

NOVEMBER 13, 2014

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

A Transportation Committee meeting was held on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Quorum Court Meeting Room, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas

Committee Members Present: Curry, Adams, Anglin, Moore

Others Present: JPs Sandlin, Meyers, County Judge Bob Clinard

Media: Tom Sissom

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

County Judge Bob Clinard presented the Benton County Road Department's 2015 Road Plan and stated that the Road Department is planning to pave approximately 53.8 miles of roads and that they will spend about \$2.3 million on the work. He stated that three projects have been approved for state-aid with estimated costs of \$779,340.

JP Anglin expressed her concern about the roads connected to the new Centerton High School.

County Judge Bob Clinard stated that they have the traffic study, and that it identified the problem areas as to the entrances and exits onto and off of the highway. He stated that in the study it was not specific, and it did not tell us what we needed to do, and that we need to receive more information from the School District and Centerton before the Road Department can determine the work that has to be done, and put in the 2016 budget.

Lengthy discussion was held on the problems involved with county and city roads, and who is responsible for the roads in the new Centerton High School area.

County Judge Bob Clinard stated that at this time the Road Department has 10 graders with 10,000+ hours on them that need to be replaced. He stated that it is his goal to buy five in 2015 and another five in 2016. He stated that the five new graders will have a price tag of \$1.5 million.

Lengthy discussion was held on the plan to purchase five new road graders for the Road Department.

JP Adams stated roads are very important and that he would support buying the new road graders.

JP Curry recognized Craig Hull a board member of Ozark Regional Transit.

Craig Hull stated that they are trying to grow Ozark Regional Transit more, and to reach out to more people. He stated that they are asking for \$257,000 or 20 percent of Benton County's \$1.2 million share of the state's half-cent sales tax dedicated for transportation.

Joel Gardner, executive director of Ozark Regional Transit reported the growth and accomplishments that Ozark Regional Transit has made in 2014. He reported that the service had provided 2,546 trips in the county in 2013 and that number has increased to 4,671 so far in 2014 as part of the system's demand response service. He said that Benton County's contribution is \$15,000, and that by the end of this year, they will have provided \$250,000 worth of business for \$15,000. He stated that they are asking Benton County for 20% of the money from the half-cent sales tax dedicated for transportation.

Lengthy discussion was held to increase the counties contribution to Ozark Regional Transit.

JP Moore stated that the \$15,000 contribution is not enough and that the county needs to do more or do nothing.

JPAnglin stated that the county needs to look at expanding what we are doing and made motion to forward the request to fund \$64,444 for Ozark Regional Transit to the Finance Budget Committee for further discussion, seconded by JP Curry.

JP Curry stated that he was not opposed to some kind of increase, but we have to get through the budget to see what we have.

JP Moore stated that he was kind of torn on this and that he was trying to figure out how to explain to his constituents which roads are not going to be paved because we are doing this.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Octavio Sanchez of Bentonville expressed his concerns about how heavy the traffic will be in the area of the new Centerton High School.

Adjournment

After motion and second the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.