

April 5, 2012

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

A Transportation Committee meeting was held on Thursday, April 5, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Quorum Court Meeting Room, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas

Committee Members Present: Douglas, K. Harrison, Curry, King, Blaty
Absent: Hawkins

Others Present: JPs Sandlin, Winscott, Jones and Moore, County Judge Bob Clinard, Comptroller Richard McComas, Director of Benton County Road Department Scott Stober, Administrator of General Services Elizabeth Bowen

Media: Tom Sissom

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

1) Road Department Report: Presented by Director of Benton County Road Department – Scott Stober

Director of Benton County Road Department Scott Stober presented a power point presentation of an overall view of the Benton County Road Department. He reported that the Benton County Road Department is responsible for providing safe and drivable public roadways in the unincorporated area of the county, and this includes the improvement and maintenance of the network of roads recognized as county roads. He stated that the Road Department is composed of five distinct but overlapping functional areas of responsibility: 1) Design and Construction: initiate, monitor and complete capital improvement projects related to Benton County's roads; 2) Maintenance: provide general maintenance for the upkeep and repair of county roads, bridges, associated right-of way- and drainage structures; 3) Pavement Preservation: protect the County's investment in bridges and paved surface roads through implementation of a systematic preservation program; 4) Operations: coordinate operations, permit requirements and equipment location; 5) Fleet Management: track and perform all maintenance and service of equipment.

Scott reported on the general maintenance activities for standard upkeep of the roads; 1) Vegetation control – mowing and brush cutting; 2) Roadside ditch and shoulder work. 3) Gravel road maintenance; 4) Culvert replacement; 5) Chip Seal reapplication 6) Paved road maintenance –crack sealing; 7) Preventive maintenance for County bridges; 8) Storm response – snow plowing; 9) Safety training; 10) Signage, the road department is supposed to be in compliance with new retro-reflectivity standards by 2018 for all road signs; 11) Pavement marking; and stated that a mile contracted of stripping is about \$1800 and that the county can do it for about \$300.

JP Douglas stated that the implementation dates for the retro-reflectivity standards for road signs has been tabled indefinitely.

Scott Stober reported that the Pavement Preservation Program will schedule and track the application of preventative maintenance in the form of asphalt overlays and seal coats. He stated that chip seal application must be made while the road surface is in relatively good condition and that the chip seal application will seal the road surface and adds a new wearing surface. He added that all the work for this preservation maintenance program will be performed by Benton County.

Scott reported that with shared projects that Benton County will partner with neighboring cities or individual contributors, and that the partnering entity will bear all expenses and that the Road Department will provide the labor to complete the required task.

Discussion was held on the county roads scheduled to receive the asphalt overlays and those that would receive the chip seal applications.

Administrator of General Services Elizabeth Bowen stated since we have become a metropolitan area, Northwest Arkansas will receive approximately \$7 million in federal funds to be appropriated for regional and local projects. She stated that Benton County has submitted application for STP-A funds for the Fisher Ford Bridge project and that the Fisher Ford Bridge project is a project that meets all of the requirements. She added that Benton County could receive 80% in Federal money for the Fisher Ford Bridge project and that it would require a 20% match from the county. She added that although the Fisher Ford Bridge project has been submitted, there are no guarantees that Benton County will receive the federal funds.

JP Douglas asked what process is used to make a determination to what roads are due for the capital improvements, chip seal or paving.

Scott Stober stated there are lists after lists of roads that have been promised. He added that the county has formed a patch crew to repair potholes and is buying a new chip and seal machine and some equipment to allow the county to do crack sealing on pavement to prevent additional damage. He added that the county also is working on forming a quick response crew to handle problems brought to the county's attention by residents.

Scott Stober stated he had been working with the road crew and machine operators on how to operate the equipment more efficiently, to get the job done right. He added that he was teaming the crew to work together by assigning grader operators to work in pairs with an operator in need of additional training being assigned to work with a more experienced or more accomplished operator, and that there would be a fuel savings with them working together. He stated that they were concentrating its manpower and equipment so more work can be accomplished, instead of spreading men and machines out across the county.

Discussion was held on the road department work crew and how they are working more efficiently together for the county.

Blanchard Reel of Springdale expressed his concerns about the roads leading to the War Eagle Camp and stated that he wanted to encourage some type of permanent way to fix the roads so that the county would not have to come out each year to work on the roads.

Scott Stober stated that they were in talks with the Head of War Eagle Camp Pete Day, and that the War Eagle Camp may pay for part of the materials used for the road repairs.

Doug Peavler of Rogers expressed his concerns with the on-going work on Goose Hollow Lane.

Further discussion was held on the future road work plans to be done to the county roads.

Scott Stober stated we did get a big bump on this year; you normally don't get to pave much until April, and that they might want to look at doing more roads this year since the weather is good. He added that it would be a good year to get a lot of these roads fixed that there has been concerns about.

JP Douglas asked what the timetable was for the Colonel Meyers Road Bridge and the Fisher Ford Bridge. Scott Stober stated that the Colonel Meyers Road Bridge is the engineering and designing stage, and that the Fisher Ford Bridge is still in the engineering phase, and that they were waiting to hear on the (STP-A) funding.

Scott stated that with the current rate of work that the county should finish its 2012 work program with months of good working weather remaining in the year, and asked that the justices of peace consider adjusting the department's budget to pay for more work.

JP Sandlin asked when he thought that he would need to have his budget reviewed. Scott Stober said the department was good for a couple-three months.

JP Douglas asked that Scott Stober to develop a plan for expanding the 2012 road program and to bring it back to the committee.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

After motion and second the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.