roadways Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Conklin stated that he would.

Commissioner Maiville thanked Mr. Conklin for following up on the intersection safety concerns on his vacation. He stated that it was hard to get past the public perception that a serious injury or fatality needed to occur before change was made.

Mr. Conklin stated that there was a process and that instead of addressing intersection safety concerns on social media, to please talk to him directly. He further stated that the Road Department values intersection safety, but they are required by law to follow guidance for volume and accident experience.

Mr. Conklin stated that the Hagadorn/Sandhill intersection was at the threshold of getting a step up from a 2-way to a 4-way stop. He further explained the volume threshold and gave examples of other intersections that met or did not meet the threshold.
1. Road Department
   g. Road Millage Update – Discussion

Chairperson Sebolt stated that during a previous Subcommittee meeting he expressed concern that the appropriate municipalities could recoup their costs and that it appeared that they would have no problem doing so.

Mr. Conklin asked if it would be prudent to wait for the upcoming August and November local elections and for the State Legislature to reconvene before working on this in earnest.

Discussion.

Announcements

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD