

February 07, 2013

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

A Transportation Committee meeting was held on Thursday, February 07, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Quorum Court Meeting Room, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas

Committee Members Present: Curry, K. Harrison, Adams, Sandlin, Moore
Absent: McKenzie

Others Present: JPs Jones, Meyers, Administrator of Public Services Scott Stober, Road Department Asset Control Coordinator Cindy Jones

Media: Tom Sissom

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Discussion – Accelerated Road Taxes

Road Department Asset Control Coordinator Cindy Jones stated that the funding from the one-half cent sales tax levy is anticipated to be \$12,880,000, distributed over 10 years, and that the anticipated amount would equal \$1,288,800 per year going to the Road Department. Cindy Jones stated if the anticipated funding is distributed over 10 years; an additional 15 miles of asphalt paving at a cost of \$894,450 per year could be done, which would leave \$394,350 for bridge repair work. She stated if the anticipated funding is distributed over six years it would equal \$2,146,666 per year; providing funding for an extra 25 miles of paving per year, leaving \$655,916 for bridge work in each of the six years.

Administrator of Public Services Scott Stober stated that with good weather, the county could expect to do 15.4 miles of asphalt paving, 29.5 miles of single chip and seal paving, and 12.8 miles of double chip and seal paving a total of 57.7 miles. He stated that with the existing manpower and equipment, they estimate that the Road Department could do up to 90 miles of paving during the normal 32 weeks of suitable weather from April through November if enough money was available. He stated it is difficult to do this entire road plan that everyone wants. He stated that they have not even come close; they just keep reacting to problems, trying to save what roads we have.

JP K. Harrison asked if a bridge plan is included in this estimate.

Cindy Jones reported that bridges are included in the accelerated road plan and that they have received 10 reports from the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) on bridge maintenance needs this year. She added that there are a total of 246 county bridges with 22 non-state inspected bridges, 89 state inspected bridges, 61 box culvert bridges, and 77 low water slab bridges.

Discussion was held on the bridges listed in the Arkansas Transportation Highway Department (AHTD) maintenance report and the repair work that would need to be done.

JP Adams asked if the roads and bridges would be prioritized, and if they anticipate focusing on the bridges as the money comes in.

Cindy Jones stated that the bridge crew will be kept busy with the money that is coming in.

JP Jones stated that the six-year accelerated plan would require the county to increase its annual transfer to the Road Department by about \$900,000. He stated that he liked the idea of going forward, using the money, and getting the work done as quickly as they can, but that he wanted to be sure that the Road Department is going to be able to maintain the existing roads and not let them deteriorate.

Scott Stober stated that they intend to do more overlaying in the accelerated plan, and that after the accelerated road plan is finished, material cost will be less, and that they will be just as busy maintaining and protecting the work that has been completed.

JP Curry asked if they will need more personnel to keep up with the accelerated plan once it is started.

Scott Stober stated that the Road Department staff developed this accelerated road plan around not increasing manpower, and will be able to handle what they have planned with existing personnel.

JP Moore stated that the revenue received from the half-cent sales tax will go directly into the Road Department's budget and that after six years they can reduce the transfer to the Road Department. He stated that the hard part after six years will be banking that money instead of spending it.

Further discussion was held on the anticipated revenue to be received from the one-half cent sales tax going to the Road Department's budget and moving funds out of Capital Projects into the Road Department budget to fund the accelerated road plan.

JP Jones asked if the Road Department is ready to start the accelerated road plan and begin paving more roads this year.

JP K. Harrison made motion to forward the Road Department's six year accelerated road plan at a cost of \$2,146,666.67 to the Finance Committee to approve and then forward to the Committee of the Whole, seconded JP Moore.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Other Business

Cindy Jones presented a power point presentation of the new software "Pub Works", a GIS map viewer for the Road Department, and explained how the software program would benefit the Road Department.

Further discussion was held on the accelerated road plan and the work to be done by the Road Department.

JP Jones asked that the Road Department keep records of the extra work done with the half-cent sales tax.

JP Moore stated this half-cent road tax is a one-time shot for the Road Department to get ahead in working on the roads. He stated that by doing it with the six-year accelerated program, hopefully they will get the county roads where they need to be, and then from there on basically be able to do maintenance.

JP Anglin stated that at the February 7, 2103 Transportation Committee meeting, a presentation on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fuel was presented and was forwarded to the February 12, 2013 Committee of the Whole agenda and asked if there had been any discussion about using propane. She stated that there is a lot of information on propane that might be worth looking at. JP Curry stated that the propane would be a lot less expensive up front than Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fuel, but in the long run the CNG fuel would be more beneficial.

Some discussion was held on the cost of converting vehicles to propane fuel verses Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

JP Moore announced that the Legislative Committee will meet Monday, February 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

After motion and second the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.