

June 2, 2011

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

A Transportation Committee meeting was held on Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Quorum Court Meeting Room, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas

Committee Members Present: Douglas, Blaty, Curry, King

Others Present: JPs Winscott and Moore, County Attorney George Spence, Administrator of Public Service Gary Black, Administrator of General Services Elizabeth Bowen, Comptroller Richard McComas, Environmental Coordinator Teresa Sidwell

Media: Tom Sissom - Daily Record, Kyle Hill - Kurm Radio

JP Douglas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Administrator of Public Service Gary Black stated that he would like to add more items to the end of the agenda for discussion.

### **1) Report: Kiss Every County Road Litter Campaign and the Benton County Clean-up**

Environmental Coordinator Teresa Sidwell reported that the Kiss Every County Road & Bridge campaign was held March 21 through 25 and was aimed at cleaning graffiti on signs and bridges, clearing brush along roads and intersections and picking up litter accumulated along roadsides. She reported that; 1) 140 volunteers from twenty-two community groups and sixty county employees participated in the event; 2) eight trash dumpsters were filled at a cost of \$3,486; 3) 185 of the county's 1,400 miles of roads were cleared of litter, and graffiti was removed from county road signs and bridges; and 4) 1 cemetery was cleaned.

Teresa Sidwell reported on the Benton County Spring Cleanup that was held Saturday, April 9 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the County Road Department in Bentonville and the Road Department Yard in Garfield. She reported that fifty-nine volunteers, ten court-ordered helpers, twelve Benton County inmates, and Sheriff's Deputies provided this free service to over 1,300 Benton County residents, with lunch for the volunteers provided by McAlister's Deli and Jim's Razorback Pizza. She reported that: 1) Envirosolve provided household hazardous waste collection including paint, chemicals, batteries and fluorescent bulbs at a cost of \$19,825; 2) 1,465 pounds of car batteries were recycled, bringing in \$380 in revenue to the county; 3) Lowell Iron & Metal recycled 48,280 pounds of metal for \$3,765 in revenue; 4) Esco Electronics recycled 37,956 pounds of electronics free of charge; 5) Ironwood Shredding offered their services free of charge and shredded over 6,000 pounds of documents; 6) fifteen dumpsters were filled with bulky household trash at a cost of \$7,678; 8) Waste Oil Services Company recycled 220 gallons of used oil and anti-freeze at no charge. She added that the cleanup was very successful.

Administrator of Public Service Gary Black stated that the clean up program was a very good program, and that the county will host another county wide cleanup again in the fall.

## **2) Report: Administrator of Public Service Gary Black**

### **a) Storm Damage**

Gary Black stated that the county is to receive 35% reimbursement for overtime costs accrued during the ice storm from the State. He stated that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will assign a project officer to Benton County to review the designated areas of flood damage and then determine what will be paid. Comptroller Richard McComas stated that FEMA will pay 75% of flood damage costs and that 12.5% will come from the State. He added that an appropriation request will be made at the Finance Committee meeting for \$850,000, and he is hoping that the county will recover 100% of the \$850,000.

Gary Black gave a power point presentation showing the storm damage done to county bridges. He reported that Snavely Bridge was a total disaster, and that the Minnick Springs Bridge in the Avoca area was also a loss. He added that some people who live in the Minnick Springs area have called and expressed that they do not want the bridge to be opened, and that there will be a public forum held to decide if the bridge should be reopened.

Gary Black reported that Hendrix Road is damaged and that the county shares the maintenance with the City of Highfill, which is working with North Arkansas Conservation Authority on their shared portion of the road. He added that NACA has agreed to pay over \$12,000 for the county's share of the repairs to Hendrix Road. He added that the county will then go back in and fill several spots.

### **b) State Aid**

Gary Black reported that State Aid was created in 1973 and that one percent of the fuel tax collected by the Department of Finance and Administration is placed in the State Aid Program Fund. He stated that when the State designates funds for the county, the State gives 90% and that the county has to match with 10% in county funds. He explained that roads which qualify for State Aid are heavy traffic volume roads, or connector roads. He stated as of December 9, 2010 there was \$713,390 in the State Aid fund, and in July of this year another \$396,326 will be available. He stated that the Benton County Road Department has met with the County Judge, Arkansas Highway Transportation Department (AHTD), and the four Road Department Superintendents, and all have agreed that the State Aid monies should be spent on resurfacing Gann Ridge Road. He added that Gann Ridge Road is eight miles long and is a connector road for State Highways 62 and 72, and that all eight miles will be paved at one time for safety reasons.

### **c) Benton County Roads – Potholes**

Gary Black stated that because of the two huge snow storms and the two flooding events, potholes have been popping up like wild flowers and residents on Pleasant Ridge Road have voiced several complaints about the potholes. He said that when the Road Department is called out to fix potholes, they patch the worst ones, which is like putting a band-aid on them. He stated that County Judge Bob Clinard is exploring what the county needs in order to do proper repair work on potholes, and seal road cracks to prevent the damage from spreading. He added that a proposal is being developed to determine what is needed to do the work properly, and that they will present it to the Justices of the Peace. He added that this will be a huge project, even though we do not have the money, people, or time.

**d) 2-Year Benton County Road Plan**

Gary Black reported that county officials have amended the county's 5-Year Road Plan and have adopted a two-year plan which focuses on repairing damage from the recent storms. He added that the plan calls for replacing or repairing several bridges, paving or grading roads, and replacing culverts washed out by the flooding. He added that the county was able to buy 106 large box culverts from a manufacturer who was going out of business, and once FEMA approves the project, replacing the culverts can begin.

Administrator of General Services Elizabeth Bowen gave a presentation showing the bridges and roads that have been damaged from the rain and flooding.

**e) Vehicle Surplus Purchases**

Gary Black reported on the vehicles and items that the county has purchased from Federal Surplus Depot – a 1988 International Truck; a 4X4 Fork Truck; a D-7 Dozer; a HUSTER Fork Lift; three jackhammers and two scrappers.

**f. National Emergency Grant 2011**

Gary Black stated that the U.S. Labor Department is giving Arkansas a \$3.8 million National Emergency Grant to help pay the costs of recovery and cleanup from the recent storms, with no cost to the county. He stated that the county will get twenty people to work for six months, and they will start June 15, 2011. He added that these are people from around the area who are out of work, and added that they will be covered by Workman's Comp. He added this will be an excellent program.

**g. Road Graders:**

Gary Black reported that a study is being done for possible replacement of some road graders, and that the road department will be coming to the Transportation Committee asking for 9 to 10 graders this next year.

**h. Car Pool**

Gary Black reported that there are three cars available in the car pool, and that they are available to any county employee to use for official county business travel.

**i. Tour – Discuss/Set Time and Date**

JP Douglas stated that the Transportation Committee will take a tour of the county bridges, road projects, the new west side road department property, and the road department to look at equipment. He added that a date will be set and announced at the Committee of Thirteen.

County Attorney George Spence suggested to JP Douglas that it should be set up as a meeting that will not be recorded in any fashion so that the clerk can be excused. JP Douglas stated this will be just a tour for informational gain by the Justices of the Peace.

**Adjournment**

After motion and second the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.