ROADWAYS SUBCOMMITTEE  
May 21, 2019  
Minutes

Members Present:  Sebolt, Stivers (arrived at 5:34 p.m.), Maiville and Naeyaert

Members Absent:  None

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sebolt at 5:31 p.m. in Personnel Conference Room “D & E” of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Approval of the May 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. NAeyaERT, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 7, 2019 ROADWAYS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 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 Approve the Special and Routine Permits for the Ingham County Road Department

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Stivers

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Stivers
1. **Road Department**
   c. Engineering Division Reorganization [*Discussion (NOTE: An in-depth discussion will occur at the Roadways Subcommittee meeting. The Roadways Subcommittee will report their recommendation at the County Services Committee meeting.)*]

Bill Conklin, Roads Department Director, gave an overview of the Engineering Division Reorganization.

Commissioner Stivers arrived at 5:34 p.m.

Mr. Conklin continued the overview of the Engineering Division Reorganization.

Chairperson Sebolt gave a disclosure that OPEIU works closely with his daytime employer but he sees no benefit from that relationship.

Mr. Conklin continued with the overview of the Engineering Division Reorganization.

Commissioner Maiville asked if the Engineering Division Reorganization gave the Road Department the ability to hire someone and then promote them without waiting for an opening or asking for a reclassification.

Mr. Conklin stated that that was correct and that it was all spelled out in the job description.

Chairperson Sebolt asked if worst case scenario was that the Engineering Division Reorganization would result in an additional $366,000 cost-wise.

Mr. Conklin stated that that was correct.

Chairperson Sebolt asked if the current situation was that the Road Department was going out-of-house for engineering services.

Mr. Conklin stated that that was the case and that, unfortunately, they would still needed to use outside consultants in the immediate future in order to get ahead of the curve.

Chairperson Sebolt asked if there was a potential to save money by bringing in more in-house engineers and moving away from outsourcing.

Mr. Conklin stated that it would pay for itself.

Chairperson Sebolt asked if the County could end up having more money for roads after the Engineering Division Reorganization.
Mr. Conklin stated that he believed that was a likely outcome.

Commissioner Stivers asked if the Engineering Division Reorganization looked far enough ahead.

Mr. Conklin stated that it should suffice for the Roads Department three-year plan.

Commissioner Naeyaert stated that this would help so much to get the projects off the ground.

Mr. Conklin stated that the Engineering Division Reorganization was very much needed as the Roads Department was already backed up on projects, with more coming in.

Chairperson Sebolt asked if there was a consensus among the Commissioners on the Subcommittee to recommend moving forward with the Engineering Division Reorganization at the County Services meeting.

Everyone present was in agreement.

Commissioner Maiville asked about the Columbia Road Bridge light.

Mr. Conklin stated that they were waiting on special parts and then testing before that would be operational.

Announcements

Commissioner Stivers stated that it was time to move towards exploring options for a Countywide Roads Millage. She further stated that they could have something on the ballot as early as March 2020 and no later than November 2020.

Commissioner Stivers stated that the Subcommittee would need to start thinking about how much the millage needed to be and what the wording needed to look like, as well as making sure that Lansing and East Lansing got their fair share.

Chairperson Sebolt stated that he would like to start having that conversation as well and that he would like to include, not only Lansing, East Lansing, but also Mason. He further stated that he would like to explore how a Countywide Roads Millage would affect cities.

Mr. Conklin stated that cities would get their fair share. He further stated that it was his understanding that the funds raised in each jurisdiction would go back to each jurisdiction.

Chairperson Sebolt stated that the best solution might not come from state government and the County might be able to get the done faster themselves.

Chairperson Sebolt asked Mr. Conklin to come back to the Roadways Subcommittee in July, after talking with the local governments, with some idea of what they would be looking at. He further stated that Mr. Conklin should reach out and let him know if it was going to take longer than that.
Commissioner Stivers asked for a visual representation of the projected escalated cost over time.

Mr. Conklin stated that that was hard to predict.

Chairperson Sebolt ended the discussion to give an opportunity for public comment prior to adjournment.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

__________________________________________
BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD